

Thesis Title An Analysis of Lexical Usage of Three Lue Generations,
 in Chiangkham District, Phayao Province
Name Chayanon Saengsrichan
Concentration Thai Epigraphy
Department Oriental Languages
Academic year 1998

ABSTRACT

The purpose of this study is to analyse the lexical usage of three Lue generations. The data were collected through the use of a list of eight hundred lexical items, these include five hundred nouns and two hundred verbs and eighty-five adjectives and fifteen pronouns and question words. Seventy-five informants from twenty-five villages were interviewed. These informants were classified according to their ages into three generations : the first generation ranging from age 56 – 70, the second 36 – 50, and the third 16 – 30.

The study of lexical usage among three generations reveals that certain lexical items may be divided into 3 groups :

The first group, three generations use the same lexical items for 418 words (52.25 %) (258 nouns, 88 verbs, 59 adverbs and 13 pronouns and question words).

The second, three generations use the different lexical items for 91 words (11.37 %), (50 nouns, 34 verbs and 7 adverbs).

The third, two generations use the same lexical items and another one uses the different lexical items for 291 words (36.37 %), which is divided into 3 groups :

1. the first and the second generations use the same lexical items but the third one uses the different lexical items for 138 words (17.25 %), (90 nouns, 42 verbs and 6 adverbs).

2. the second and the third generations use the same lexical items but the first one uses the different lexical items for 136 words (17 %), (93 nouns, 29 verbs, 12 adverbs and 2 pronouns and question words).

3. the first and the third generations use the same lexical items but the second one uses the different lexical items for 17 words (2.12 %), (9 nouns, 7 verbs and 1 adverb)

Almost the same lexical items for pronoun and question words, adverb and noun groups is used by all three generations. 17 % of the different lexical items for verbs is used in common by the three generations.

The second generation uses the same lexical items like the first and the third generations in smallest percentage, 17.25 % of lexical items are used like the first one and 17 % of lexical items are used like the third one.

By comparing word groups, it has been found that for verbs, the second generation uses the same lexical items like the first generation (21 %), which is more than the third one (14.5 %). For adverbs, the second generation uses the same lexical items like the third generation (14.11 %), which is more than the first one (7.05 %). But for nouns, the second generation uses the same lexical items like the first and the third one in smallest percentage, 18 % of lexical items are used like the first one and 18.6 % of lexical items are used like the third one.

Therefore nowadays three Lue generations in Chiangkham still use mainly the same lexical items, because they are found in the different lexical usage at a percentage of only 11.37 %.