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MUDJALIN LUKSANAWONG : A COMPARATIVE LEXICAL STUDY OF TAI DIALECTS IN SAKON NAKHON PROVINCE. THESIS ADVISOR : ASSOC.PROF. SUWATTANA LIAMPRAWAT. 209 pp.

The thesis is a comparative study of lexical items in 5 Tai dialects used in Sakon Nakhon province : Yo, PhuTai, Yooy, Lao (Isan) and Kaloeng. The hypothesis of the study is that the lexical items in Yo, Lao and Yooy are more closely related than those in Kaloeng and PhuTai.

In this research, a wordlist of 800 semantic units, classified into 18 semantic fields was used to interview 4 informants of each dialect. Social factors including age, gender, education, occupation and locality of the informants were controlled. After the interview, 750 items in the wordlist which have relatively clear semantic properties were selected. These lexical items were then analyzed by using linguistic rules. Based on the analysis, the patterns of usage of these items and their relation were determined.

The research results show that the usage of these lexical items in Yo, PhuTai, Yooy, Lao and Kaloeng can be divided into 2 types : 1) the using the same lexical items and 2) the using the different lexical items. The lexical items used in Yo, Lao and Yooy are more closely related than those in Kaloeng and PhuTai. The results therefore, justifies the hypothesis

In addition, the result show that the 5 Tai dialects can be classified into 3 groups based on their relation. Yo , Lao ,Yooy are group 1. Kaloeng and PhuTai are group 2 and group 3 , respectively.

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