

Thesis Title	A Comparative Study of Lexical Items of the So Language in Sakon nakhon, Nakhon phanom and Mukdahan Provinces
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ABSTRACT

The intention of this thesis is to study and compare vocabulary in the So language of Sakon nakhon, Nakhon phanom and Mukdahan provinces.

In this study the researcher surveyed a total of 1,573 items of general vocabulary of the So language. Interviews were conducted with six informants, two from each province; who were selected as representative speakers of So. The informants were controlled for social factors i.e., sex, age, occupation, education, residence and spouse's background.

It is apparent from this research that there are three categories of vocabulary usage in So in all three locations.

The first category which comprises 690 items is found in all three locations. The second category which comprises 305 items is different in all three locations. The third category which comprises 578 items is used in one location but not in the others. Therefore, The usage of So spoken in Sakon nakhon, Nakhon phanom and Mukdahan provinces is both identical and different. Vocabulary which is the same in all three locations is the native vocabulary of So. The vocabulary that is different is borrowed from Nyo, the northeastern Thai language and the Central Thai language.

The comparison of the amount of the So language vocabulary reveals a shift from native vocabulary in all three locations. 883 items show this shift. Examination of semantic fields of different usages of vocabulary reveals that the vocabulary which differs are most modifiers. The causes of the different lexical usages are geographical location and the influences of communication with neighbors and modern technology.