

C610898 : MAJOR LINGUISTICS

KEY WORD: RELATIVE CLAUSE / LANGUAGE VARIATION / LANGUAGE CHANGE / RATANAKOSIN

PRAPARAT PROMPAKORN : VARIATION AND CHANGE IN RELATIVE CLAUSES IN THAI DURING THE RATANAKOSIN PERIOD. THESIS ADVISOR : ASSOC. PROF.

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This thesis aims to study change in the use of relative clauses in Thai during the Ratanakosin period through an analysis of the frequencies of the occurrences of the relative clauses in general and those of each type of relative clause in each time interval throughout the period (1782 - 1995). It also aims at analyzing the stylistic variation of relative clauses in Thai through their frequency distribution in three registers : newspaper editorials, novel narratives and novel conversations , representing formal, semi-formal and informal styles, respectively. Moreover, the thesis compares the occurrence of each type of the relative clauses in each register to find out whether each type of the relative clauses indicates registers in Thai.

Data used in this study was taken from samples of written documents, such as newspapers, novels, and other kinds of prose writings during the period from 1785 to 1995. Two statistical tests, Chi-square and t-test, are used to infer whether the outcome significantly supports the hypotheses.

The research finds that there are three types of relative clause: / **ที่นี้** /, / **ซึ่ง** /, and / **อัน** /. They were used throughout the period and their frequency distribution as a whole has increased over time. When the three types of relative clause are considered separately, it is found that throughout the period / **ที่นี้** / occurs most frequently, / **ซึ่ง** / second most and / **อัน** / least frequently. When comparing the frequency distribution of the relative clauses in general in different styles, the outcome indicates that the relative clause is extensively used in formal style, fairly highly used in semi-formal style and least in informal style. The relative clause / **ที่นี้** / is used most in formal style, secondly in semi-formal style and least in informal style, while the relative clause / **ซึ่ง** / is found to be equally used in formal and semi-formal styles and least in informal style. The relative clause / **อัน** / is found most in formal style; however, when comparing between formal and semi-formal styles, and semi-formal and informal styles, the outcome shows no significant difference.

In short, the research reveals that the frequency distribution of relative clauses in Thai has increased during the Ratanakosin period and different styles of Thai have different frequency distributions of the relative clauses. It implies that the relative pronoun / **ที่นี้** / can be used as an index of formal language in Thai, while / **ซึ่ง** / and / **อัน** / cannot.

ภาควิชา..... ภาษาศาสตร์.....

สาขาวิชา..... ภาษาศาสตร์.....

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ลายมือชื่อนิสิต..... *f.m.*.....

ลายมือชื่ออาจารย์ที่ปรึกษา..... *Amara*.....

ลายมือชื่ออาจารย์ที่ปรึกษาร่วม..... —.....