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DANUYA TIYAYON : CLOTHINGS IN EVERYDAY LIFE AMONG THE YAO IN
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This thesis concerns clothing among the Yao of Northern Thailand. Its objective is to account for the relationship between clothing and the cultural context in Yao community. The investigator spent some 3 months during B.E. 2535-2537 in a Yao village of Mae Yaaw in Chiangrai Province in order to prove the following hypotheses.

1. Clothing among the Yao could last its practical function, meaning, and significance only if there remains the belief system which in turn produces rituals where the Yao identity could be expressed through "dressing-up".

2. The environment of present low-land settlement for the Yao prevents them from using thick clothing formerly practiced to warm their bodies when they once used to live up-hill, resulting in possible disappearance of Yao clothing.

3. Exposure to modernization among the Yao has changed their clothing habit considerably as the youth, especially, have no interest to retain the Yao traditional clothing.

4. Tourist demand for handicraft in the Yao community has turned them to produce "simplistic" items other than Yao traditional clothing due to its time-consuming and exceptionally elaborate task to create.

5. Yao clothing is especially more elaborate and expressive in such formal occasions as rituals, religious, activities than the informal ones such as staying at home, shopping, and daily gathering among themselves.

All above hypotheses are proven positive in this investigation.