

JUTARAT LOTRAKOOLNAT : A COMPARISON OF THE USE OF ADDRESS TERMS IN
THAI AND FRENCH. THESIS ADVISOR : ASSO. PROF. AMARA PRASITHRATHSINT,
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The aim of this study is to compare the use of address terms in Thai and French according to the relationship between the speaker and the hearer. The data of both languages were collected from the conversations in ten Thai and ten French novels published during 1986-1990. Four social factors which constitute the relationship between the speaker and the hearer are taken into account : social role, age, sex and degree of closeness between the speaker and herarer.

The study shows that a Thai or French address term may consist of one or more than one elements. In Thai, an address term is composed of two parts : the address part which is obligatory and non-address part which is optional. The former is composed of one or more than one of these elements occurring successively : title, kinship term, rank, occupation/position, name and endearment word. The optional part is status particles.

A French address term does not contain any status particle. It has only one part composed of one or more than one of these address elements occurring successively : expressive modifier, which is optional, title, kinship term, rank, occupation/position, name, surname, and endearment word.

The data shows that the use of Thai and French address terms varies according to the relationship between the speaker and the hearer. The social role is the most important factor in both languages. Age is the second most significant factor in Thai, and closeness in French. It is concluded that in Thai respect and intimacy play an important role in determining the relationship between the speaker and the hearer, whereas in French power and solidarity play such a role.