

C411091 : MAJOR LINGUISTICS

KEY WORD: SOCIO LINGUISTICS / CONSONANT CLUSTERS / BANGKOK THAI / STYLE

SUTHIDA PULSUP : STYLISTIC VARIATION OF (r) AND (l) IN BANGKOK

THAI CONSONANT CLUSTERS AMONG MATHAYOM IV GIRL STUDENTS AT SRIAYUDHYA
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100 pp. ISEN 974-583-981-7

The purpose of this thesis is to analyze stylistic variation of (r) and (l) in Bangkok Thai consonant clusters pronounced by young speakers. Five types of language use representing different styles - casual speech, interview, passage reading, word list reading and minimal pair reading - are studied.

The subject are 30 Bangkok Thai speakers sampled from M.S.4 girl students at Sriayudha School. The data were collected in five styles from the least formal to the most formal. In the casual style each subject selects a close friend to talk with, and in the interviewing style the researcher interviews each subject herself.

The analysis shows that there is stylistic variation of (r) and (l) in consonant clusters in young Bangkok Thai speakers. In casual speech, interview and passage reading, [∅] is the main variant of both (r) and (l) in consonant clusters whereas in word list reading and minimal pair reading, [r] is the main variant of (r) in consonant clusters and [l] is the main variant of (l) in consonant clusters.

A Chi-square test shows that the occurrence of the variants of both (r) and (l) in consonant clusters vary significantly according to style at .01 level.