

UBOLTHIP CHANTRANATE : THE RELATION BETWEEN THE LULLABIES AND WORLD VIEWS AMONG THE LAO PHUAN : A CASE STUDY OF BAN WAT KUDEETHONG VILLAGE, SINGHBURI PROVINCE. THESIS ADVISOR : ASST.PROF. THIRAVET PRAMUANRATKARN, Ph.D., 183 pp. ISBN 974-583-693-1

This thesis is aimed at investigating world views of "Lao Phuan" people in Ban Wat Kudeethong Village in the Province of Singhburi. It employed lullabies sung by the elderly in the village as data which were gathered through tape-recording between January 1992 and May 1993 for analysis.

It is discovered that meanings found in both Laotian and Thai words reflect changes in significant aspects of world views through changes in proportion of words in between "Laotian" and "Thai" songs. Words used in the "Laotian" songs are mostly Thai words because in order to get along with the Thai way of life, such Thai words are more realistically reflexive than "Laotian" words. The Thai contexts pertaining to the above finding are such as place names, request or taboo, cooking, daily work, class, tradition, intoxication substance, conflict, happiness and analogies. As time goes by, Thai words are even more adopted to replace "Laotian" words in the lullabies while the traditional social contexts, namely, affection, enquiries, refusal, consent, disappointment become more replaced by the new ones. As the Lao Phuan in this village have changed their world views and way of life thus identified by having more Thai than Laotian words in the lullabies, one finds these lullabies are characteristically forming 4 sets of relations as follows:

1. Between boys and girls in a romantic context. The "Laotian" songs mostly and unilaterally represent feeling of the girls, heart-breaking. As the ratio of "Laotian" and "Thai" words declines the same context of love remains, but the feeling is more bilaterally expressed between both sexes.
2. Among family members in the context of child-rearing. In the "Laotian" songs, both the mother and the father is found to take care of a child. But when "Thai" words are more replaced as time goes by, this activity is fulfilled by the mother and the grandmother. The disappearing role of the father is but presumably found in the present changing modern society.
3. Among community members in everyday life. The old "Laotian" songs contain words representing life mostly conducted in the community whereas in the "Thai" songs the opposite is true, due mainly to changes in the process of urbanization.
4. Between man and environment in the context of resource utilization. The "Laotian" songs represent a close relation between villagers and their environment in terms of life maintenance. But as more Thai words are found in the Thai songs, the context is changed, i.e. the expression on environment is more of aesthetics reflecting a decrease in dependency on nature among villagers of Ban Wat Kudeethong.