

## C011056 : MAJOR LINGUISTICS

KEY WORD: VOWEL LENGTH / VOWEL / DIACHRONIC STUDY / THAI

PUTTACHART DHANANJAYANANDA : THE EMERGENCE OF LENGTH DISTINCTION OF MID AND LOW VOWELS IN THAI. THESIS ADVISOR : ASSO. PROF. PRANEE KULLAVANIJAYA, Ph.D. 180 pp. ISBN 974-581-715-5

The study is meant to find out the time when length distinction of mid vowels e o and low vowels ɛ ɔ emerge in Thai as well as the factors for such emergence.

It is found that the length distinction of vowel o emerged in the beginning of the Ratanakosin period, and the length distinction of vowels e ɛ and ɔ emerged in the Middle of the Ratanakosin period.

As for the factors of the length distinction emergence, it is found that borrowing, especially from Pali and Sanskrit, was the important factor for the emergence of length distinction of e and o. As for the low vowels ɛ ɔ, new formations were the factor.