

##C310847 : MAJOR LINGUISTICS

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PRACHUAP KHIRI KHAN

PANCHANIT BANDITKUL : TONES IN MONOSYLLABIC AND DISYLLABIC WORDS IN THE CENTRAL THAI DIALECT OF PRACHUAP KHIRI KHAN. THESIS ADVISOR : ASSO. PROF. MR. KALAYA TINGSABAKH, Ph.D. 262 pp. ISBN 974-582-933-1

This thesis deals with tones in Central Thai spoken at Amphoe Hua Hin, Amphoe Pran Buri, Amphoe Kui Buri, Amphoe Muang and Amphoe Thapsakae in Prachuap Khiri Khan province. The aim is to compare both the tone system and the phonetic characteristics of tones in monosyllabic and disyllabic words among these five Amphoes. One informant from each Amphoe was interviewed. A wordlist consisting of 278 monosyllabic and disyllabic words was prepared for the interview. The recorded data were analysed by the DSP Sona-Graph Workstation Model 5500.

The result shows that in each Amphoe the tone system on monosyllabic words is the same as that on the last syllables of disyllabic words, and the tone system on these two types of syllables--which are stressed--differ from that on the first syllables of disyllabic words--which are unstressed.

There are fewer tones on the unstressed syllables than on the stressed syllables in Amphoe Kui Buri, Amphoe Muang and Amphoe Thap Sakae. The tone systems of the two types of syllables are the same in Amphoe Hua Hin and Amphoe Pran Buri.

The phonetic characteristics of tones in monosyllabic words are similar to those in the last syllables of disyllabic words, while those on the first syllables are usually level or become less dynamic in shape.

From the point of view of geographical variation, it is found that each Amphoe differs from all the others, especially when taking the tones on unstressed syllables into account.