

Sutthiporn Naktrakoon 2012: The Study of Requests in Thai and English. Master of Arts
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Thesis Advisor: Miss Pananda Lerlertyuttitham, Ph.D. 143 pages.

This research is aimed at 1) studying requests in Thai and English, 2) comparing strategies of requests in Thai and English, 3) determining factors related to the request strategies, such as power of the requesting person, social distance between requesting and requested person, and the ranking of imposition.

The data for the research are drawn from 30 questionnaires each in Thai and English. The work is based on the frameworks developed by Blum-Kulka (1984, 1992) and Brown and Levinson (1978, 1987).

It is found that request strategies in Thai can be divided into 12 types: imperating, want statement, query preparatory, giving reasons, apologizing, thanking, making an addressee feel good by complimenting, emphasizing of requests, reducing the ranking of impositions, offending, promising and hints. On the other hand, request strategies in English can be divided into 13 types: asking if possible, giving reasons, want statement, defending, warning, hints, apologizing, thanking, giving options and suggestions, making an addressee feel good by complimenting, hesitating and reducing the ranking of imposition.

Concerning the factors related to the request strategies, it is found that in both Thai and English language the power of requesting person has an effect on the variety of request types, although in different ways. In Thai language, more powerful people tend to use more variation in their requests. In English, people of same status seem to use the variation in their request. It is also found that social distance has an influence on the variety of request strategies in both Thai and English. In the case of the ranking of imposition, the result is more ambiguous. In the Thai language, generally the ranking of imposition does not seem to play a big role in the variety of request. However, an interesting observation is that Thai tend to use more variation in their requests when borrowing money compared to other non-monetary requests with the ranking of imposition. In the case of English natives, the ranking of imposition has a clear effect on the variety of request method.

Student's signature

Thesis Advisor's signature