

KEY WORD : WORD GEOGRAPHY/NAKHON SI THAMMARAT/SONGKHLA/PHATTHALUNG

RAPIPAN JAIPAKDEE : WORD GEOGRAPHY OF SOUTHERN THAI SPOKEN IN
NAKHON SI THAMMARAT, SONGKHLA AND PHATTHALUNG. THESIS ADVISOR :
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This thesis studies lexical variation in Nakhon Si Thammarat,
Songkhla and Phatthalung in order to determine sub-dialect areas.

The questionnaire used consists of 30 semantic units which,
according to the results of the pilot study and other studies, are
represented by different lexical items in the 3 provinces.

The questionnaire was sent to the headmaster of a tambon school in
all of the 328 tambons in the 3 provinces. The data are obtained from 82%
of the tambons.

First the data were analysed to find out the lexical items in each
semantic unit. The results are shown on maps-one for each semantic unit.
If a lexical item is used in 25 or more adjoining tambons, an isogloss
is drawn to mark the area. Finally bundles of isoglosses are shown on maps.
It is found in this study that lexical variation can be used to divide
the area under study into 3 sub-dialect areas. Corresponding to the
3 provinces.

The most prominent division lies between Nakhon Si Thammarat on
the one hand, and Songkhla and Phatthalung on the other.