

Abstract

The purpose of this thesis is to study *cohesive devices* in the Thai language used by Thai students who speak I-saan, Khmer or Kui as their mother tongue, and to compare these cohesive devices. *Three cohesive devices* were studied: *personal reference*, *conjunction*, and *nominal ellipsis*. The data selected for this study consists of 180 writing pieces of 60 Mathayom 1 students who are ethnic I-saan, Khmer, Kui or Thai.

The results of the study on *personal reference* revealed three types of *personal reference*: *personal pronouns*, *pronominally used nouns* and *zero pronouns*. Comparing the frequencies of *personal pronouns* and *pronominally used nouns* among the speakers, the results show that there are statistically significant differences. On the other hand, comparing the frequency of *zero pronouns* among the speakers, the results show that there is no statistically significant difference.

The results of the study on *conjunction* revealed 13 types of *conjunction*: 1) *additive conjunction*, 2) *contrastive conjunction*, 3) *result conjunction*, 4) *causal conjunction*, 5) *situational conjunction*, 6) *temporal conjunction*, 7) *reformulate conjunction*, 8) *purposive conjunction*, 9) *conditional conjunction*, 10) *methodical conjunction*, 11) *alternative conjunction*, 12) *exemplification conjunction*, and 13) *inferential conjunction*. The results of comparing the frequency of these conjunctions show statistically significant differences.

The results of the study of *nominal ellipsis* revealed five types of *nominal ellipsis*: *ellipsis of head nouns with adjectives*, *ellipsis of head nouns with numerative modifiers*, *ellipsis of head nouns with noun or noun phrase modifiers*, *ellipsis of head nouns with determiner modifiers*, and *ellipsis of head nouns with clausals*. The results of comparing the frequencies of the nominal ellipsis show that there are no statistically significant differences.