

RATREE DHANVARJOR : A STUDY OF LEXICAL REDUPLICATION IN THAI. THESIS
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This thesis aims at the study of lexical reduplication in Thai found in data selected from the Sukhothai period to the reign of King Rama VII (approximately before the 24 th of June, 1932) as to the formation of words, sources and the purpose of using lexical reduplication in Thai.

Lexical reduplication is a process in producing new lexical items in Thai. Two to four words or groups of words having the same, similar or opposite meaning may be placed together to produce lexical reduplications. These lexical reduplications are studied in the aspects of word formation, grammatical functions and sources or origins of the words in the lexical reduplications. The development of lexical reduplicating is also studied from the Sukhothai period until the reign of King Rama VII in the Ratanakosin period. The result of study shows that the reduplication process is based on the meaning of words or groups of words which can be the same, similar or opposite, without any regards to the form of words, numbers of syllables, the sources or origins and the like. In certain cases, the lexical reduplication process produces couplets with three types of meaning: maintaining the meaning of one of the numbers of reduplication items; having additive meaning and having collective meaning. The result of testing 80 people on the preference of reduplicating words by presenting them passages with lexical and non-lexical reduplications show that 72.5% of the people prefer the passages with lexical reduplication. One finding is that lexical reduplication has developed from simple reduplication with simply placing words together to the formation of complicated couplets and repetitive couplets.