

JIRANAT NGAMPATHANAKUL : THE USE OF THE NOUN CLASSIFIER /KAJ<sup>55</sup> /  
BY TEOCHIU SPEAKERS IN THAILAND. THESIS ADVISOR : ASST. PROF.  
AMARA PRASITHRATHSINT, Ph.D, 59 PP. ISBN 974-578-470-2.

The purpose of this study is to investigate the variation of the Teochiu noun classifier /kaj<sup>55</sup> / according to age and bilingualism of Teochiu speakers. The data were collected by asking, with the use of pictures a sample of 60 Teochiu speakers. Six nouns (divided into 3 groups) were chosen to test these hypotheses : 1) /now<sup>33</sup> kia<sup>51</sup> / "child" and /pua<sup>55</sup> / "dish," always occur with /kaj<sup>55</sup> / 2) /ŋiaw<sup>33</sup> / "cat" and /pik<sup>11</sup> / "pen," never occur with /kaj<sup>55</sup> / and 3) /huaj<sup>21</sup> sia<sup>21</sup> / "monk" and /tshɿŋ<sup>55</sup> / "table," do not occur with /kaj<sup>55</sup> /, except in some Teochiu speakers' speech.

The results of the study show that /kaj<sup>55</sup> / occurs with only four nouns : /now<sup>33</sup> kia<sup>51</sup> / "child," /pua<sup>55</sup> / "dish," /huaj<sup>21</sup> sia<sup>21</sup> / "monk" and /tshɿŋ<sup>55</sup> / "table." It is found that /kaj<sup>55</sup> / occurs with /pua<sup>55</sup> / "dish" without variation. The other three nouns occur with /kaj<sup>55</sup> / and other variants. The relationship between all these classifier variants and the speaker's age and bilingualism were analyzed.

As for the age differentiation, the analysis shows that the use of /kaj<sup>55</sup> / with /now<sup>33</sup> kia<sup>51</sup> / "child" does not vary significantly according to the speaker's age. As for the occurrence of /kaj<sup>55</sup> / with /huaj<sup>21</sup> sia<sup>21</sup> / "monk" and /tshɿŋ<sup>55</sup> / "table," it is found that /kaj<sup>55</sup> / varies significantly according to the speaker's age.

As for bilingualism variation, the use of /kaj<sup>55</sup> / does not vary significantly according to the bilingualism of the speakers. This implies that Thai does not have influence on the variation of /kaj<sup>55</sup> / in Teochiu.

This study shows that with the nouns which may occur with /kaj<sup>55</sup> /, the young speaker group tends to use /kaj<sup>55</sup> / more frequently than the old group. In the future /kaj<sup>55</sup> / may become the most popular classifier. This implies that the Teochiu dialect in Thailand is in the process of change.