

Itsaree Sawangdee 2014: An Analysis of Lexical Change in Northern Thai Cuisine Terms Among Three Generations in Chiang Mai. Master of Arts (Applied Linguistics), Major Field: Applied Linguistics, Department of Linguistics. Thesis Advisor: Associate Professor Tasanalai Burapachee, Ph.D. 171 pages.

This research aimed to study the lexical usage and the lexical change of Northern Thai cuisine terms among three generations in Chiang Mai to identify some change in phonological and semantic aspects. The list of the Northern Thai cuisine terms used for the interview are 48 words compiled by Kosin (2009: 65-67). The materials and data for this research work were collected from thirty informants of three age categories living in Chiang Mai, which are 55-65, 35-45 and 15-25 years of age.

The analysis reveals that the usages of Northern Thai Cuisine terms are under the influence of age variables. The first generation (55-65 years old) maintained the highest usage of traditional northern cuisine words, while the third group is found to use the least of the traditional terms. Furthermore, the study found that 35 cuisine terms were still used by all the three generations; 11 cuisine terms were expected to gradually fall out of use and 2 cuisine terms were now obsolete.

Regarding the phonological change, vowel and consonant variations are found in the use of all three age groups, while the third generation (15-25 years old) exhibits these variations most prominently. In addition, it has been found that the three groups borrowed cooking words from other dialects. Finally, as regards the semantic change of the terms under study, three categories of the change have been identified: the broadening of meaning, the narrowing of meaning and the combination of the two.

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