

Weerawat Meesomyut 2014: Tone Variations of the Thai Dialect of Phra Nakhon Si Ayutthaya. Master of Arts (Applied Linguistics), Major Field: Applied Linguistics, Department of Linguistics. Thesis Advisor: Mrs. Kanita Chaimano, Ph.D. 162 pages.

The main purpose of this study is to investigate the tone system of Ayutthaya Thai spoken in Phra Nakorn Si Ayutthaya of 2 age group people in order to analyze the tendency of changes of it. In this research, monosyllabic words spoken in isolation were elicited from 32 participants who represent local speakers of Ayutthaya Thai spoken in the 16 Amphoes, 2 speakers who are 15 – 25 years old and 55 – 65 years old from each Amphoe. They were chosen according to a set of criteria.

The study shows that the age group is the social variable investigated in this study. It has influenced how they speak. The speakers who are 55 – 65 years old still use the same tone system while the speakers who are 15 – 25 years old use the variant tone system. Some of tones are not the same anymore. The standard variant is the best choice so they choose it in daily lives. The tendency of changes of Ayutthaya Thai spoken in Phra Nakorn Si Ayutthaya in the future will not be spoken like this. The tone system which 55-65-year-old people use will disappear and there will be no Ayutthaya sub-dialects. In the future, people in all 16 Amphoes will use the same tone system.

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Thesis Advisor's signature