

Kantinan Phiasuphan 2014: A Comparative Study of Thai Tones Spoken by Thai and Hindi Speakers: The Study of Gender. Master of Arts (Applied Linguistics), Major Field: Applied Linguistics, Department of Linguistics. Thesis Advisor: Mrs.Kanita Chaimano, Ph.D. 185 pages.

The objective of this research is to analyze and compare the Thai tones spoken by the Thai and the Indian who speak Hindi as their mother tongue, based on the gender of informants. The data is collected from a native Thai female and a native Thai male informants aged 30-45 years old, used as the reference to be compared with ten Indian female and ten Indian male informants who speak Hindi to find out whether the Thai tones in the speech of the Indian who speak Hindi differ from the speech spoken by the native speakers. The wordlist was applied from a tone box of dialect (William J. Gedney, 1972) which consists of 32 one-syllable words including a pair of 16 one-syllable words with different vowel length. The data were analyzed by the Praat program version 5.1.11 for showing the fundamental frequency, the range of the fundamental frequency and duration. The differences in Thai tones spoken by the Thai and the Indian who speak Hindi are statistically calculated with t-test (p -values <0.05).

The result of the study reveals that all Thai tones spoken by Indian who speak Hindi differed from those spoken by Thai native speakers. Statistically, the tones differed significantly at the level values of 0.05 which fundamental frequency of the Indian who speak Hindi is higher than the Thai. The analysis shows that female Indians who speak Hindi have more similar speech to Thai than Indian males who speak Hindi. Especially, the speech consisted of dead syllables with short vowels. In addition, the result shows that all Indian who speak Hindi can pronounce contour tone better than level tone, especially, falling-rising tone, can be pronounced similar to a native Thai speakers.

Student's signature

Thesis Advisor's signature