

Sarawut Butdawong 2014: Language Domains, Attitudes, and Vocabulary Use of Thai Yuan in Baan Chat Yai, Rang Bua Sub-district, Chom Bueng District, Ratchaburi Province. Master of Arts (Applied Linguistics), Major Field: Applied Linguistics, Department of Linguistics. Thesis Advisor: Assistant Professor Chamaiphak Tajasanant, Ph.D. 145 pages.

This research is to study language domains, attitudes, and word use of Thai Yuan at Baan Chat Yai, Rang Bua Sub-district, Chom Bueng District, Ratchaburi Province. The objectives are to study languages used in different domains, languages attitudes, and word use of Thai Yuan speakers from different age groups.

The stratified random sampling technique was employed. The 80 people from three generations. The 15-30 year olds represented the young and new generations, the 35-50 year olds represented the middle age and workmen, and the 55-70 year olds represented the old generation. The data were collected by questionnaire, interviewing and observation.

The results revealed that Thai Yuan was used in order to communicate within family, community and cultural and traditional domains. Thai was used in order to communicate with the royal or official domain and others strangers. Yet the quantity of Thai Yuan used had become lower among the new generation. There were also positive attitudes towards the language and their ethnic; Thai Yuan speakers accepted the changes and roles of Thai. Finally, the use of Thai Yuan words had also decreased among the new generation.

As the results, it can be assumed that Thai Yuan is the language which plays an important role for Thai Yuan speakers as a major language of the ethnic group. Thai starts to play more important role for the young generation of Thai Yuan as an interlingua in order to communicate with others strangers. Yet the quantity of Thai Yuan used in various domains, word use and attitudes that had become lower may cause the status of the language to be changed. This research can be useful for language planning and revival of Thai Yuan in this area and can be useful for researchers who intend to study more about the language.

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