

Rungarun Rojrattanadamrong 2014: An Analysis of Thai Primer Textbooks for Literacy Beginners from 1871 to 2012 AD. Doctor of Philosophy (Thai Language), Major Field: Thai Language, Department of Thai Language. Thesis Advisor: Associate Professor Wilaisak Kingkham, Ph.D. 359 pages.

This thesis targeted two study areas: 1) an analytical comparative study of the substance, the methodology and objective of Thai primer textbooks from 1871 to 2012 AD and, 2) a presentation guidelines for creating Thai basic reading and writing textbooks for children.

The results from the study of the substance of Thai textbooks are divided into two types: (1) the textbooks are focused on teaching reading and writing of letters and, (2) they are focused on teaching reading words and stories. The results from the study of the methodology of Thai textbooks reveal in two methods: (1) the phonics method focuses on teaching reading and writing of letters. This method starts contents by teaching the sounds of consonants, vowels, tones, analogic phonics instruction and synthetic phonics instruction and, (2) the concentrated language encounter method focuses on teaching reading words and stories. This method starts by reading stories for students to understand the meaning of words, sentences and to make reading fun.

The results from the analytical study of the objectives of Thai textbooks were of two types: (1) Thai textbooks aimed at literacy or character recognition accuracy and, (2) textbooks aimed at language usage skills, listening, speaking, reading, writing and language experience. The results for guidelines for creating textbooks for basic children reading and writing found that, traditional teaching methods correspond to the modern method called phonics method that prioritizes learning letters. Students recognize consonants, vowels, tones accurately, and spell words children have never learned. The phonics method is an appropriate method in Thai textbooks for basic reading and writing. In addition, the objective of Thai textbooks should focus on the accuracy of reading and writing.

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Thesis Advisor's signature