

Suwimon Sodsad 2014: Speech Acts and Cohesion in Constitution. Master of Arts
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Thesis Advisor: Miss Umaporn Sungkaman, Ph.D. 134 pages.

The objectives of this study were to classify the speech acts, analyze the speech act forms and analyze cohesion found in constitutional law of Kingdom of Thailand. The subject law used in this study was Constitution Law of Kingdom of Thailand B.E. 2540 (1997) and the one of B.E. 2550 (2007). In this study, the conceptual framework developed by Austin (1962) and on that of Searle (1969) were used to classify and analyze speech act and speech act forms, while the conceptual framework of Halliday and Hasan (1976) was employed to analyze cohesion.

The results were revealed in three aspects : based on the constitutional law classification, it relied on five respects of speech acts, including compelling, informing, prohibition, permission, and assertion.

According to the analysis of the speech act forms, there were four forms. The fourth form, which was found most, stated head act followed by the first form, which stated back supportive move; the second form comprised head act followed by back supportive move; the third form, which was least found, comprised head supportive move followed by head act and back supportive move, in which head act was explicitly and implicitly stated, while head supportive move showed four speeches: condition, reference, intension, and topic. The back supportive move included condition, reference, intention, exception, and description.

According to the cohesion analysis, there were five types of cohesion. The findings showed three types of reference, including nominal reference, clausal reference and discoursal reference; ellipsis was found in two types: omission of noun in subject position and omission of noun in object position. Conjunction was found in 11 forms: additional relation, oppositional relation, alternative relation, casual relation, temporal relation, conditional relation, restating relation, purpose relation, classification relation, conceding relation, and exception relation. However, lexical cohesion was found in two forms: superordinate and meronymy and co-meronymy. Reiteration cohesion was found in two forms: repetition and parallel structure.

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