

Kamolwan Eomtongin 2011: An Analysis of Borrowed Thai Lexical Items in English Contexts Appearing in Thailand's In-flight Magazines and Their Impact on Foreigners' Reading Comprehension. Master of Arts (English for Specific Purposes), Major Field: English for Specific Purposes, Department of Foreign Languages. Thesis Advisor: Ms. Issariya Thaveesilpa, Ph.D. 212 pages.

The main objectives of this thesis are 1) to analyze the parts of speech of borrowed Thai lexical items appearing in English contexts of two in-flight magazines, namely Sawasdee and Kinnaree; 2) to examine the function of each borrowed Thai lexical item in the English syntactic structure; and 3) to investigate the impact of the borrowed Thai lexical items on foreigners' reading comprehension.

One hundred and thirty excerpts from Sawasdee and Kinnaree magazines (sixty-five from each) published in 2004 were collected as the data for the main study. The parts of speech of the borrowed Thai lexical items were then analyzed. The computer program called "Statistical Package for the Social Sciences" (SPSS) was used to group and calculate the percentages of the data. The functions of the borrowed Thai lexical items were then examined and given as examples. In order to investigate how the borrowed Thai lexical items impede foreigners' reading comprehension, an open-ended questionnaire, comprising six questions about personal information, twenty sample excerpts from both magazines, and six questions about the participants' attitudes towards the borrowed Thai lexical items, was designed and five foreigners who are English, Canadian, French, Finnish and Japanese were asked to take part in the investigation as participants.

The findings of the study revealed that most borrowed Thai lexical items are nouns and noun phrases. Many of them have a nominal function but some nouns have an adjectival function. The borrowed Thai lexical items did not impede the reading comprehension of the English and the Canadian participants; whereas the French, Finnish and Japanese participants obviously encountered reading obstacles. Furthermore, some borrowed Thai lexical items were anglicized and some occurred repeatedly in both magazines with different spellings.

The present study would yield advantages to learners of English for Specific Purposes and English as an International Language, for it could be used as a guideline in conducting further in-depth studies on language contact and linguistic borrowing.

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