

LANGUAGE/MON LANGUAGE / KHMU LANGUAGE

NARUMON SIRIPHAN : COLOR TERMS AND ATTITUDE TOWARD COLOR OF THAI, PWO KAREN, MON AND KHMU IN AMPHOE SI SAWAT KANCHANABURI PROVINCE. THESIS ADVISORS: ASSOC. PROF.SUWATTANA LIAMPRAWAT, AND ASST.PROF.UBOL TEDTONG, Ph.D. 147 pp.

This research aims to analyze and compare methods of creating basic color terms and non-basic color terms to study attitudes towards colors and beliefs of using colors in rituals of the Thai-Kanchanaburi, Pwo Karen Mon and Khmu ethnic groups. Six speakers of each of the four languages, namely Thai-Kanchanaburi, Pwo Karen, Mon and Khmu languages, at the age of 40-50, were selected to participate in this study. The research tools consisted of 241 color plates, 20 pieces of local fabric and 40 objects.

Twelve basic color terms and 97 non-basic color terms were found in the Thai-Kanchanaburi language. Their evolution was at the seventh stage. Seven basic color terms and 30 non-basic color terms were found in the Pwo Karen language. Their evolution was at the sixth stage. Four basic color terms and 49 non-basic color terms were found in the Mon language. Their evolution was at the third stage. Five basic color terms and 27 non-basic color terms were found in the Khmu language. Their evolution was at the fourth stage. Methods of creating non-basic color terms of speakers of Thai-Kanchanaburi, Pwo Karen, Mon and Khmu languages were: 1) Basic color terms + Basic color terms; 2) Basic color terms + Modifier; 3) Modifier + Basic color terms; 4) Basic color terms + /ʔom'/ + Basic color terms; 5) Basic color terms + definite terms; and 6) usage of definite terms.

In regard to attitudes towards colors, it was found that speakers of Thai-Kanchanaburi, Pwo Karen, Mon and Khmu languages had positive attitudes towards dark colors and negative colors towards light colors. Additionally, color terms were able to reflect beliefs in forces, purity, luck, aging and change of status, religion and gender as shown in various rituals such as the good spirit creating ceremony, the spirit respecting ceremony, the spirit dancing ceremony, the Zu ceremony, the Keuzeurong ceremony, the tree ordaining ceremony, etc.

Department of Thai Graduate School, Silpakorn University Academic Year 2011

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Thesis Advisor's signature 1.....2.....

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