

Duangrat Nasen, Major 2012: Non-Verbal Language Relating to Flags used in Thai Armed Forces. Master of Arts (Thai Language), Major Field: Thai Language, Department of Thai Language. Thesis Advisor: Assistant Professor Surasith Thairatana, Ph.D. 274 pages.

The objective of this thesis is to study the history of the flags used in three services. Non-verbal languages convey the meanings of the flags used in three services: the Royal Thai Army, the Royal Thai Navy and the Royal Thai Air Force comprised of the Thai National Flag, the Royal Thai Navy Flag, flags of honor and royal precedence and military flags. The researcher has studied and has gathered information related to the flags used in three services such as Act of Flag and ministerial regulation from textbooks, documents and electronic media. The researcher has also collected information from an interview and questioning the commanders and then investigates them by dividing the study into 5 chapters.

The thesis indicates that the flags used in three services have a history. The beginning of using flags to be a symbol of Thailand was in the reign of King Narai the Great. The flag had a red background with no symbol. Later, some symbols such as a white discus and a white elephant were decorated on the red background flag. This flag then was developed to be Thai National flag at the present time. It also becomes the origin of several kinds of flags such as the Royal Thai Navy Flag, the Navy Jack and the Colors.

The purposes of using non-verbal languages in conveying the meanings of the flags in three services are as followings: indicating Thailand and Thai nation, indicating the king and the royal family, indicating flags for the units, indicating the Royal Thai Army, the Royal Thai Navy, the Royal Thai Air Force, indicating military flags, indicating military ranks, military positions, military units, indicating receiving-sending message and indicating Minister of Defence.

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