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PATTAMAWAN WONGKACHORN: THE USE OF ADDRESS TERMS AMONG BANGKOK THAI ADOLESCENTS. THESIS ADVISORS: SUKHUMA-VADEE KHAMHIRAN, M.A., SURIYA RATANAKUL, Ph.D., SUWILAI PREMSRIRAT, Ph.D.

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The purpose of this thesis is to study the patterns and usage of address terms among Bangkok Thai adolescents under the influence of 3 social factors: the status of the addressor and the addressee, sex of the addressee and age of the addressee. The data were collected by using questionnaires. The body of the questionnaire was constructed based on observations undertaken as part of the study.

The result of the study shows that there are 17 patterns of address terms occurring as single unit and compound unit. The form of address terms among Bangkok Thai adolescents consists of two parts: the obligatory and the optional parts. The obligatory can be a single unit or a combination of two or more units. The full occurrence is vocative, pronominal, kinterm, occupation/title and name. The optional is a final particle.

The study shows that the most important factor which influences the variation of the use and the pattern of address terms is the relationship between the addressor and the addressee. Age of the addressee is also found to be important while sex of the addressee is the least influential factor.

From the analysis, it may be concluded that the use of address terms among Bangkok Thai adolescents reflects the importance of the kinship system in Thai society.