

Research Title	A Study and Analysis of English in Thai Folk Songs
Researcher	Asst. Prof. Dr. Akkarapon Nuemaihom
Faculty	Humanities and Social Sciences
University	Phranakhon Rajabhat University
Year	2011

Abstract

The purposes of the research were to 1) analyze English in Thai folk songs, 2) study the features of using English in the songs and 3) investigate the causes of using English in the songs. The population consisted of 125 highly popular songs collected from 4 sources. The samples gathered from a total population through purposive sampling consisted of 51 songs. They were mixed with English, but were not repeated songs. Moreover, the population and samples of this research were also composed of 8 song experts. The research tools comprised a survey form of songs mixed with English and an interview with Thai folk songs experts form. Percentage was utilized to analyze the quantitative data; whereas the content analysis was applied for the qualitative data.

The research results revealed that:

1. Regarding the types of English found in the songs, words were mostly found at 82 percent, followed by phrases accounting for 10.30 and sentences for 6.20.
2. The word “fan” was used with high frequency at 42.48 percent and was followed by the word “number” together with the sentence “marry me” at 9 percent. With regard to English used in a total of 51 songs, the findings indicated that the word “fan” was found with high frequency at 35.71 percent, followed by the words “number” and “care” making up 14.28 percent and 11.93 percent respectively.
3. There are 2 features of using English in Thai folk songs i.e. loan words and abbreviation or short words. Moreover, loan words were found at 85.56 percent, followed by abbreviation or short words making up 14.44 percent.

4. The song experts opined that English was put in Thai folk songs because the song composers wanted to make the songs sound modern, creative and interesting. In addition, there were no proper Thai words to convey good meanings; consequently, English words had been loaned.