

4037732 LCRU/M : MAJOR : RURAL DEVELOPMENT STUDIES ; M.A.
(RURAL DEVELOPMENT STUDIES)

KEY WORDS : LANGUAGE / CULTURE / CHANGE / IMPACT

KITTIPAT NUNTANAWANICH : THE CULTURAL ANTHROPOLOGY OF LAO WIANG COMMUNITY : A CASE STUDY OF BAN HAT SONG KHWAEE, TAMBON HAT SONG KHWAEE, AMPHOE TRON, UTTARADIT PROVINCE. THESIS ADVISORS : RUENGDET PANKHUENKHAT.,M.A.,Ph.D., IAM THONGDEE.,B.A.,M.A., YONGYUTH BURASITH.,B.A.,M.A., 307 p. ISBN 974-04-2139-3

This qualitative research aimed at studying Lao Wiang culture and their phonological system as well as investigating factors having impacts on cultural changes of the Lao Wiang community at Ban Hat Song Khwae, Tambon Hat Song Khwae, Amphoe Tron, Uttaradit Province.

The study findings revealed that the economic system had been changed from self-sufficiency to market-orientation. The family and kinship system was developed to become more of a nuclear than an extended one, and their belief system was an integration between Buddhism and animism, which was the original belief of the community.

The phonological system of the Lao Wiang community was composed of 20 initial consonant phonemes. Of these, 9 phonemes could occur as the final syllable and 2 phonemes could occur as clusters. There were 21 vowel phonemes which were composed of 18 single vowel phonemes and 3 diphthongs. The split of the tones was tripartite, consisting of 5 tonemes. The syllable structures were of three types, namely monosyllabic, disyllabic and polysyllabic.

The factors affecting changes in the community were of two types : external and internal. External factors included the construction of roads or communication channels, electricity, the introduction of new production patterns by state agencies, and the spread of new production technology. Internal factors were the rapid growth of population and deterioration of soil quality and fertility.

From the study findings, it is recommended that a self-sufficient economic system be promoted. Moreover, folk wisdom should be developed and applied to efficiently solve economic problems of the community. Furthermore, learning and cooperation networks between the community and others should be created and villagers as well as concerned state agencies should put more significance on the preservation and maintenance of local culture and tradition. In addition, religious institutions, particularly temples, should be actively involved in promoting and disseminating ethics, morality and education to community members. They should also become leaders in preserving and developing local traditions and cultural heritage for younger generations.