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Thesis Title	A Thai Dialect Geography in Chaiyaphum Province : A Tonal Study
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#### Abstract

This thesis is a study of tonal difference and distribution of Thai dialects in Chaiyaphum province. It is based on the relation between initial consonants and tones. It also attempts to find Thai dialect areas, to draw a linguistic map of Thai dialects and to locate the usage of each dialect in Chaiyaphum. Data collecting is done by interviewing informant one point for a sub-district (Tambon) all over the province, some sub-districts are more than one in different dialects.

This thesis is divided into five chapters. The first is an introduction. The second is a presentation of the tone in Tai and linguistic geography. The third is an explanation of the tones in Chaiyaphum. The fourth is a description of the Thai dialect geography and the fifth is conclusions, problems and suggestions.

From the finding, there are many tonal variations in the province. It can be divided into three areas by tonal system differences and Thai dialect distributions. One is a Northeastern Thai

dialect area, it is a vast area from the North to the South of the province, and it can be divided into 8 sub-areas. Two is a Mixed area, it is a middle western of the province, there are North-eastern Thai dialect and Korat dialect in this area. Three is a Korat dialect area, it is a narrow area in the south of the province and can be divided into 2 sub-areas . There are two complex Thai dialect points in the Korat Thai dialect area. Moreover the linguistic area is closely related to geography and history of Chaiyaphum.