

Thesis Title : An Analysis of Lexical Change among Three Generations  
in Thai Song Dialect.

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#### ABSTRACT

The purpose of this study is to compare and analyze lexical usage among the three generations of Thai Song speakers to see whether there is any change in phonological and semantic aspects of the use. Data were collected from eighteen female informants of three age categories : over 60 years, 31-59 and 15-30 years of age, living in Mu 1, 6 and 8, Tambon Ban Don, Amphoe U-Thong, Suphanburi province. A word list of 604 was used for the interview. Of these numbers, 351 nouns and 253 verbs have been categorized according to semantic criteria into 44 sub-groups.

The result shows that all three groups still use the same lexicon. Some changes are found in the speech of the second and the third generations who have taken words from other dialects and use them interchangeably with or replace the native ones. Moreover, since the changes found are unconditioned

and inconsistent no rules can be set up. Initial consonants and clusters have been added into the native sound system. The vowels and tones have also undergone change under the influence of standard Thai. Semantic change is found mainly in the second and/or third generations and a number of words are becoming lost in daily use.

The finding indicates that lexical changes are found mostly in the second and the third generations of Thai Song speakers because of the influence of standard Thai which is the language of wider communication.