

Thesis Title	A Comparative Phonological Study of Phu Tai and Lao Song
Name	Orapan Unakornsawat
Concentration	Thai
Department	Thai
Academic Year	1993

ABSTRACT

The purpose of this study is to compare the phonology of Phu Tai and Lao Song in order to find their similarities and differences.

The results of this study show that the phonological feature most different between Phu Tai and Lao Song are vowels, i.e. there are no diphthong, in Phu Tai but there are 4 diphthongs in Lao Song. The diphthongs /ia, ia, ua, ai/ in Lao Song correspond to the long monophthongs /e:, ə:, o:, ə:/ in Phu Tai respectively. But there are similar 18 monophthongs in both languages. The next difference is the number of the initial consonant phonemes. In Phu Tai there are 20 initial consonant phonemes while in Lao Song there are 19. The initial consonant phonemes /ph, th, kh/ in Phu Tai correspond to the /p, t, k/ in Lao Song. As for the consonant clusters, there are 3 consonant clusters /kw, khw, sw/ in Phu Tai whereas there are 3 consonant clusters /kw, khw, ηw/ in Lao Song. While there are only 5 tones in Phu Tai, in Lao Song, there are 6 tones. However, the phonetic feature of the tone for the two dialects is not much different. Moreover, the tone split of these two dialects is similar, i.e. two - way split (A 123-4).

On the basis of the sound correspondence, we find that Phu Tai and Lao Song are in a different sub-group based on the initial consonants. Phu Tai is in PH group or Thai group whereas Lao Song is in P group or Tai group