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SUPAWEE JUTHONG : THE DEVELOPMENT OF COMPOUND WORDS IN THAI.

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The objective of this thesis is to investigate the development of Thai compounds in the period of Sukhothai, Ayudhya, Ratanakosin, and the Present period in terms of word structures, word formation and word forms. The 6,008 compounds are drawn from several resources and analyzed.

With regard to the development of word structures, it is found that there are 2 types of word structures : 1) main-main compounds and 2) main-modifying compounds. Each type of word structures is divided into two sub-types according to the relationship between the constituents : simple relation sub-type and complex relation sub-type. The word structure which is generally used in all periods is the simple relation sub-type of the main-main compounds.

With regard to the development of word formation, the Thai compounds are formed by 3 processes : combining, incorporating and transforming. Thus, the compounds are categorized into 3 groups : the combining compounds, the incorporating compounds and the transforming compounds. It is also found that among these three groups the combining compounds appear most in every period. However, such appearance continuously decreases in the later periods whereas the appearance of the incorporating compounds is increasing.

With regard to the development of word forms, there are 5 types of changes : 1) main constituent renewing, 2) modifying constituent renewing, 3) main constituent deletion, 4) modifying constituent deletion, and 5) constituent reordering. Most of Thai compounds which have changed their forms are under the main constituent renewing.

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