

Thesis Title : A Tonal Comparison of Tai Dialects
in Loei Province.

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Abstract

The purpose of this thesis is to study and compare the tone systems of Tai dialects spoken in 13 areas of Loei province. Similarities and differences in the tone systems are used in grouping the Loei dialects.

The result of the study shows that the Loei dialects have systems with five and six tones. The phonetic realizations of the tones vary from dialect to dialect.

In grouping the Loei dialects, two criteria are used: the number of tones and the pattern of tonal splits in tone A and tone C.

The Loei dialects are divided into two groups on the basis of the number of tones. But based on the patterns of tonal splits in tone A and tone C, Loei dialects are divided into 3 groups

Moreover, the tone systems of Loei dialects in this study are compared with those of other studies of Loei dialects.