

Thesis Title Expressives in Northern Khmer
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ABSTRACT

Expressives can be considered as an areal feature of Southeast Asia. They are found in many Southeast Asian languages such as Thai, Malay etc. This thesis describes the characteristics of expressives in Northern Khmer. From this study, there are some relations between the changing of the meaning and the changing of the form such as, the higher vowels indicate "bigger size or quantity" than the lower vowels. Diphthongs indicate "bigger size or quantity" than the pure vowels. Central vowels indicate "bigger size or quantity" than front and back vowels; and back vowels indicate "bigger size or quantity" than front vowels. A consonant may be added to the root expressive

to intensify the meaning. And the last one is one or more syllables can be added to the root expressive to intensify its meaning. The more syllables the more the intensity.

The study is divided into six chapters. The first chapter is an introduction stating the scope and purpose of the study. The second chapter deals with some characteristics of the Northern Khmer language. The third chapter deals with the characteristics of Northern Khmer expressives. Phonological categories of expressives, which is the most interesting topic, are analyzed in chapter four. The fifth chapter deals with semantic categories of expressives. The last chapter presents some conclusions from the research. The appendix contains a list of expressive words.