

Thesis Title            Thai Muslims' Language Attitudes in Ban  
                               Surao Tambon Talingchan Chana District  
                               Songkhla Province

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Degree                  Master of Arts (Linguistics)

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#### ABSTRACT

The objective of the thesis is to find the patterns of language use and language attitudes of Thai-Muslims in Ban Surao, Chana District, Songkhla Province. The patterns of language use concentrated on three dimensions: interlocutors, topics and settings. Language attitudes are the subjects' attitudes toward: Pattani Malay, Standard Malay, Songkhla Thai, Standard Thai and Arabic. The study compares four variables, sex, age, occupation and level of education.

The methodology used in the study was that of questionnaire-guided-interview and personal observation. The interviewers used 3 languages, Songkhla Thai, Standard Thai, and Pattani Malay.

The patterns of language use in the community

shows a consistent diglossic practice. Arabic and Standard Thai are formal languages used for religion and education. Pattani Malay and Songkhla Thai are informal languages used with in-group and out-group. In formal situations and with strangers, the uses of Standard Thai are significantly different. Male use Standard Thai more than female. Those with higher level of education use more than those with lower level. Those who are younger use more than those who are older and those with open career use more than those of closed career. It is of their greater Thai proficiency and their open network.

The study reveals the subjects' positive attitudes toward Thai and Malay both standard and dialect. The evaluation on language attitudes agree with patterns of language use. There is not much significant difference for Pattani Malay, Standard Malay, Songkhla Thai and Arabic. The significant difference is obvious in Standard Thai. Subjects who are female, those who are younger, those with open career and those with higher level of education show more positive attitudes toward Standard Thai than the other groups.

The youngsters' patterns of language use and the people's positive attitudes identify trends that community language use may gradually shift from monolingual to bilingual.