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SONGGOT PAANCHIANGWONG : A STUDY OF INTERFERENCE OF
NORTHEASTERN THAI DIALECT IN STANDARD THAI : CASE OF MUANG
DISTRICT UBONRATCHATHANI PROVINCE. THESIS ADVISORS : SURIYA
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Interference occurs when a bi/multilingual person speaks his/her non-native language. The Northeastern Thais who speak Northeastern Thai as their mother tongue sometimes experience interference when they converse in Standard Thai. This interference occurs because Northeastern Thai is a closely related dialect of the same sub-branch of Southwestern Tai as Standard Thai. This research was intended to describe the kinds of interference that occur when speakers of the Northeastern Thai dialect from Ubonratchathani Province speak Standard Thai. The researcher collected data on 21 consonant phonemes, 15 vowel phonemes, and 6 tonal phonemes to analyze phonological interference. The researcher also used 10 word classes to study the lexical interference by interviewing 15 male informants. The fifteen informants were divided into three age groups; the five informants in the first group were 20 years of age, the five in the second group were 35 years of age, and the five in the third group were 50 years of age. These three groups were selected to represent their respective generations and to enable the researcher to describe interference for these three age levels.

The results of the study were as follow: For the third group, consonantal interference occurred with 21 phonemes, vowel interference for 15 phonemes, but no tonal interference occurred. For the second group, consonantal interference occurred with 14 phonemes, vowel interference occurred with 6 phonemes, but there was no tonal interference. For the first group, consonantal interference occurred with 12 phonemes, but there was no vowel or tonal interference. The phonological interference observed in this study can be categorized as being of two types: phonemic interference and distributional interference. In terms of lexical interference, all 10 word classes occurred with both the third and second groups, but lexical interference occurred in only four word classes with the first group.

The results indicate that both phonological interference and lexical interference are likely to decrease over time. This is due chiefly to the influence of Standard Thai as the official and standard language.