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NUCHANART WAIYANONT : THAVUNG PHONOLOGY AT MUANG KHAMKERT, BOLIKHAMXAI PROVINCE, LAO P.D.R.

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The objective of this thesis is to present a phonological study of the Thavung language spoken in Ban Samhing, Muang Khamkert, Bolikhamxai province, Lao P.D.R. The phoneme, syllable, phonological word and intonation group are analysed by using Tagmemic framework.

The thesis presents the phonological system of the Thavung language. A phonological comparison among the three Thavung dialects: Samhing, Khanglek and Nongwaeng Thavung is also briefly investigated.

The result of the study shows that the phonological system of the Samhing Thavung is composed of 20 consonant phonemes : /p, p<sup>h</sup>, b, t, t<sup>h</sup>, d, c, k, k<sup>h</sup>, ʔ, v, s, h, m, n, ŋ, l, w, j/, 20 single vowel phonemes: /i, i:, e, e:, ε, ε:, i, i:, o, o:, a, a:, a:, u, u:, o, o:, o, o:/, 3 diphthongs: /ia, ia, ua/ and 3 registers: clear voice, clear glottalized voice and breathy voice. There are two types of syllables: the major syllables and the presyllables, three types of phonological words: monosyllabic words, disyllabic words and trisyllabic words, two types of intonation groups: falling contour and rising contour.

The phonological system of Samhing Thavung is similar to Khanglek and Nongwaeng Thavung. However, there are some differences between the Thavung dialect spoken in different areas.