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CHALATORN PANNAK: THE COMPARATIVE STUDY OF LANGUAGE ABILITIES IN THAI APHASIC PATIENTS WITH LEFT HEMISPHERIC LESIONS AND THAI RIGHT-HANDED PATIENTS WITH RIGHT HEMISPHERIC LESIONS BY USING A DIAGNOSTIC APHASIA EXAMINATION FOR THAI. THESIS ADVISORS: CHANCHAI JARIENPRASERT, M.D., M.A., M.Sc., ROCHANA DARDARANANDA, BA., M.A., KANJALUK KHANTHAPASUNTHARA, B.Sc., M.A., URIRAT SUBANVILAS, B.Sc., M.Sc. 155 P. ISBN 974-664-913-2

Prior comparative studies of language abilities between the aphasics and right hemisphere damaged patients have concluded different results. The purposes of this study were to measure language abilities of Thai aphasic patients with left hemispheric lesions and Thai right-handed patients with right hemispheric lesions, and to compare language abilities between patients in these two groups by using a Diagnostic Aphasia Examination for Thai (TDAE). The subjects in this study, included seven aphasic subjects with left hemispheric lesions and five right-handed subjects with right hemispheric lesions, were matched based on left and right cerebral lesions. Three group of lesions were matched, temporoparietal, internal capsule, and intraventricular and basal ganglia lesions.

According to the criteria of the Boston Diagnostic Aphasia Examination, three aphasic subjects with left temporoparietal lesions were classified as two global aphasics and one Wernicke's aphasic. All of the three aphasic subjects with left internal capsule lesion were classified as global aphasia. One aphasic subject with left intraventricular and basal ganglia lesion was classified as Broca's aphasia. Whereas, all Thai right-handed subjects who were lesion-matched compared to left cerebral lesion subjects, could not be classified in any type of aphasic syndrome.

The results of this study implied that, the TDAE could be used to measure the language abilities of Thai aphasic patients with left hemispheric lesions and to classify types of aphasia from their language abilities. On the other hand, the TDAE could not detect language deficits in the right hemisphere damaged patients. It might be that the TDAE was not sensitive enough to detect any kinds of language deficit in the right hemisphere damaged patients. However, the limited number of subject in this study resulted in a somewhat inconclusive outcome when comparison of language abilities between both groups, or possibly the right hemisphere damaged patients showed a relatively normal language functioning.