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PATTAMA PATPONG : THE COMPARATIVE STUDY OF LEXICAL
USAGE AMONG THREE GENERATIONS IN SUKHOTHAI DIALECT OF
TAMBON THUNGLUANG AMPHOE KHIRIMAT SUKHOTHAI PROVINCE.
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This thesis is a study in sociolinguistics. The purpose of this thesis is to compare lexical usage according to age and sex differences, including showing the tendencies of lexical usage among three generations in the Sukhothai dialect at Tambon Thungluang. In conducting the research, the researcher used 1,081 words. 650 of these words are nouns, and 431 words are verbs. The 1,081 words were classified into 44 subgroups according to semantic field for interview with 18 informants: nine females and nine males by dividing the subjects into three age groups: the first generation ages 55 years or up, the second generation ages between 35-45 years, the third generation ages between 15-25 years. From the total number of 1,081 words, 97 lexical items were specially selected for analysis and these were all specific to the Thungluang lexical items.

The results of the study reveal that the three generations of informants are obviously different in lexical usage. The findings show that the first generation uses the Thungluang lexical items the most. These Thungluang lexical items are used less by the second and the third generations. There is a great number of alternating usage of the Thungluang lexical items and other lexical items used by the second and the third generations. The alternating usage is found in the third generation to a greater proportion than that in the second generation. The other lexical items are used by the third generation the most and used less by the second and the first generations respectively. Phonological variations appearing in unconditioned rules are found in this study. The tones have changed under the influence of Standard Thai. Semantic change is also found mainly in the second and the third generations.

The study also indicates that lexical usage is in the process of change due chiefly to the influence of Standard Thai as the official and standard language.