

Thesis Title	A Thai Dialect Geography of Udonthani Province . A Tonal Study
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ABSTRACT

The purpose of this thesis was to study the tonal difference and distribution of Thai dialects in Udonthani province. It attempted to define Thai dialect areas, to draw a linguistic geography of the Thai dialects and to locate the usage of each Thai dialect in Udonthani province. Data collection was done by interviewing one subject from each sub-district (Tambon) in the province. Both instrumental analysis and auditory judgement were used to analyse the data. The instruments used in this study were the CFCIL program and the CECIL interface 500 (C: 500) speech box.

This thesis consists of six chapters. The first is an introduction. The second is the Proto-Tai tone system. The third is the tonal system of the Thai dialects in Udonthani province. The fourth is the grouping of tonal systems of the Thai dialects in Udonthani province. The fifth is a Thai dialect geography of Udonthani province and the sixth is a conclusion.

The result of the study shows that there are many tonal variations in the province. The tonal system of Udon dialect consists of 7 patterns. These 7 tonal patterns can be divided into three main groups of dialect area which are differentiated in terms of the tonal system. These three main groups belong to the Lao dialect. The first is a group of Luang Prabang dialect area which is spoken in the Northwest of the province. It can be divided into three dialect areas. The second is a group of Southern Lao dialect area which is spoken in an area covering a vast territory from the North to the South of the province. It can be divided into three dialect areas. The third is a group of Vientiane dialect area which is spoken in a narrow area in the South of the province.