

ABSTRACT

VERBAL TABOO IN THAI

BY

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This research aims at investigating the actual use and perception of taboo terms in Thai. I used both qualitative and quantitative methods. The related literature is reviewed initially. The perception of taboo terms then is studied via a questionnaire. As widely known that the age and sex of speakers are factors underlying the use of taboo, I elected the informants of different sexes and ages. The informants, ten males and ten females are divided into four age groups. They were asked to rate the degree of seriousness of thirty-two taboo terms. Results reveal that males and females perceive taboo terms differently which leads to different usage. Males use taboo words more often and have a larger taboo vocabulary than females. In addition, younger people perceive taboo terms less negatively than adults. As a result, their usage occurs more often. Both sexes and all age groups unanimously rated the names of certain parts of the body as the most serious group of taboo words.