

## Abstract

### Turn-taking Patterns in Thai Society

by

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This study investigates turn-taking patterns in various speech events, conversations, meetings, etc, in Thai society to compare the characteristics patterns of informal with formal situation, language style used in turn constructional units, and Thai ways of life reflected accordingly. Conversations are analyzed in informal and formal contexts. In formal activities included are talks among friends, neighbors and family members. While formal ones included are interviews on T.V. programs, doctors and patient consultation and meetings of various committees of the Ministry of Education. The examination of how turns are organized, the illocutionary force of speech act, turn allocation technique: 'the current speaker-selected next technique,' 'the speaker self-selected technique,' topic shift strategies, particular linguistic devices used in turn constructional units are described. The results revealed that the informal and formal contexts conventionalized the characteristics of turn-taking behaviors in terms of turn distribution, turn order, turn length and interruptions/overlapping, which in turn depended largely upon the speaker's interpretation at that time.