

A STUDY OF LANGUAGE AND CULTURE OF “/khî:/” (FECES) OF
LAO-WIANG IN NONG KOP SUBDISTRICT, BAN PONG DISTRICT,
RATCHABURI PROVINCE

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ABSTRACT

The objectives of the research are to study the meaning of the word “/khî:/”(feces) in various contexts and the cultural reflections of the Lao-Wiang people in Nong Kop Subdistrict, Ban Pong District, Ratchaburi Province, when the word “/khî:/” is used. This study employs linguistic anthropology concepts to describe the relationship between language and culture from 430 words and expressions used in Lao-Wiang daily life. The results show that the meanings of the word “/khî:/” in Lao-Wiang language is divided into two types: direct or basic meaning and indirect meaning, which results from meaning extension or comparison.

The usage of the word “/khî:/” in the Lao-Wiang language can be divided into five different types: 1)“/khî:/” meaning waste from humans or animals, 2)“/khî:/” meaning natural substances, animals, plants, appliances, colors, and diseases etc., 3)“/khî:/”for explaining human behaviors in terms of extraordinary actions or feelings in a negative way, 4)“/khî:/” for exclamations or curses, and 5)“/khî:/” used in folktales to teach cultural morals within literature, idioms, and proverbs. Moreover, it is found that in terms of the relationship between language and culture, the usage of the word“/khî:/” in the Lao-Wiang language reflects a variety of social and cultural conditions of the Lao-Wiang people in Nong Kop Subdistrict. These conditions include local environment, occupations, beliefs and values, utensils and tools, food and cooking, health and diseases, society, and local politics.

KEY WORDS: LANGUAGE AND CULTURE OF LAO-WIANG /
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