

Methawee Yuttapongtada 2012: Function and Semantic Extension of the Word /tua/ from the Sukhothai Period to B.E. 2551. Doctor of Philosophy (Thai Language), Major Field: Thai Language, Department of Thai Language. Thesis Advisor: Associate Professor Wilaisak Kingkham, Ph.D. 245 pages.

The objectives of this research were to study the function and semantic extension of the word /tua/ from the Sukhothai period to B.E. 2551 in order to understand its development and explain the quantifying factors caused the function and semantic extension. Data collected in the research was divided into six periods namely; (1) Sukhothai (2) Ayutthaya (3) the reigns of King Rama I to King Rama III (4) the reigns of King Rama IV to King Rama V (5) the reigns of King Rama VI to King Rama VIII and (6) the present.

It was found that the word /tua/ in Sukhothai period consisted of four functions namely; (1) simple noun (2) compound word beginning with the word /tua/ (3) classifier and (4) intensifier. The following five functions; (1) simple noun (2) compound word beginning with the word /tua/ (3) classifier (4) intensifier and (5) pronoun, were found obviously in Ayutthaya period, the reigns of King Rama I to King Rama III, the reigns of King Rama IV to King Rama V, the reigns of King Rama VI to King Rama VIII and the present.

Regarding the semantic feature, it was found that the word /tua/ extended the main or basic meanings “body” of human or animal to the abstract ones more and more. The function and semantic extension could be explained from the four concerned causes namely; metaphor, metonymy, prototype and analogy.

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