

3636334 LCLG/M : MAJOR : LINGUISTICS ; M.A. (Linguistics)

KEY WORD : SUKHOThai DIALECT / NAKHON SRITHAMMARAT DIALECT/
PHONOLOGICAL STUDY / COMAPATIVE STUDY

DUEANPEN RAKPAET : A PHONOLOGICAL STUDY OF SUKHOThai
DIALECT WITH COMPARISON TO NAKHON SRITHAMMARAT DIALECT.

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The subjects of this thesis are to study the phonology of SukhoThai dialect at Thungluang and to compare the phonemes of SukhoThai dialect with Nakhon Srithammarat dialect in order to show the relationship of consonants, vowels and tones in both dialects. This is to test the hypothesis of J. Marvin Brown that states that Nakhon Srithammarat dialect is derived from the Proto-SukhoThai.

The comparative study found that there are 20 consonant phonemes, 18 of which are similar in SukhoThai and Nakhon Srithammarat dialect, and there are similar /kw, k^hw/ consonant clusters in both dialects. The other consonant clusters in Nakhon Srithammarat do not occur in SukhoThai. There are 16 similar simple vowel phonemes in SukhoThai and Nakhon Srithammarat. As for the different simple vowels in SukhoThai and Nakhon Srithammarat dialect, /ə = ε, o = ɔ, i = i: ~ e, ɨ = ɨ: ~ e:, u = u: ~ o:/ are conditioned variation, and /ɨ = i:, u = u:, ε = ε:, ɔ = ɔ:, a = a:/ correspond in short - long feature. The next difference is the number of tonemes. SukhoThai has 5 tones while Nakhon Srithammarat has 6-7 tones. However, the phonetic feature of tone in both dialects is not much different. The tones and tone splits in SukhoThai and Nakhon Srithammarat are the B ≠ DL group.

Most of consonants, vowels and tones in SukhoThai dialect and Nakhon Srithammarat dialect developed from the Proto - SukhoThai, and changed in the same way.