

Pokpong Phetsom 2012: Naming Provinces in Thai Sign Language. Master of Arts
(Applied Linguistics), Major Field: Applied Linguistics, Department of Linguistics.
Thesis Advisor: Associate Professor Apiluck Tumtavitikul, Ph.D. 447 pages.

This thesis studies the naming of the 76 Thai provinces in Thai Sign Language (Thai SL) which aims to study the structure and component of signs by deaf students in middle and high school, Matthayom Sueksa 3 and 6, at Thungmahamek School of the Deaf. The data were analyzed into sign components of syllables and words according to Stokoe (1960, 1992), Brentari (1996) and Tumtavitikul and Niwatapant (2008) and compared with the sign components of the name signs of the National Association of the Deaf in Thailand (NADT).

The results show that only 3.82% of the middle school and 8.33% of the high school students were able to name all the 76 provinces similar to NADT. A total of 52.62% and 73.69% of each group respectively, named the provinces in various forms but somehow related to the NADT signs. Another 33.82% and 15.13% respectively, were not able to name any provinces at all. Finally, 9.74% and 2.85% respectively, named the provinces with no obvious relationship to the NADT name signs.

The data seem to indicate that the ability to correctly name the name signs of the provinces highly correlate with the length of time in school. Moreover, the variants of the name signs were analyzed. In all, the components of the name signs confirm that the signs, naturally signed or learned from school, consist of defined structure built on syllables and words in a manner similar to those of spoken languages and that the so-called “standard” name signs are not widely used even in school environment.

Student's signature

Thesis Advisor's signature