

Thesis Title	Retention of Tai Local Culture	
Author	Mr. Suthat Kantama	
M.Ed.	Nonformal Education	
Examining Committee	Assoc. Prof. Dr. Phasina Tangchuang	Chairman
	Lect. Visut Vanich	Member
	Asst. Prof. Yongyut Plianpadung	Member

Abstract

The purpose of the research Retention, of Tai Local Culture, was to study conditions, factors, and mechanics which caused that retention. The studied area was Kun Yuam village, Moo1 Kun Yuam sub-district, Kun Yuam district, Mae Hong Sorn province. This research was a qualitative research. The tools used in collecting data were informal interviews, participant and non-participabt observations in community activities. Gathered information was examined ,classified, and interpreted in accordance with selected concepts. The findings of the research were as follows :

1. The condition and the factor that caused the retention of the Tai local culture were the awareness of the culture's values or its use which were in the form of beliefs. These beliefs were passed on through rituals which created the relationship between human beings and supernatural things and also built up human relationship. Religion and certain beliefs put the emphasis on teachings linked to rituals. These rituals were socialized and practised by the community repeatedly from generation to generation.

2. The mechanics which caused the retention of local culture in the Tai community included family units which helped to pass on spoken language, behaviour patterns of their way of life to their offspring. Moreover, these were senior people supervising ritual arrangement. The priests gave moral teachings and education.

There were experts passing on wits and wisdom such as rituals, craftsmanship, and handicrafts. The community leaders managed and supported the culture of the community while relatives gave assistance in performing rituals.

The Tai local culture, which is persistent now is not exactly the same as it used to be. There were certain changes in both cultural values and patterns.