

Wannapa Boonpratheep 2010: A Study of the Names of the Villages in the Area of Amphoe Mueang Changwat Lop Buri. Master of Arts (Thai Language), Major Field: Thai Language, Department of Thai Language. Thesis Advisor: Associate Professor Wipawan Yooyen, Ph.D. 269 pages.

The aims of this thesis were to study the characters of language structures that are villages' names and to study the strategies used in village naming in Amphoe Mueang Changwat Lop Buri. Data for this research were the villages' names in Amphoe Mueang announced by Ministry of the Interior in 1932 which divided the administrative districts into 24 districts, 219 villages and 170 names.

The research finding reveals that the characters of words used in villages' names were divided into three characters: mixed words, compound words and connecting words. The strategies of naming villages' names were considered by the factors of syntax of noun phrases in the following three types: the first type is of village, community + landscapes ± (specific characters) ± (qualifications), the second type is of village, community + specific names and the last one is of village + community's names

The result of historical study about the settlement finds the relation of the origin and the meanings of the villages' names four characters as follow: the origin and meanings of villages' names that are related to the landscape, the origin and meanings of villages that are related to the history, the origin and meaning of villages' names that are related to legends and the origin and meanings that are related to tales. The result of the relationship study of villages' names and local cultures reveals that the villages' names that are related to many cases such as the settlement by rivers, telling directions, the position or the outstanding of the villages, the development of community, the aspect of landscape, highland area, the variety of plants, the importance of temples and religions, the importance of woodland about legends or tales.

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Thesis Advisor's signature