

Vipawadiee Ribunmiae 2012: A Comparative Study of Village Names in Amphoe Mueang and Amphoe Wang Muang Changwat Saraburi. Master of Arts (Thai Language), Major Field: Thai Language, Department of Thai Language. Thesis Advisor: Associate Professor Siriwan Nantachantoon, Ph.D. 210 pages.

This objectives of this study are to compare the derivation and meanings of the villages' names, to study the sound changes, words and meanings of villages' names both in the past and present in Mueng district and Wang Muang district, Saraburi province both in the past and present, and as well as to study social images that involve with the names of the villages.

The population consists of 77 villages' names in Mueng district and 31 villages' names in Wang Muang district. The total number was 108 villages' names.

The results revealed that the derivation and meanings of the villages in Mueng district can be classified into 3 categories: 1) the villages' names are favorably involved with one content. Most of them relate to landscapes, 2) the villages' names refer to two contents. Most of them relate to landscapes and trees, and 3) the villages' names refer to three contents concerning with water resources, animals, and others, and some related to landscapes, trees and legends. In Wang Muang district, they are also divided into 3 categories: 1) the villages' names are favorably involved with one content. Most of them relate to landscapes, 2) the villages' names refer to two contents. Most of them relate to landscapes and trees, and water resources and trees, and 3) the villages' names refer to three contents concerning with water resources, trees, and legends. The villages' names refer to two contents are found the most in both districts. The second and the third categories are the same in both districts. For the word building and derivation, most of the villages' names are combined words followed by compound words. In Mueng district, the changes of words occur at the highest level, followed by changes of meanings. In Wang Muang district, the pronunciation has been changed the most, followed by the meanings. The five characteristics are found in both districts. Most people in Mueng district settled near the water resources and the landscapes are plains and plateaus, varieties of plants, importance of forests, giving directions, positions and outstanding characteristics of villages respectively. In Wang Muang district, most people settled near the water resources, giving directions, positions or outstanding characteristics of villages, importance of forests, plateaus and plains and varieties of plants respectively.

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Thesis Advisor's signature