

Sopida Swetapun 2010: A Comparative Study of Shan Proverbs in Northern Thailand with Thai Proverbs. Master of Arts (Thai Language), Major Field: Thai Language, Department of Thai Language. Thesis Advisor: Associate Professor Siriwan Nantajuntoon, M.A. 553 pages.

The present study was aimed at studying the semantic component of words in Shan proverbs that had same meaning with Standard Thai Proverbs, and studying environmental cultural and way of life that reflected perspectives from Shan's proverb.

The sample in the study was 59 Shan proverbs that had the same meaning with Thai standard proverbs. Researcher gathered 1,200 Shan proverbs from gathering document and from field study, compared Thai standard proverbs from Khun Vichit Matra's Thai proverbs book and Royal Institute (2545 B.E.) idioms, aphorisms and proverbs book, then considered the denotation and connotation of Thai Proverbs and analyzed meaning correlation of essential words in proverbs by using semantic component analytical theory, and word correlation analytical theory to study reflected perspectives from Shan proverbs, by considering 59 Shan proverbs that had same meaning with Standard Thai proverbs.

From the comparative study of the meaning of Shan with Thai proverbs, it was found that 59 Shan's proverbs which have the same meaning with standard Thai's proverb and can be classified into three groups, 1) 26 proverb that have all words from different meaning category (44%) 2) 23 proverb that have all words from same meaning category (39%) and 3) 10 proverb that have words from both different and same meaning category (17%). There are 5 category correlation patterns, 1) Same meaning meaning division type 2) Directional contrast meaning opposite direction type 3) opposite contrast meaning 4) Completely same meaning perfect synonym type 5) Incompletely same meaning imperfect synonym type. The results regarding reflected perspectives studied from Shan proverbs in this work showed that there were two characters perspective, viz., reflect one side perspective and reflect multiple sides perspective.

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