

Prawee Thamarak 2011: A Phonetic and Phonological Study of Thai Buddhist Chanting. Master of Arts (Applied Linguistics), Major Field: Applied Linguistics, Department of Linguistics. Thesis Advisor: Associate Professor Apiluck Tumtavitikul, Ph.D. 163 pages.

This thesis aims to study Thai Buddhist chanting rhythm in the aspect of phonetics and phonology according to acoustic phonetics and Metrical theory. Two rhythms of Khandha paritta are studied in comparison whereas each rhythm is obtained from different source; Sangyoka style from monks of the Mahathat Yuwaratransarit temple and Magadha style from Bavonnivet Viharn temple.

The result of acoustic phonetics study shows that both chanting rhythms are stable in the control of the pitch and loudness. Duration of voice is applied for syllable stress and rhythmic control. Duration of each metrical unit at phrasal and sentence levels is mostly stable. The metrical study shows differences between the two chanting rhythms. Sangyoka style distinguishes the syllable stress by syllable (Garu is the stressed syllable while Lahu is the unstressed syllable) whereas in the Magadha style, stress is fixed by position at the first and last syllable of each phrase.

In addition, it is found that, in chanting, there are repeated words, rhyme words, and verses that share similar and resembled structure, which make it possible for rhythmic arrangement.

The result of this study has implication in teaching religious chanting.

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