

Nipha Chaiya 2010: Language Change and Factors Influence on the Lao Song.

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Thesis Advisor: Mrs. Supatra Indana, Ph.D. 183 pages.

This thesis aimed at studying the sound change and the semantic change of the Lao Song, the factors that made the Lao Song change, and the relation between the personal factors and the language change of the Lao Song in Donmakluae, Uthong, Suphanburi Province. The samples used in this study were classified into three groups, each of which comprised 10 people, according to the age level; Group 1: more than 49 years old, Group 2: 30-49 years old, and Group 3: 15-30 years old. The stratified sampling was employed to draw samples from the Minimal Pair in all 1,000 words and was collected by speech in interview and by written form. The findings of the study found that:

1. The language change was found in the Lao Song in Donmakluae, Uthong, Suphanburi Province. From the list of 1,000 words consisting of nouns, verbs, adjectives, prepositions and noun classifier, the sound change was found in 243 words (24.30%) and the semantic change was found in 18 words (1.80%).
2. According to the age level, the language change was found most in Group 3: 15-30 years old. Next was found in Group 2: 31-49 years old and Group 1: more than 49 years old respectively.
3. According to the education level, the language change was found most in the group of people finishing Mattayomseuksa 6.
4. The relation between the personal factors and the language change of the Lao Song was found higher in the people who were young and had high education than in the people who were older and had lower education.

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