

Country: Thailand

Research Report Number: 146

Title (Thai): การศึกษาเกี่ยวกับเสียงวรรณยุกต์ของภาษาคำเมืองในจังหวัดพะเยา

Title (English): A Tonal Study of Kammuang in Phayao

Author: Mr. Michael Cooper

Organization: Payap Research and Development Institute and the Summer Institute of Linguistics

Document type: Research report

Pages: 33

Date printed: December 1997

Original Language: English

Funding organization: none

Key Words: Tai linguistics, Tai dialects, Kammuang, Northern Thai, tonal systems, Gedney boxes

Abstract

A. Scope of the study

This paper is a preliminary tonal analysis based on an acoustic description of the tones of Kammuang spoken in Phayao province in Northern Thailand. The study is based on digital recordings of words from William Gedney's word list for analyzing the tonal systems of languages of the Tai language family (Gedney 1972).

B. Research Method

Wordlists were obtained from two speakers of Phayao Kammuang. The words from these wordlists were recorded and analyzed using MacCECIL, a computer program used in acoustic phonetic analysis developed by the Summer Institute of Linguistics. Pitch plots of the tones from these words from each of the subjects were analyzed and compared to each other and to Chiangmai Kammuang.

C. Research Results

From the point of view of tonal systems, Phayao and Chiangmai Kammuang are similar enough that they can be considered dialects of the same language. The patterns of the tonal splits are the same and the majority of the phonetic tone shapes are also the same between the Chiangmai and Phayao systems. The two systems differ in the phonemic distribution of the phonetic tones and in a few of the phonetic tone shapes.