

**Project Title** Lanna Proverbs in Chiang Rai: Usage and Variation Among Three Generations of Chiang Saen District Residents”

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### Abstract

This research examined the usage and variation of Lanna proverbs among three generations of people in Chiang Saen District, Chiang Rai Province. The research sample group consisted of 90 informants from three generations, 5 informants per generation, from six sub-districts, namely, Yonok, Mae Ngern, Sridonmoon, Wiang, Pasak and Baan Saew. In relation to the usage of proverbs, the research examined five aspects of how the informants practiced the Lanna proverbs in their daily lives. These aspects included maintaining the body, speech and thinking, relationship with others, work, and morality. In relation to the Lanna proverbs per se, the paper examined lexical variation and semantic variations. The research instruments consisted of two sets of interview questions. The information was analyzed by in terms of frequency distribution, mean, and descriptive analysis.

The Findings reveal that the informants from all three generations used only 36 out of 110 proverbs; the number of proverbs used correlated with their age. The Lanna proverbs that were used the most were those related to work, body, speech and thinking, and morality, respectively. The Lanna proverbs that were used the least were those related to relationship with others. Eight types of lexical variation were found, namely, syllable omission, syllable addition, expression switching, word replacement using Bangkok Thai language, changing vocabulary, changing phrases, and changing sentences. The most common types of Lexical variation found were changing phrases, changing sentences and changing vocabulary, respectively. The most variation in the Lanna proverbs occurred with informants of generation 1, and then in generation 2 and 3, respectively. In relation to semantic variation, narrowing of meaning, widening of meaning and transference of meaning occurred equally across all generations.

**Keywords:** Lanna proverbs, Practice, Variation, Three generations