

## Abstract

The research monograph “Names and Surnames of Ethnic Groups in Chiang Saen District, Chiang Rai Province” aims to compare names and surnames among ethnic groups in Chiang Saen District, Chiang Rai Province in the aspect of principles for naming, languages used, and the reflected beliefs and values. In addition, the study intends to show the tendency of change and factors influencing the change in patterns of names and surnames of the ethnic people. Data were gathered from 11 ethnic groups in Chiang Saen District, Chiang Rai Province namely Lao, Tai Lue, Tai Yai, Mien, Haw, Hmong, Myanmar, Lua, Wa, Akha, and Lahu. Data were collected from the civil registration in Chiang Saen District and the researchers’ fieldwork.

Results show that principles for naming are varied across ethnic groups. Some ethnic groups have their own naming principles while other are influenced from other groups. In relation to languages, some ethnic groups use their own languages for naming while other borrow from Thai and Haw, which are more influential in the area. Concerning values, it was found that names and surnames of ethnic groups reflect auspicious values, nature and seniority. Factors influencing the existence of names and surnames in the area are living in a big ethnic community and earning their living in the community. Additionally changes in patterns of names and surnames are influenced by two general factors: external and internal. External factors are “marginalization” speech act, the interaction with external communities, and communication difficulties with government officials, while internal factors include realization of being Thai citizens and abandonment of traditional practices

Key words: Names, Surnames, Ethnic Groups