

## Abstract

This study aims at analyzing Tai Lue tones and lexical items according to age and ease of transportation in Amphoe Chiangkhong and Amphoe Maesai, Chiangrai Province. Tai Lue people are classified in to 6 age groups: 1-19, 20-29, 30-39, 40-49, 50-59, and above 60 years old. Amphoe Chiangkhong represents less convenient area to access comparing to Amphoe Maesai where it is more convenient area to travel. Dialectology method and frequency count are used to analyze the data. It is found that age and ease of transportation affect lexical and tone change. Those at young age tend to use Standard Thai instead of Tai Lue while old aged people tend to preserve the language. Tai Lue at Maesai will change faster than that of Chiangkhong due to ease of transportation factor. Moreover, positive attitude found with Tai Lue at Chiangkhong can affect the language maintenance. It is, therefore, suggested that change in attitude will lead to language preservation. The results also imply to create tourism policy in the future. Moreover, this study has found that basic words can be changed slower than that of non-basic words which is against sociolinguistics theory.