

The Dialects of White Thai People in Vietnam

HOANG LUONG, Ph.D.

Faculty of History, Hanoi University.

In Vietnam White Thai are chiefly inhabiting in these areas : Muong Lay, Phong Tho (Lai Chau Province), Qeeynh Whai, Phu Yen, Moc Chau (Sonia Province) and some other places of thanl Hoa Province and Nghe-Tine Province as well. (*)

These areas have different dialects. So, if there is one thing that we have to pay a great attention in, it is the way in which the White Thai living in the said areas are divided into many different that inside the groups that are inhabiting one next to the other, but they are speaking different dialects, problems for major are tones and proto-words.

As follows are that differentials in characteristic dialects White Thai : Muong Lay, Muong Tac, Thanh Hoa.

1. STONE :

	Muong Lay	Muong Tac	Thanh Hoa
	(1)	(2)	(3)
Eight	pét	pet	pet
short	tam	tam	tam
same	pe	pek	pek
different	hã	hak	hak
calf	khheñg	kheng	kheñg
bone	dey	dey	dey
live	dù	dù	dù
father	pò	pò	pò
mother	mè	me	mè
name	chú	chú	chú
son	luk chái	luk chái	lúe chái
one	nung	nung	nung
two	sóng	song	sóng
three	sam	sam	sam
four	xí	xí	xí
five	ha	ha	hà
six	hòk	hòk	hòk
seven	chêf	chêf	chêf
nine	cầu	cau	cầu
ten	sip	sip	sip

(*) In my opinion, Red Thai just is one of the branches of White Thai groups, so that Red Thai's language is one of the dialects of White Thai.

2. PROTO WORDS :

-ts: (At Muong Tac and Thanh Hoa not "t")

How	tsu dau	su da	su do
egg	tsày	say	saiy
spider	tsing sao	sing sao	sing sáo
clothing	tsóng sú	sóng súa	sóng súa
-hn ,hm (Muong Tac and Thanh Hoa not "h")			

	(1)	(2)	(3)
at	hni	ni	ni
mouse	hnu	nu	nú
pig	hmu	mu	mú
dog	hma	ma	má
bear	hmi	mi	mí

3. VOWELS :

- u - ay:

fire	fun	fáy	fáy
------	-----	-----	-----

- o - úo :

month	bón	bun	bun
mortar	dong	duong	duong
blood	lot	lúot	lúot
red pepper	ot	uot	uot
yellow	lóng	luóng	luónh
cord	chó	chuo	chuo
house	hón	huon	huon

- u - ô

feather	khun	khón	khôn
wind	lun	lôm	lôm
mud	puńg	pông	pong
worm	búng	bông	bông
drum	cúng	công	công
smell	dun	dôm	dôm
hair	fum	fôm	fôm

- u - ô:

person	kun	cón	cón
--------	-----	-----	-----

- ó - ủa

meat	nhô	nhùa	nhùa
tiger	xò	xùa	xùa
because	pova	púa va	púa và

- ù - ần:

silver	ngũn	ngân	ngân
rain	phùn	phần	phần

- i - ê

mother	ì	êm	êm
sun	viñ	vên	vên
see	hìn	hên	hên
maize	lì	lê	lê
on	tińg	têg	têg
full	tim	têm	têm

louse	miñ	mên	mên
- ô - ua:			
cow	ngô	ngúa	ngúa
husband	fò	fua	fúa
firewood	lô	lua	luâ
head	hô	hua	húa
- ê - iê:			
wife	mê	miá	miá
work	vê	vêe	vêe
clean	kêng	kiêng	kiêng
- êu - iêu:			
They	xêu	xiêu	xiêu
one	đêu	điêu	điêu
- ô - uô:			
big	loñg	luoñg	luông
in	công	cuông	cuông

4. CONSONANT SOUNDS :

r - h

long	rĩ	hí	hí
boat	raãi	hài	hai
bad	raai	hai	hai

A few remarks:

- The dialects of white Thai in Vietnam of the same family.
- The different are more on tone and vowels.
- So that, the dialects are the same.
- Between groups living in Muong Tac and Thanh Hoa as we