

Thai and Malay Lexical Geography of the 5 Southern Border Provinces of Thailand

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1. Introduction

The people on the Malay peninsula comprise two main ethnic groups; those whose languages are of the Tai family and the Austronesian family. The Southern Thai dialect (also called Southern Tai, Pak Thai or Pak Tai) of the Tai family is spoken by approximately 4,550,000 speakers in 14 southern provinces of Thailand, including 1,500,00 Muslim Tai (reported in 1981). The overlapping area of the Tai family and the Austronesian family is assumed to be in the 5 southern border provinces of Thailand; Satun, Songkhla, Pattani, Yala and Narathiwat. There are three main dialects of Malay (also called Bahasa Malaysia, Bahasa Malayu, Melayu or Melaju) in the Malay peninsula; The standard Malay which is spoken as the first-language among more than 7,180,000 speakers in Malaysia (plus around 3,000,000 who speak it as second language), more than 335,000 in Singapore, and others in Thailand; the Kedah Malay spoken in a few villages near Satun, and Pattani Malay which is spoken by more than 1,000,000 speakers on the east coast of south Thailand below Songkhla.

The main purpose of this 2-year research is to find out what the distribution of the Thai and Malay lexicon in the 5 southern border provinces of Thailand is, and to establish the language boundary between Thai and Malay. The project is now at work. The complete findings are to appear in the research report for TRF at the end of June 2001. This paper, however, aimed to present only a part of the findings: the variants of the Malay lexicon spoken in the target area. The methodology used in the study is of dialectology. Dialectology is the branch of linguistics which deals with the nature and distribution of variation in language. There are basically two types of dialect survey; **the dialect geography** which is the older type, often called "traditional" is based on regional distribution, in the manner of Wenker and Gillieron; **sociolinguistic dialectology** which is the more recent type emphasizing variation in speech according to social level, often concentrating on a few selected features. In the former type, there are two different methods of collecting the data; the questionnaire may be sent to various localities, to be filled in by a responsible person such as the local school teacher or clergyman who may not, in fact, be the speaker of the local dialect; the collection may be done in person by a field worker who records data either in writing or on a tape-recorder. Once the corpus has been assembled, the question arises of how it is to be made public. The two common methods are lists and maps. A list gives the responses from all localities, usually in geographic order. Maps can clearly show the distribution of linguistic elements by means of symbols. A refinement in the making of distributional maps uses isoglosses. An isogloss is a line that marks the extent of the area in which a particular feature appears, or an approximate boundary between two variants of the same feature. However, while method of dialectology is working on dialects of a language, this research aimed to use this dialectological method to find out the lexical distribution of the two languages; Thai and Malay.

2. Method of study

The instrument used in this research was the questionnaire comprising 75 semantic units. These semantic units were divided into 5 semantic groups: 20 of animals names (bird, cock, duck, ox, house, buffalo, elephant, cat, rat, tiger, snake, frog, turtle, fish, crab, prawn, earth worm, eel, monkey, bat); 5 of colour terms (black, red, green, white, blue); 11 of human's organs (eye, ear, hair, nail, tooth, tongue, cheek, chin, shoulder, breast, foot); 9 of verbs (sit, sleep, stand, shout, eat, beat, slap, laugh, cry, listen); 10 of the terms about nature or environment (rice field, soil, mountain, canal, tree, flower, water, wind, rain, moon) 11 of things made by human (house, room, door, window, shirt, cloth, trousers, belt, umbrella, pot, knife); 7 of fruits and vegetables names (mango, banana, rambutan, orange, coconut, papaya, sugar cane). Each of these semantic units were designed as a question "What do you call -----" when you talk with the member(s) of your own family?" with a 3

multiple choice response. Each response had a Thai, Malay and Cambodian choice, but the order in which they appear was random. Every question ended up, as an open ended question, with a blank for the informants to write down words in case the lexicon they spoke was different from the given choices.

Data collection

The questionnaires were sent firstly to the volunteer teachers working in the district non-formal education service centers. These volunteer teachers, whose work was in the villages, interviewed the people on the target area, completed the questionnaires and sent them back to the researcher by post. Secondly, the questionnaires were sent directly to the leaders of all of the 2721 villages. After completing the questionnaires, the leaders of these villages sent them back to the researcher by post, and the questionnaires from 2461 (90.4 %) villages were collected.

3. Results

It is clearly seen that there were two main dialects of Malay in the target area the differences of which could be divided into two types: Phonological differences and lexical differences. The first dialect, which was called Satun Malay, was in the Satun area and some parts of Songkhla when the second, which was called Pattani Malay, was spoken through out the three provinces; Pattani, Yala, Narathiwat and some parts of Songkhla.

Phonological differences

The Phonological differences could be explained as sound correspondences occurring in the relating words. The followings are types of sound correspondences in words between the two dialects.

1.1 /a/+N ~ 3:

Semantic unit		First dialect				Second dialect			
2	'cock'	Satun	Songkhla	Satun Malay	Songkhla	Yala	Pattani	Narathiwat	
14	'fish'	ʔi:kan	ʔi:kan	ʔi:kan	ʔi:kan	ʔi:ke:	ʔi:ke:	ʔi:ke:	
15	'crab'	ka:lam	ka:lam	ka:lam	ka:lam	ka:te:	ka:te:	ka:te:	
16	'prawn'	ʔu:day	ʔu:day	ʔu:day	ʔu:day	ʔu:de:	ʔu:de:	ʔu:de:	
21	'black'	ʔi:lam	ʔi:lam	ʔi:lam	ʔi:lam	ʔi:te:	ʔi:te:	ʔi:te:	
26	'hand'	ta:ran	ta:ran	ta:ran	ta:ran	ta:ge:	ta:ge:	ta:ge:	
42	'eat'	ma:kan	ma:kan	ma:kan	ma:kan	ma:ke:	ma:ke:	ma:ke:	
48	'rice field'	bu:raŋ	bu:raŋ	bu:raŋ	bu:raŋ	bu:me:	bu:me:	bu:me:	
56	'rain'	ʔu:jan	ʔu:jan	ʔu:jan	ʔu:jan	ʔu:je:	ʔu:je:	ʔu:je:	
57	'moon'	bu:jan	bu:jan	bu:jan	bu:jan	bu:le:	bu:le:	bu:le:	
70	'banana'	bu:lak	bu:lak	bu:lak	bu:lak	pi:se:	pi:se:	pi:se:	

Semantic unit	First dialect (Satun Malay)	Second dialect (Pattani Malay)		
	Satun	Songkhla	Yala	Pattani Narathiwat
	pi:sa:n	pi:sa:n		
	pi:sak			
	pilaŋ			

1.2 ɔw/a:w/ɔ: ~ a:

Semantic unit	First dialect (Satun Malay)	Second dialect (Pattani Malay)			
	Satun	Songkhla	Yala	Pattani	Narathiwat
6 'buffalo'	kro:bow kha:ra:ba:w ka:ra:bow kra:ba:w ka:ra:ba:w ka:ro:ba:w kra:bow ku:ba:w ku:ba:w ku:ba:w ku:ra:ba:w ha:ri:maw ha:ri:ma:w ta:ri:maw ?a:ri:maw ?i:maw ?e:mo:	ku:ba:	ku:ba:	ku:ba:	ku:ba:
10 'tiger'	ku:ra:ba:w ha:ri:maw ha:ri:ma:w ta:ri:maw ?a:ri:maw ?i:maw ?e:mo:	xi:ma:	xi:ma: ri:ma:	xi:ma: ri:ma:	xi:ma: ri:ma:
23 'green'	hi:jow hi:ja:w ?i:jow ?i:ja:w	hi:ja:	hi:ja:	hi:ja: ca?i:ja: ca?ha:ja: ca?hi:ja:	hi:ja: cahi:ja: ?i:jaw hi:ca:
68 'knife'	pi:so: pi:soh pi:sow pi:sa:w pikhow	pi:sa:	pi:sa:	pi:sa:	pi:sa:
72 'orange'	li:mow li:ma:w bua?i:ma:w	li:ma:	li:ma: ŋo?li:ma:	li:ma:	li:ma:

1.3 -aj /-a:j ~ -a:

Semantic unit	First dialect (Satun Malay)	Second dialect (Pattani Malay)			
	Satun	Songkhla	Yala	Pattani	Narathiwat
51 'canal'	su:ŋaj su:ŋa:j su:ŋaj su:ŋɛ:	su:ŋa: su:ŋɛ:	su:ŋa: su:ŋɛ:	su:ŋa:	su:ŋa:

1.4 -ah ~ -ɔh or -a: ~ -ɔ:

Semantic unit	First dialect (Satun Malay)	Second dialect (Pattani Malay)			
	Satun	Songkhla	Yala	Pattani	Narathiwat
7 'elephant'	ga:jah ga:cah gajah ga:joh	ga:cɔh ŋa:joh	ga:poh ga:joh ka:joh	ga:joh ga:poh	kha:joh ka:joh
53 'flower'	bu:ŋa: bu:ŋa:	bu:ŋo:	bu:ŋo:	bu:ŋo:	bu:ŋo:

1.5 - U - ~ G-

Semantic unit

First dialect
(Sarun Malay)

Second dialect

Na:rahiwat
La:ngin

рпм, 55

63 'cloth',
la:ja:n
ja:ja:n
ja:ja:n
kha:le:n
ke:n
khe:n

[illegible] $1.6 \sim 2$

Semantic unit

First dialect
(Satum Malay)
Satum
ou:ket

Second dialect
(Pattani Malay)
Songkhla bu:ke? Yala bu:ke? Pattani bu:ke? Narathiwat bu:ke?

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Semantic unit

Semantic unit	First dialect
(Satun Malay)	Satun
'slap'	tampa?

Second dialect		First dialect	
Songkhla	ta:pa:	Songkhla	ta:pa:
Yala	ta:pa:	Yala	ta:pa:
(Pattani Malay)	ta:pa:	(Pattani Malay)	ta:pa:
Pattani	ta:pa:	Pattani	ta:pa:
Narathiwat	ta:pa:	Narathiwat	ta:pa:

47, listen

kamp: k
 kampar
 dmu: rjar
 dmu: rjak
 dmu: rja:
 dmu: rja
 jch
 jch
 jch: k
 jch: r

:လှူဒါန်းသူ
 :လှူဒါန်း
 :လှူဒါန်းသူ
 :လှူဒါန်း
 :လှူဒါန်း

73 coconut

1.8 CVN, CV(C) ~ CV0, CV

Semantic unit	First dialect (Satur Malay)	Satur pɪnu:	60 'door' pɪnu:
		prɪnu:	
		Songkhla	
		prɪnu:	
		Yala	
		prɪnu:	
		Second dialect (Pattani Malay)	
		Pattani	
		prɪnu:	
		Narathiwat	
		prɪnu:	

Lexical differences

1.9 The different characteristics of the same root

It was clearly seen that the terms for the semantic unit *rambutan* in the Sahn Malay and the Pattani Malay, which the standard Malay used <rambutan>, were different; the former tended to use the first two syllables and neglected the third syllable; when the latter tended to omit the first syllable and kept the last two syllables. Groups of words in these two areas also showed the different phonological elements. These different characteristics could be counted as factors that made them be the two dialects.