

Thai and Malay Lexical Geography of the 5 Southern Border

Provinces of Thailand

KARAVI, Premin

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 ~ ɛ:

Semantic unit	First dialect (Satun Malay)		Second dialect (Pattani Malay)			
	Satun	Songkhla	Songkhla	Yala	Pattani	Narathiwat
2 'cock'	ʔa:jam	ʔa:jam	ʔa:jɛ:	ʔa:jɛ:	ʔa:jɛ:	ʔa:jɛ:
14 'fish'	ʔi:kan	ʔi:kan	ʔi:kɛ:	ha:jɛ:	ha:jɛ:	ʔi:kɛ:
15 'crab'	katam kata:m ka:tam ku:tam ku:ta:m ku:tan kotam	ku:tam ku:ta:m ku:tan katɛ:	ku:tɛ: ku:tɛ:	ku:tɛ: ku:tɛ:	ku:tɛ: ku:tɛ:	ku:tɛ: ku:tɛ:
16 'prawn'	ʔu:daŋ hu:daŋ	ʔu:daŋ hu:daŋ	ʔu:dɛ: hu:dɛ:	ʔu:dɛ: hu:dɛ:	ʔu:dɛ: hu:dɛ:	ʔu:dɛ: hu:dɛ:
21 'black'	ʔi:tam	ʔi:tam	ʔi:tɛ: hi:tɛ:	ʔi:tɛ: hi:tɛ:	ʔi:tɛ: hi:tɛ:	ʔi:tɛ: hi:tɛ:
26 'hand'	ta:ŋan ta:ŋa:n	ta:ŋan	ta:ŋɛ:	ta:ŋɛ:	ta:ŋɛ:	ta:ŋɛ:
42 'eat'	ma:kan ma:kat	ma:kan ma:ka:n	ma:kɛ:	ma:kɛ:	ma:kɛ:	ma:kɛ:
48 'rice field'	bŋaŋ bu:nan bu:ndaŋ bu:ndaŋ bu:nak bu:na:ŋ ba:naŋ pandaŋ	bu:na:ŋ	bu:nɛ:	bu:nɛ:	bu:nɛ:	bu:nɛ:
56 'rain'	ʔu:jan ʔu:ja:n hu:jan hu:jat	hu:jan ʔu:ja:n	ʔu:jɛ: hu:jɛ: ʔu:ɲɛ:	ʔu:jɛ: hu:jɛ:	ʔu:jɛ: hu:jɛ: ʔu:ɲɛ: ʔu:chɛ:	ʔu:jɛ: hu:jɛ:
57 'moon'	bu:lan bu:lak	bu:lan	bu:lɛ:	bu:lɛ:	bu:lɛ:	bu:lɛ:
70 'banana'	pi:san	pi:san	pi:sɛ:	pi:sɛ:	pi:sɛ:	pi:sɛ:

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'	krɔ:bɔw kha:ra:ba:w ka:ra:bɔw kra:ba:w ka:ra:ba:w ka:rɔ:ba:w kra:bɔw ku:ba:w ku:ba:w ku:rba:w ku:ra:ba:w	ku:ba:	ku:ba:	ku:ba:	ku:ba:
10 'tiger'	ha:ri:maw ha:ri:ma:w ta:ri:maw ʔa:ri:maw ʔi:maw ʔɛ:mɔ:	xi:ma:	xi:ma: ri:ma:	xi:ma: ri:ma:	xi:ma: ri:ma:
23 'green'	hi:jɔw hi:ja:w ʔi:jɔw ʔi:ja:w	hi:ja:	hi:ja:	hi:ja: caʔʔi:ja: caʔha:ja: caʔhi:ja:	hi:ja: cahi:ja: ʔi:jaw hi:ca:
68 'knife'	pi:sɔ: pi:sɔh pi:sɔw pi:sa:w pikhɔw	pi:sa:	pi:sa:	pi:sa:	pi:sa:
72 'orange'	li:mɔw li:ma:w buaʔma:w	li:ma:	li:ma: ŋɔʔli: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:ŋɛ: 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:jɔh	ga:cɔh ŋa:jɔh	ga:pɔh ga:jɔh ka:jɔh	ga:jɔh ga:pɔh	kha:jɔh ka:jɔh
53 'flower'	bu:ŋa: bu:ŋa:	bu:ŋɔ:	bu:ŋɔ:	bu:ŋɔ:	bu:ŋɔ:

1.5 -n ~ -ŋ

Semantic unit	First dialect (Satun Malay)		Second dialect (Pattani Malay)		
	Satun	Songkhla	Yala	Pattani	Narathiwat
55 'wind'	ʔa:ŋin ʔa:jan ʔa:ŋɛn ŋa:ŋin	ʔa:ŋin ha:ŋin	ʔa:ŋin	ʔa:ŋin	ʔa:ŋin
63 'cloth'	kha:ʔe:n kɛ:n khɛ:n	kha:he:n kha:he:ŋ kha:heŋ ka:heŋ ka:he:ŋ	kha:ʔe:ŋ ka:ʔeŋ ka:ʔe:ŋ ka:hiŋ	kha:he:ŋ ka:ʔe:ŋ ka:je:ŋ kha:ʔa:j ka:ʔa:j ka:j	kahe:ŋ ka:heŋ ka:ʔe:ŋ ka:he:n ka:ʔin kha:haj ka:ʔaj

1.6 -ʔ ~ -t

Semantic unit	First dialect (Satun Malay)		Second dialect (Pattani Malay)		
	Satun	Songkhla	Yala	Pattani	Narathiwat
50 'mountain'	bu:ket bu:ke:t bu:ke	bu:keʔ	bu:keʔ	bu:keʔ	bu:keʔ

1.7 -ʔ/ -k/ -r / -h ~ -ø

Semantic unit	First dialect (Satun Malay)		Second dialect (Pattani Malay)		
	Satun	Songkhla	Yala	Pattani	Narathiwat
44 'slap'	tampaʔ tampak tampa:k tampar	ta:pa:	ta:pa:	ta:pa:	ta:pa:
47 'listen'	du:ŋar du:ŋak du:ŋo: du:ŋaʔ dŋaʔ	du:ŋa:	du:ŋa:	du:ŋa:	du:ŋa:
73 'coconut'	joh joh jo:k jo:r	no:	no: ʔi:no: cohno: bu:cohno:	no:	no: bu:we:ʔno:

1.8 CVN . CV(C) ~ CVø . CV

Semantic unit	First dialect (Satun Malay)		Second dialect (Pattani Malay)		
	Satun	Songkhla	Yala	Pattani	Narathiwat
60 'door'	pintu: pintu:n	pi:tu:	pi:tu:	pi:tu:	pi:tu:

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 Satun 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 area also showed the different phonological elements. These different characteristics could be counted as factors that made them be the two dialects.

Semantic unit		First dialect (Satun Malay)	Second dialect (Pattani Malay)			
71	'rambutan'	Satun	Songkhla ramotan moʔtan	Yala moʔtɛ: bu:wo:moʔtɛ:	Pattani moʔtɛ: moʔmoʔtɛ: ramo:ttan rambu:mtɛ:	Narathiwat moʔtɛ: noʔmoʔtɛ: ramo:ttan rambu:mtɛ:
		rammo:t				
		ra:mo:t				
		ra:mo:ʔ				
		ra:mbo:t				
		rambo:t				
		mu:arymbo:t				
		mu:arammo:t				
		bu:arymo:t				
		bu:arammo:t				
		hamoj				

1.10 Different words in different dialects

The speakers of the same language in different areas could be considered as the speakers of different dialects if they use different terms to represent the same semantic unit. Satun Malay and Pattani Malay are not the exception to this rule when they had the following elements:

Semantic unit		First dialect (Satun Malay)	Second dialect (Pattani Malay)			
41	'shout'	Satun	Songkhla na:hon pa:ne: ba:ne:n	Yala na:hon la:hon bu:na:ron nu:weʔ bu:ru:wa:	Pattani na:hon la:san la:ron lu:we:ʔ	Narathiwat na:hon la:hon na:jo:n la:jo:n pa:ne: pa:ne: pa:he: nu:weʔ
		tampe:				
		tampe:t				
		tampet				
		tampeʔ				
		tampe:k				
		tamper				
		tampɛ:r				
		tampɛ:ʔ				
		tampɛ:t				
		thampeʔ				
		tumpɛ:t				
43	'hit' (with open hand)	tibɛ:	ko:dam ko:dɛ:	ka:toʔ go:dɛ: ko:dɛ: do:dɛ: tɛ:	ka:toʔ	ka:toʔ xo:dɛ: tɛ:
		tibaj				
		ti:baj				
		ti:maj				
		ti:mɛ:				
		tinaj				
45	'laugh'	gur:laʔ	su:ko: ni:la:	su:ko:	su:ko:	su:ko: ri:jo:
		gur:loʔ				
		glaʔ				
		khur:laʔ				
		khur:laʔ				
		kur:aloʔ				
		kur:hoʔ				
		keloʔ				
		ka:loʔ				
		ka:laʔ				
46. 61	'cry' 'window'	tinkal	pitu:natan bur:tɛ:lo:	pitu:na:tɛ: pitu:na:tan	pitu:na:tɛ:	pitu:na:tɛ: pitu:nɛ:lo: pitu:bur:nɛ:lo: pitu:jur:nɛ:lo: pitu:cun:nɛ:lo: jo:nɛ:lo: ja:nɛ:lo: jur:nɛ:lo: cun:nɛ:lo: nɛ:lo: pɛ:lo:
		tinkal				
		tinkam				
		tinkan				
		tinkap				
		tinka:p				
		pintu:tinka:p				
		pintu:tinkaʔ				
		pintu:malin				
65	'belt'	ta:li:pi:nan	kur:neʔ ta:li:kur:neʔ ta:kur:neʔ	kur:neʔ ta:li:pi:nɛ:	kur:neʔ ta:li:kur:neʔ	kur:neʔ ta:li:kur:neʔ ʔi:kaʔpi:nɛ:
		ta:li:pi:nɛ:				
		ta:li:pi:nɛ:				

Semantic unit	First dialect (Satun Malay)	Second dialect (Pattani Malay)			
		Songkhla	Yala	Pattani	Narathiwat
	Satun ta:li:pi:nkan ta:li:pi:nak ta:li:pi:nɛ:	ta:li:pi:nan			ʔi:kaʔpi:nɛ: ʔi:katpi:nɛ: ʔi:kaʔpi:ɣan khaʔpi:nɛ: ta:li:ʔi:kaʔpi:ɣan ta:li:pi:nɛ: sakapi:nɛ: cu:koʔpi:nɛ: su:koʔpi:nɛ: pu:nen bu:nen
69 'mango'	plam pla:m palam pa:lam pa:la:m plampow buaplam buaʔplam bu:apa:lam bu:ama:lam bu:apelam	ʔampaʔlam	pa:ʔoh woʔpa:w coʔpa:hoh bu:woʔpa:w pa:w	pa:ʔoh pa:hoh powh	pa:ʔoh pa:ʔoh pa:hoh pa:ho: pa:wh powh buŋoʔpa:ʔoʔ puwo:pa:ʔoʔ
74 'papaya'	tɛ:la: tɛ:lo: tɛ:lo:ʔ katɛ:la: katɛ:lo: katɛ:laʔ ku:te:la: ku:te:lo: kte:lo: ku:de:k bu:akowtɛ:la: bu:aka:tɛ:la: bu:atɛ:la: bu:akte:lo:	pɔteʔ	bu:teʔ coʔ bu:teʔ	bu:teʔ bu:tiʔ	bu:tek bu:tiʔ bu:tik pu:tiʔ

4. Conclusion

In the analysis of the Malay data obtained from the 5 southern border provinces of Thailand, it is interesting that the Malay spoken in the area is of 2 prominent characteristics; that which is used in Satun and some parts of Songkhla and that which is used in pattani, Yala, Narathiwat and in some more parts of Songkhla. These two Malay dialects showed not only the phonological differences but also the lexical differences. Only a small part of the findings under the title "Thai and Malay Lexical Geography of the 5 Southern Border Provinces of Thailand" was presented in this paper. The total findings, however, are to appear in the research report for TRF at the end of June 2001.

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