

การศึกษาหน่วยเสียงภาษาเขมรถิ่นที่บ้านกะโดนและบ้านหนองยาง  
ในจังหวัดบุรีรัมย์  
A Phonological Study of Khmer Dialect at Kadon Village and  
Nongyang Village in Buriram Province

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### บทคัดย่อ

บทความวิจัยเรื่อง “การศึกษาหน่วยเสียงภาษาเขมรถิ่นที่บ้านกะโดนและบ้านหนองยางในจังหวัดบุรีรัมย์” มีวัตถุประสงค์ 1) เพื่อศึกษาหน่วยเสียงพยัญชนะภาษาเขมรถิ่นที่บ้าน กะโดนและบ้านหนองยางในจังหวัดบุรีรัมย์ 2) เพื่อศึกษาหน่วยเสียงสระภาษาเขมรถิ่นที่บ้านกะโดนและบ้านหนองยางในจังหวัดบุรีรัมย์ 3) เพื่อศึกษาคำศัพท์ภาษาเขมรถิ่นที่บ้านกะโดนและบ้านหนองยางในจังหวัดบุรีรัมย์ และ 4) เพื่อศึกษาหน่วยเสียงวรรณยุกต์ภาษาเขมรถิ่นที่บ้านกะโดนและบ้านหนองยางในจังหวัดบุรีรัมย์ การวิจัยนี้เป็นการวิจัยเชิงคุณภาพ โดยสัมภาษณ์เจ้าของภาษาจำนวน 20 คนจาก 2 หมู่บ้านที่พูดภาษาเขมรถิ่นในจังหวัดบุรีรัมย์ที่บ้านกะโดนและบ้านหนองยางแล้วนำข้อมูลที่ได้มาวิเคราะห์เชิงพรรณนา

### ผลการวิจัยพบว่า

1. ภาษาเขมรถิ่นที่บ้านกะโดนและบ้านหนองยางในจังหวัดบุรีรัมย์มีหน่วยเสียงพยัญชนะมี 21 เสียงซึ่งสามารถปรากฏในตำแหน่งต้นของพยางค์ได้คือ /ป/, /ต ฏ/, /ก/, /อ/, /ผ พ ภ/, /ท ฐ ฏ ถ (ท)/, /ค ฆ ข/, /บ/, /ด (ท)/, /จ/, /ช ฉ ฌ/, /ม/, /น ฌ/, /ง/, /ฝ ฟ/, /ศ ส ษ ฐ ทร/, /ห ฮ/, /ล/, /ร/, /ย ญ/, /ว/ หน่วยเสียงพยัญชนะ 14 เสียงซึ่งสามารถปรากฏในตำแหน่งท้ายของพยางค์ได้คือ /ป/, /ต ฏ/, /ก/, /อ/, /จ/, /ท ฮ/, /ม/,

/น ฌ/, /ย /, /ง/, /ล/, /ร/, /ญ/, /ว/ หน่วยเสียงพยัญชนะควบกล้ำมี 11 เสียงคือ /ปล/, /ปร/, /ตร/, /กล/, /กร/, /พล/, /ขล/, /ขว/, /บล/, /บร/, /หล/

2. ภาษาเขมรถิ่นที่บ้านกะโดนและบ้านหนองยางในจังหวัดบุรีรัมย์มีหน่วยเสียงสระเดี่ยวเสียงสั้นมี 13 เสียงคือ /อิ/, /อี/, /เอะ/, /เอะ/, /อุ/, /โอะ/, /แ-, /อะ/, /อ/, /เอะ/, /อ/, /ฤ/, /ฌ/ หน่วยสระเดี่ยวเสียงยาวมี 14 เสียงคือ /อี/, /อี/, /เอ/, /เอ-, /อุ/, /โอะ/, /แอะ/, /อา/, /ออ/, /เอา/, /อม/, /อ้า/, /ฤา/, /ภา/ หน่วยสระผสม 4 เสียง เสียงสั้น 1 เสียงคือ /เอียะ/ เสียงยาว 3 เสียงคือ /เอีย/, /เอือ/, /อัว/

3. ภาษาเขมรถิ่นที่บ้านกะโดนและบ้านหนองยางในจังหวัดบุรีรัมย์มีคำศัพท์ที่มีพยางค์ 2 ประเภทคือพยางค์ใหญ่ (major) และพยางค์เล็ก (minor) พยางค์มี 2 ระดับคือพยางค์ใน (nuclear) และพยางค์นอก (peripheral)

4. ภาษาเขมรถิ่นที่บ้านกะโดนและบ้านหนองยางในจังหวัดบุรีรัมย์มีหน่วยเสียงวรรณยุกต์ 3 ระดับคือ 1) วรรณยุกต์เสียงต่ำตก ใช้ในเนื้อความบอกเล่า เนื้อความปฏิเสธ การถาม การอธิบาย การตอบสั้น ๆ และเนื้อความทั่วไป 2) วรรณยุกต์เสียงสูงขึ้น ใช้ในประโยคคำถามที่ไม่มีคำว่า “อะไร” ลงท้ายข้อความ การเปล่งเนื้อความออกมาโดยที่ข้อความยังไม่จบสิ้นกระแสความโดยสมบูรณ์และการอธิบายความเพิ่มเติม 3) วรรณยุกต์เสียงสูงขึ้น-ต่ำตก ใช้ในข้อความที่แสดงการเชื่อเชียว บอกความประทับใจ การใช้ในประโยคคำถามที่ไม่มีคำว่า “อะไร” ลงท้ายข้อความและในข้อความทั่วไปที่มักมีคำว่า “เนื้อ” ลงท้าย

**คำสำคัญ:** การศึกษาหน่วยเสียง, ภาษาเขมรถิ่น, จังหวัดบุรีรัมย์

### Abstract

The article “A phonological study of Khmer dialect at Kadon village and Nongyang village in Buriram province” aims 1) to study the consonant phoneme of the Khmer dialect at Kadon village and Nongyang village in Buriram province; 2) To study the vowel phoneme of the Khmer dialect at Kadon village and Nongyang village in Buriram province; 3) To study the syllable and phonological word of the Khmer dialect at Kadon village and Nongyang village in Buriram province and 4) To study the intonation group of the Khmer dialect at Kadon village and Nongyang village in Buriram province. This research is the qualitative research by interviewing 20 key informants from 2 villages who speak Khmer dialect in Buriram province. The collected data were analyzed in the descriptive statements.

**The results of the research are as follows:**

1. Khmer dialect spoken at Kadon village and Nongyang village in Buriram province has twenty-one consonant phonemes and all of them can occur in the initial position of the meaningful syllable. They are /p/, /t/, /k/, /ʔ/, /p<sup>h</sup>/, /t<sup>h</sup>/, /k<sup>h</sup>/, /b/, /d/, /ɗ/, /ɗ<sup>h</sup>/, /s/, /h/, /m/, /n/, /ɲ/, /ɲ<sup>h</sup>/, /l/, /r/, /j/, /w/. Fourteen of them can occur as the final consonant. They are /p/, /t/, /k/, /ʔ/, /ɗ/, /h/, /m/, /n/, /ɲ/, /l/, /r/, /j/, /w/. They are eleven consonant clusters /pʰ/, /pr/, /tr/, /kʰ/, /kr/, /p<sup>h</sup>ʰ/, /k<sup>h</sup>ʰ/, /k<sup>h</sup>w/, /bʰ/, /br/, /hʰ/.

2. Khmer dialect spoken at Kadon village and Nongyang village in Buriram province has thirteen single short vowels: /i/, /ɪ/, /e/, /ɛ/, /ʊ/, /ə/, /ʌ/, /a/, /u/, /ɔ/, /o/, /ɔ̃/, /ɔ̃̃/ and fourteen single long vowels: /i:/, /ɪ:/, /e:/, /ɛ:/, /ʊ:/, /ə:/, /ʌ:/, /a:/, /u:/, /ɔ:/, /o:/, /ɔ̃:/, /ɔ̃̃:/, /iə/, /i:ə/, /uə/, /uə̃/.

3. Khmer dialect spoken at Kadon village and Nongyang village in Buriram province has 2 types of syllable in Khmer dialect: major syllable and minor syllable. There are 2 classes of syllable: nuclear syllable and peripheral syllable.

4. Khmer dialect spoken at Kadon village and Nongyang village in Buriram province has 3 level tones, namely 1) Low-Falling tone was used in the affirmative sentence, negative sentence, question, explanation, the short response and the general statements. 2) High-Rising tone was used in the question sentence without the word "what" at the end of the text. The expression of the text is not complete, the complete stream and additional explanations. 3) Rising-Falling tone was used in the invitation message, impress, and the question sentence without the word "what" at the end of the text and in general text that often has the word "ner" at the end.

**Keywords:** A Phonological Study, Khmer Dialect, Buriram Province

## 1. Introduction

Language is a one of tools that humans use to express their ideas and wisdom in the society. Besides it is still to tell on evolution of culture and civilization to communicate with one another of humans which were

developed cultivated as well also (Ruengdet Pankhuenkhat, 2552: 2). Khmer is the language which is spoken by the Cambodians of Cambodia; moreover, it is still spoken by of the people who live in the northeastern part of Thailand, and in the southern part of Vietnam when about the Khmers in Cambodian, Thailand, and Vietnam (David D. Thomas and Wanna Tienmee, 1982). It had explained that talking Language has socio-linguistics entities which has both social and linguistic characteristics. Northern Khmers generally consider themselves to be ethnic Thais who speak a particular Khmer dialect (or one group of dialects) of Khmer. Central Khmers are the people who consider them to be the original Khmers, who have Phnom Penh as their cultural center. The people who live in northern Siem Reap province pronounce similarly to northern Khmer, but social behavior which they associate with the Central Khmers, so they are mediate between the two groups. As for the Khmers in Vietnam, this point must be linguistically different between these two Khmers; but socially some of them would have consideration that Central Khmers who get birth and live in Vietnam. The Cambodians referring to southern Vietnam mean Khmer Kroam, and they probably are called the Khmers in Thailand Khmer Lue. So, saying briefly, Northern Khmer and Central Khmer are genuine socio-linguistic entities. Southern Khmer is apparently not a linguistic entity, but for opinion of some people, it is mere a social entity; so it would be right or wrong when using the term Southern Khmer, but don't call it a language'. (David D. Thomas, 1986) From the mention above, Khmer people in Cambodia call Khmer people in Thailand Khmer Lue, and call Khmer people in Vietnam Khmer Kroam. In this study, researcher refer to 'Khmer Lue' as Northern Khmer because 'Lue' mean 'upper or above'. Khmer Kroam is referred as Southern Khmer because 'Kroam' means 'lower or under'. And the Khmers in Cambodia are referring as Central Khmer because they are between the Northern Khmer and Southern Khmer.

## 2. Research Objectives

1. To study the consonant phoneme of the Khmer dialect at Kadon village and Nongyang village in Buriram province.

2. To study the vowel phoneme of the Khmer dialect at Kadon village and Nongyang village in Buriram province.

3. To study the syllable and phonological word of the Khmer dialect at Kadon village and Nongyang village in Buriram province.

4. To study the intonation group of the Khmer dialect at Kadon village and Nongyang village in Buriram province.

### **3. Methods**

This research is a qualitative research. There is the way for data collection as follows: document analysis, in-depth interviews which the researcher has designed the research as follows:

#### **3.1 Areas**

Content of study is the Khmer dialects spoken population in areas of Kadon village and Nongyang village in Buriram province. Scope of Areas is Kadon village and Nongyang village in Buriram province because there are the most of people who can speak Khmer dialect in Thailand and there are the border area nearly Cambodia (Krisana Yodmongkhon, 1986: 3).

#### **3.2 Population**

There are 20 key informant at the target areas of Kadon village and Nongyang village in Buriram province. All of them are able to transmit information and useful experience for research and duration of the study was from November 2019 – March 2020.

#### **3.3 Tools**

Tools used in the research on the survey study of Khmer dialect spoken population in area of Kadon village and Nongyang village in Buriram province were the information in the document and relevant research and field study in the field to obtain the principles, background, form and relationship of communities and organizations in the target area for using to be the research tools. These tools consisted of in-depth-interview about the style that showed the way of life of target group, which is the key informant at the target area of Kadon village and Nongyang village in Buriram province.

### 3.4 Data collection

Step 1. A documentary research, the researcher collected data from relevant documents such as books, research reports, meeting reports, photographs, documents that showed the relationship of Khmer dialect spoken in area of Kadon village and Nongyang village in Buriram province.

Step 2. Determination of target group, which is the key informant at the target area of Kadon village and Nongyang village in Buriram province. There are 20 persons are able to transmit information and useful experience for research.

Step 3. Field Study in the collecting data. The methods of researcher were an informal interview. Going to ask the information of target group closely, especially in the 20 persons of key informants in the area of Kadon village and Nongyang village in Buriram province, researcher use Kadon village and Nongyang village to be the target area.

### 3.5 Data validation

Researcher took along with the data collection with steps as the following:

1. Make a request for assistance to cooperate with the relevant agencies, namely Head of Government, Chief of the community or primate of Sangha Administrators and people of independent occupation General, which are a sample group and target group, to help providing information or to meet for an interview request.

2. The researcher collected data on their own every step. By examination and analysis as soon as the information from the recorded interview. The information obtained from the interview with the target group were that the key information 20 people and then re-examined the information from the inquiry, Discussions, interviews, presentations, analysis were presented as the descriptive.

### 3.6 Data Analysis

Data have documentary research and empirical data In- depth interviews which is a qualitative research study process. Researcher had content analysis and summarized as follows:

1. Study Khmer dialect spoken in area of Kadon village and Nongyang village in Buriram province.

2. Investigation the population who can speak Khmer dialect that left in the present of Kadon village and Nongyang village in Buriram province.

3. Taking the qualitative data analysis results to analyze the fundamental factors looking for value and way of life of population in Kadon village and Nongyang village in Buriram province which are concerned Khmer dialect.

4. Analysis and synthesis data were presented by linking concepts, theories and empirical data from the target field study to discover the Khmer dialect, number of populations who spoken Khmer dialect, background of Kadon village and Nongyang village in Buriram province.

#### 4. Results

1. Khmer dialect spoken at Kadon village and Nongyang village in Buriram province has twenty-one consonant phonemes and all of them can occur in the initial position of the meaningful syllable. They are /p/, /t/, /k/, /ʔ/, /p<sup>h</sup>/, /t<sup>h</sup>/, /k<sup>h</sup>/, /b/, /d/, /ɗ/, /ɗ<sup>h</sup>/, /s/, /h/, /m/, /n/, /ɲ/, /ɲ<sup>h</sup>/, /r/, /j/, /w/. Fourteen of them can occur as the final consonant. They are /p/, /t/, /k/, /ʔ/, /ɗ/, /h/, /m/, /n/, /ɲ/, /ɲ<sup>h</sup>/, /r/, /j/, /w/. They are eleven consonant clusters /pʰ/, /pr/, /tr/, /kʰ/, /kr/, /p<sup>h</sup>ʰ/, /k<sup>h</sup>ʰ/, /k<sup>h</sup>w/, /bʰ/, /br/, /hʰ/ (Suwilai Premsrirat, 1995:119-127).

2. Khmer dialect spoken at Kadon village and Nongyang village in Buriram province has thirteen single short vowels: /i/, /ɪ/, /e/, /ɛ/, /ʊ/, /ə/, /ʌ/, /a/, /u/, /ɔ/, /o/, /ɔ̃/, /ɔ̃̃/ and fourteen single long vowels: /i:/, /ɪ:/, /e:/, /ɛ:/, /ʊ:/, /ə:/, /ʌ:/, /a:/, /u:/, /ɔ:/, /o:/, /ɔ̃:/, /ɔ̃̃:/, /iə/, /i:ə/, /uə/, /u:ə/ (Prakorb Phon-ngam, 1999).

3. Khmer dialect spoken at Kadon village and Nongyang village in Buriram province has 2 types of syllable in Khmer dialect: major syllable and minor syllable. There are 2 classes of syllable: nuclear syllable and peripheral syllable (Suriya Nakprat, 1991).

4. Khmer dialect spoken at Kadon village and Nongyang village in Buriram province has 3 level tones, namely 1) Low-Falling tone was used in the affirmative sentence, negative sentence, question, explanation, the short response and the general statements. 2) High-Rising tone was used in the question sentence without the word "what" at the end of the text. The expression of the text is not complete, the complete stream and additional explanations. 3) Rising-Falling tone was used in the invitation message, impress, and the question sentence without the word "what" at the end of the text and in general text that often has the word "her" at the end (Suwilai Premssirat, 1995: 1-26).

## 5. Conclusion

Because of our world develops continuously. Many new innovations occur. And of course, the old things that are outdated can also disappear. Not even language, which is used by human beings to communicate with each other. It has grown and deteriorated according to the human race in the world. Super powerful countries that are political, social, economic, military, education, science, technology their language spread to other countries in the corner of world. But some language of the underdeveloped countries will be deteriorated according to ethnic group even though it was once prosperous and civilized value.

In the Northeast region of Thailand there are many tribes living together. They have a way of life, culture and language are their own. But when the information technology, communication, transportation and public utilities systems grow, immigrants for lost work for education or trade in large cities with stable economy. It has gradually changed the way of life of villagers. Thai is a common language, the official language of Thai people. It comes with the education and progress of the country. It has a greater influence, gradually swallowing the dialect that once existed in many parts of the country. Even the new generation does not know the language of their identity. For this reason, the researcher is interested in studying Khmer dialect and exploring the number of people still known and use Khmer dialects in in area of Kadon village and Nongyang village in Buriram province to be used as information in studies and references about current ethnic groups.



## 6. Suggestion

Further study would be useful in the field of language change. Inscriptions allow the history of the Khmer dialect to be traced back for many centuries, the language keeps changing with time. Comparison of Khmer dialect or a certain set of sounds between given periods of time would be informative and educational. The language of any people is among its most preeminent and cohesive features. Further research into the Khmer dialects which are different area may be tell us much about Khmer population themselves, their past, their present and how their language may evolve in the future.

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