

ศึกษาภาษาถิ่นเขมรที่พูดในพื้นที่ จังหวัดบุรีรัมย์ สุรินทร์และศรีสะเกษ  
A Study of Khmer Dialect Spoken in the Areas of  
Buriram, Surin and Sisaket Provinces

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### บทคัดย่อ

การศึกษาเชิงสำรวจประชากรที่พูดภาษาถิ่นเขมรในเขตพื้นที่จังหวัดบุรีรัมย์ จังหวัดสุรินทร์และจังหวัดศรีสะเกษมีวัตถุประสงค์เพื่อศึกษาภาษาถิ่นเขมรในเขตพื้นที่จังหวัดบุรีรัมย์ จังหวัดสุรินทร์และจังหวัดศรีสะเกษและเพื่อสำรวจประชากรที่พูดภาษาถิ่นเขมรในเขตพื้นที่จังหวัดบุรีรัมย์ จังหวัดสุรินทร์และจังหวัดศรีสะเกษ การวิจัยนี้เป็นการวิจัยเชิงคุณภาพ โดยสัมภาษณ์เจ้าของภาษาจำนวน 30 คน จาก 3 หมู่บ้านที่พูดภาษาถิ่นเขมรใน 3 จังหวัด ได้แก่ จังหวัดสุรินทร์ที่อำเภอสังขะ จังหวัดบุรีรัมย์ที่อำเภอประโคนชัยและจังหวัดศรีสะเกษที่อำเภอขุนซัน แล้วนำข้อมูลที่ได้มาวิเคราะห์เชิงพรรณนา ผลของการวิจัยพบว่า ภาษาถิ่นเขมรที่ใช้พูดในเขตจังหวัดบุรีรัมย์ จังหวัดสุรินทร์และจังหวัดศรีสะเกษ มีหน่วยเสียงดังต่อไปนี้ คือ หน่วยเสียงพยัญชนะมี 21 เสียงซึ่งสามารถปรากฏในตำแหน่งต้นของพยางค์ได้ คือ /ป/, /ต ฏ/, /ก/, /อ/, /ผ พ ภ/, /ท ฐ ฎ ฏ (ท)/, /ค ฆ ข/, /บ/, /ด (ท)/, /จ/, /ช ฉ ฌ/, /ม/, /น ญ/, /ง/, /ฝ ฟ/, /ศ ส ษ ซ ทร/, /ห ฮ/, /ล/, /ร/, /ย ญ/, /ว/ หน่วยเสียงพยัญชนะ 14 เสียงซึ่งสามารถปรากฏในตำแหน่งท้ายของพยางค์ได้ คือ /ป/, /ต ฏ/, /ก/, /

อ/, /จ/, /ท อ/, /ม/, /น ณ/, /ย /, /ง/, /ล/, /ร/, /ญ/, /ว/ หน่วยเสียงพยัญชนะควบกล้ำมี 11 เสียง คือ/ปล/,/ปร/, /ตร/, /กล/, /กร/, /พล/, /ขล/, /ขว/, /บล/, /บร/,/หล/ หน่วยสระเดี่ยวเสียงสั้นมี 13 เสียง คือ /อิ/, /อี/, /เอะ/, /เ-อะ/, /อุ/, /โอะ/, /แ-, /อะ/, /อ้/, /เอาะ/,/อ๋/, /ฤ/, /ฌ/ หน่วยสระเดี่ยวเสียงยาวมี 14 เสียง คือ /อี/, /อี/, /เอ/, /เ-อ/, /อุ/, /โ/, /แอ/, /อา/, /ออ/, /เอา/, /อม/, /อ้า/,/ฤา/, /ฌา/ หน่วยสระผสม 4 เสียง เสียงสั้น 1 เสียง เสียงยาว 3 เสียง คือ /เอียะ/, /เอีย/, /เอือ/, /อ้าว/ มีพยางค์ 2 ประเภท คือพยางค์ใหญ่ (major)และพยางค์เล็ก (minor) พยางค์มี 2 ระดับคือพยางค์ใน (nuclear) และพยางค์นอก (peripheral) มีหน่วยคำ 2 ประเภทคือ หน่วยคำอิสระและหน่วยคำผสม ซึ่งสามารถแบ่งออกได้เป็น 2 ชนิด คือ 1) รูปแบบทั่วไป หรือ หน่วยคำพยางค์เดี่ยว แบ่งออกเป็น 2 ชนิด คือ (1) พยางค์เดี่ยว และ (2) หลายพยางค์และ 2) หน่วยคำผูกพัน หรือหน่วยคำหลายพยางค์ แบ่งออกเป็น 4 ชนิด ประกอบด้วย (1) แบบคำผสม (2) แบบลงวิภัติปัจจัย (3) แบบคำซ้อน (4) แบบคำสัมผัส นอกจากนี้ พบว่า หน่วยคำสามารถแบ่งเป็นวิภาคได้ดังนี้

1. หน่วยคำหลัก ประกอบด้วย นาม สรรพนาม ลักษณะนาม บอกปริมาณ ขยายกริยา (2) คำกริยาประกอบด้วย กริยาหลักและกริยาช่วย (3) คำวิเศษณ์ (4) คำคุณศัพท์ (5) คำสั่งขยา (6) คำบุรพบท (7) คำนำหน้านาม (8) คำลงท้ายประโยค (9) คำเชื่อม (10) เครื่องหมาย (11) คำปฏิเสธ (12) คำซ้ำ และ (13) คำอุทาน

ภาษาถิ่นเขมรเป็นภาษาในตระกูลภาษาออสโตรเอเชียติก ในปัจจุบันภาษาถิ่นเขมรแบ่งออกเป็น 3 กลุ่ม คือ เขมรเหนือใช้พูดกันในประเทศไทย เขมรกลางใช้พูดกันในประเทศกัมพูชาและเขมรใต้ใช้พูดกันในประเทศเวียดนามตอนใต้ สำหรับภาษาถิ่นเขมรใน 3 จังหวัด ได้แก่ จังหวัดสุรินทร์ที่อำเภอสังขะมีผู้พูดประมาณ 50% จังหวัดบุรีรัมย์ที่อำเภอประโคนชัยมีผู้พูดประมาณ 40% และจังหวัดศรีสะเกษที่อำเภอขุขันธ์มีผู้พูดประมาณ 30% ของประชากรแต่ละพื้นที่ซึ่งพบว่าภาษาถิ่นเขมรทั้ง 3 จังหวัดมีวิภาคเหมือนกันแต่สำเนียงต่างกัน

**คำสำคัญ:** ภาษาถิ่นเขมร; จังหวัดบุรีรัมย์; จังหวัดสุรินทร์; จังหวัดศรีสะเกษ

## ABSTRACT

This article titled “A Study of Khmer Dialect Spoken in the Areas of Buriram, Surin and Sisaket Provinces” aims to: 1) study the Khmer dialect spoken in the areas of Buriram province, Surin province, and Sisaket province; and 2) survey the Khmer dialect speaking population in the areas of the three provinces. This research is a qualitative research by interviewing 30 Khmer dialect speaking informants from 3 villages in Sangkha district, Surin province; Prakhonchai district, Buriram province; and Khukhan district, Sisaket province. The data collected were analyzed in descriptive statements. The results of the study are as follows: Khmer dialect spoken in the areas of Buriram province, Surin province and Sisaket province includes 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/, /ɟ/, /ɟ<sup>h</sup>/, /s/, /h/, /m/, /n/, /ɲ/, /ŋ/, /ʋ/, /r/, /j/, /w/. Fourteen of them can occur as the final consonant. They are /p/, /t/, /k/, /ʔ/, /ɟ/, /h/, /m/, /n/, /ɲ/, /ŋ/, /ʋ/, /r/, /j/, /w/. There are eleven consonant clusters /pʋ/, /pr/, /tr/, /kʋ/, /kr/, /p<sup>h</sup>ʋ/, /k<sup>h</sup>ʋ/, /k<sup>h</sup>w/, /bʋ/, /br/, /hʋ/. There are thirteen single short vowels: /i/, /ʋ/, /e/, /ɛ/, /ɯ/, /ə/, /ɰ/, /a/, /u/, /ɔ/, /o/, /ɔ̄/, /ɒ/ and fourteen single long vowels: /i:/, /ɰ:/, /e:/, /ɛ:/, /ɯ:/, /y:/, /ə:/, /ɰ:/, /a:/, /u:/, /ɔ:/, /o:/, /ɔ̄:/, /ɒ:/.

There are four diphthongs of one short and three long diphthongs: /iə/, /i:ə/, /ɯə/, /uə/. There are 2 types of syllable in Khmer dialect: major syllable and minor syllable. There are 2 classes of syllable: nuclear syllable and peripheral syllable. There are 2 kinds of morpheme, namely, free morpheme and bound morpheme, which are divided into two forms: 1) Simple forms or Mono-morphemic including two kinds: (1) Monosyllabic and (2) Polysyllabic; and 2) Compound forms or Poly-morphemic including four kinds: (1) Free compound forms; (2) Affixed compound forms; (3) Reduplicated compound forms; and (4) Rhyming compound forms. Moreover, it is found that Northern Khmer morpheme can be divided in parts of speech as the followings: (1) Substantives including Nouns, Pronouns, Classifiers, Quantifiers and Modifiers; (2) Verbs including Main verbs, Auxiliary verbs (3) Adverbs, (4) Adjectives, (5) Numerals, (6) Prepositions, (7) Determinatives, (8) Particles, (9) Linkers, (10) Markers, (11) Negation, (12) Reduplications, (13) Exclamation. Khmer dialect is in the Austro-Asiatic language family which is now divided into three groups including: Northern Khmer spoken in Thailand; Central Khmer spoken in Kampuchea; and Southern Khmer spoken in the South of Vietnam. Regarding the Khmer dialect of the three provinces, percentage of the population speaking the language includes: 50 percent in Sangkha district, Surin province; 40 percent in Prakhonchai district, Buriram province; and 30 percent in Khukhan district, Sisaket province. It is also found

that parts of speech of all the three areas are in the same structure and they are different only in accent.

**Keywords:** Khmer Dialect, Buriram Province, Surin Province, Sisaket Province

## 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. 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 then David D. Thomas had explained 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 they associate with the Central Khmers, so they are mediate between the two groups. As for the Khmers in Vietnam, I don't think that it 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'. 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, I 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.

## Objectives of the study

1. To study the Khmer dialect spoken in area of Buriram Province Surin province and Sisaket province.

2. To analyze the difference and similarity of Khmer dialects spoken in area of Buriram Province, Surin province and Sisaket province.

## Methodology

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

### 1. Population

Key informant whose stay at the target areas of Buriram, Surin and Sisaket province. There are 5 groups such as 5 government officials, 5 private sectors, 5 culture and temple, 5 state enterprises, and 5 educational persons. All total about 75 persons that are able to transmit information and useful experience for research. Duration of the study is from November 2019 – March 2020.

### 2. Content/Areas

Content of study is the Khmer dialects spoken population in areas of Buriram, Surin and Sisaket province. Scope of Areas is Buriram, Surin and Sisaket province because there are the most of people who spoken Khmer dialect in Thailand and there are the border area nearly Kampuchea.

### 3. Tools

Tools were used in the research on the survey study of Khmer dialect spoken population in area of Buriram province, Surin province and Sisaket province, researcher used 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 such as in-depth-interview about the style that shown the way of life of target group, which is the key informant whose stay at the target area of Buriram province Surin province and Sisaket province.

#### **4. Data collection**

Step 1. A documentary research, the researcher has collected data from relevant documents such as books, research reports, meeting reports, photographs, documents that show the relationship of Khmer dialect spoken in area of Buriram province Surin province and Sisaket province.

Step 2. Determination of target group which is the key informants who stay at the target area of Buriram province Surin province and Sisaket province: There are 5 groups such as 5 government officials, 5 private economics, 5 culture and temple, 5 state enterprises, and 5 educations. That are able to transmit information and useful experience for research.

Step 3. Field Study in the collecting data: The methods of researcher are an informal interview by asking the information of target group closely, especially in the 5 groups of key informants in the area of Buriram province Surin province and Sisaket province. In Buriram province, researchers use Muang district to be the target area. In Surin province, researchers use Muang district to be the target area. In Sisaket province, researchers use Muang district to be the target area.

#### **5. Data validation**

Researcher has taken along with the data collection. With steps in the following order

5.1 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

is a sample group and target group, helps to provide information or to meet for an interview request.

5.2 The researcher has collected data on their own every step. By examination and analysis as soon as the information from the interview has been recorded. The information obtained from the interview with the target group is that the key information 75 people and then re-examine the information from the inquiry, talk. Discussions, interviews, presentations, analysis is descriptive.

## 6. Data Analysis

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

6.1 Study Khmer dialect spoken in area of Buriram province Surin province and Sisaket province.

6.2 Investigation the population who spoken Khmer dialect that left in the present of Buriram province Surin province and Sisaket province.

6.3 Taking the qualitative data analysis results to analyze the fundamental factors looking for value and way of life of population in Buriram province Surin province and Sisaket province which are concerned Khmer dialect.

6.4 Analysis and synthesis data by linking concepts, theories and empirical data from the target field study to present the Khmer dialect, number of populations who spoken Khmer dialect, background of Buriram province Surin province and Sisaket province.

## Results

1. Khmer dialect spoken population in area of Buriram province Surin province and Sisaket province is 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/, /ŋ/, /l/, /r/, /j/, /w/. Fourteen of them can occur as the final consonant. They are /p/, /t/, /k/, /ʔ/, /ɗ/, /h/, /m/, /n/, /ɲ/, /ŋ/, /l/, /r/, /j/, /w/. They are eleven consonant

clusters /pʰ/, /pʰʰ/, /pʰʰʰ/, /pʰʰʰʰ/, /pʰʰʰʰʰ/, /pʰʰʰʰʰʰ/, /pʰʰʰʰʰʰʰ/, /pʰʰʰʰʰʰʰʰ/, /pʰʰʰʰʰʰʰʰʰ/, /pʰʰʰʰʰʰʰʰʰʰ/. There are thirteen single short vowels: /i/, /ɪ/, /e/, /ɛ/, /u/, /ʊ/, /ə/, /ɐ/, /ɔ/, /ɒ/, /ɔ̄/, /ɔ̄̄/, /ɔ̄̄̄/ and fourteen single long vowels: /i:/, /i:̄/, /e:/, /e:̄/, /u:/, /u:̄/, /ə:/, /ə:̄/, /ɔ:/, /ɔ:̄/, /ɔ̄:/, /ɔ̄:̄/, /ɔ̄̄:/, /ɔ̄̄:̄/. There are four diphthongs: /iə/, /iə̄/, /uə/, /uə̄/. There are 2 types of syllable in Khmer dialect: major syllable and minor syllable. There are 2 classes of syllable: nuclear syllable and peripheral syllable. It is 2 kinds of morpheme, namely, free morpheme and bound morpheme, which are divided into two: 1) Simple forms or Mono-morphemic including two kinds: (1) Monosyllabic and (2) Polysyllabic, and 2) Compound forms or Polymorphemic including four kinds: (1) Free compound forms (2) Affixed compound forms (3) Reduplicated compound forms (4) Rhyming compound forms. Moreover, it is found that Northern Khmer morpheme can be divided in the parts of speech, namely, (1) Substantives including Nouns, Pronouns, Classifiers, Quantifiers and Modifiers (2) Verbs including Main verbs, Auxiliary verbs (3) Adverbs, (4) Adjectives, (5) Numerals, (6) Prepositions, (7) Determinatives, (8) Particles, (9) Linkers, (10) Markers, (11) Negation, (12) Reduplications, (13) Exclamation.

2. Khmer dialect is the eastern branch of Austro-Asiatic language family which is now found to be divided into three groups: Northern Khmer spoken in Thailand; Central Khmer spoken in Kampuchea; and Southern Khmer spoken in South of Vietnam. Regarding the Khmer dialect it is divided into 3 groups: Surin province at Sangkha district with approximately 50% speakers, Buriram province at Prakhonchai district with approximately 40% speakers and Sisaket province at Khukhan district with approximately 30% speakers. Moreover, it is found that the parts of speech of all are the same but they are different only in accent.

## 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 what human use to communicate with each other. It has grown and deteriorated according to the human race in the world.



Superpower country 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 of their own. However, 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 that still know and use Khmer dialects in three provinces: Buriram province Surin Province and Sisaket Province to be used as information in studies and references about current ethnic groups.

## **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 different area may tell us much about Khmer population themselves, their past, their present and how their language may evolve in the future.

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