



A Comparative Study of Changes in Dai-Thai Language and Art in Regional Countries

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ABSTRACT

The development of regional countries has, to a certain extent, contributed to the improvement and progress of the language system, and closely linked the society, culture and economy. Therefore, we propose a comparative study on the change of Dai-Thai language and art in regional countries. According to the current research, the current situation of Dai-Thai language development is briefly summarized. The characteristics of the Dai-Thai language and art are emphasized in three aspects: richness and diversity of phonology, self-contained vocabulary and grammar, and highlighting the spirit of culture. In view of the above research, the comparison of regional characteristics is used as a guide, and the comparison of integration paths, the comparison of cultural identities and differences, and the comparison of the inheritance and development of language and art are added to realize the comparative exploration of the changes of Dai-Thai language and art in regional countries, which will contribute to the common development.

Keywords: Regional countries; Dai-Thai culture; Language arts; Comparative change; Linguistic change; Integration and development.

INTRODUCTION

Under the dual background of globalization and cultural diversity, the study of language and art among countries in the region has become an important window for understanding the exchanges and mutual appreciation among civilizations and exploring cultural changes and development ^[1]. This comparative study of the changes in Dai-Thai language and art among regional countries is aimed at analyzing the complex and rich history of changes in the field of language and art in the Dai-Thai-speaking regions, especially in Thailand, Laos, and northern Myanmar ^[2]. As an important part of these regional cultures, Dai-Thai language and art not only carries deep historical heritage and unique national emotions, but also reflects the profound impact of social changes, economic development and cultural exchanges on cultural forms and expressions ^[3]. With its unique charm and vitality, it crosses the boundaries of time and space, and becomes a bridge connecting the past and present, the local and the world ^[4]. This comparative study not only focuses on the differences and commonalities of Dai-Thai language arts in terms of their expressions, themes and artistic styles in different regions and countries, but also strives to reveal the historical, social, cultural and economic motivations behind these differences, so as to provide new perspectives for the understanding of the adaptability and innovativeness of local cultures in the process of globalization, and at the same time, to contribute wisdom to promote the inheritance and development of Dai-Thai language arts. At the same time, it also contributes to the inheritance and development of Dai-Thai language and art, as well as to the promotion of cross-cultural exchange and dialog ^[5]. It injects new vitality into the Dai-Thai language and art, and provides more possibilities for its future development ^[6].

1 A BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE CURRENT STATUS OF THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE DAI-THAI LANGUAGE

The current development of the Dai-Thai language not only reflects its deep historical heritage, but also shows the new challenges and opportunities in the modern society. First of all, from the point of view of the scope of use, the Dai-Thai language

has a clear distribution, and it is the main communication tool of the Dai-Thai people in many regions ^[7]. Although globalization has brought about the impact of foreign languages such as English, the Dai-Thai language still maintains a strong vitality in these regions and has become an important symbol of cultural inheritance and social identity ^[8]. Secondly, in the field of language and art, the Dai-Thai language, with its unique phonetics, vocabulary and grammatical structure, has given birth to rich and colorful art forms such as literature, opera and music. These art forms not only carry the historical memories and cultural traditions of the Dai-Thai people, but also gradually go to the world stage through modern technological means of communication, such as the Internet, film and television, etc., and receive wider attention and love ^[9]. However, the development of Dai-Thai language is also facing challenges. With the acceleration of modernization, many young people prefer to use mainstream languages for communication and learning, which leads to pressure on the frequency of use and inheritance of the Dai-Thai language ^[10]. In addition, the lack of language resources and the insufficient popularization of education have also constrained the further development of the Dai-Thai language, which is a worrying situation ^[11].

2 Characteristics of Dai-Thai language and art

2.1 Phonetic richness and variety

The Dai-Thai language is marvelous in its diversity and uniqueness at the phonetic level. Exploring its tonal system, it can be understood that phonological variation is not only the key to language recognition and comprehension, but also the beauty of language art ^[12]. The specific phonetic structure is illustrated in Figure 1.

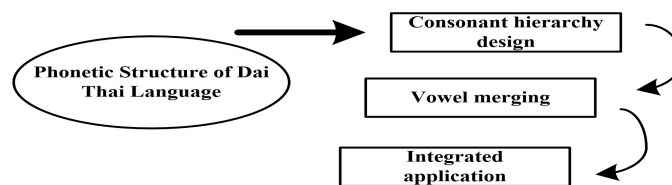


Fig. 1 Diagrammatic representation of the phonological structure of the Dai-Thai language

Figure 1 mainly shows the analysis and research on the phonetic structure of Dai-Thai language. Normally, the Dai language stands out for its more complex tonal types. Compared with Thai, this diversity not only increases the accuracy of vocabulary expression, allowing different meanings to be clearly distinguished, but also gives the language a unique musicality ^[13]. Furthermore, the difference in consonant system is also an important reflection of the phonetic characteristics of Dai-Thai languages. The trill *r* retained in Thai, as a member of the consonant family, adds a unique charm to Thai ^[14]. In the Dai language, this phoneme may have experienced a process of merger or evolution, forming a pronunciation characteristic that is completely different from that of Thai. This difference in consonant systems also gives the two languages their own characteristics in pronunciation to a certain extent, and also reflects their unique trajectories in language development ^[15].

In addition, the richness of the vowel system is also a part of the phonetic dimension of Dai-Thai language that cannot be ignored. As the core part of syllables, the number of vowels directly affects the range of pronunciation and expressiveness of the language ^[17]. The difference in the vowel system of Dai-Thai language enables it to display more delicate emotional changes and richer sound colors in pronunciation ^[18]. It has become the means of expression of this language in a specific environmental context, which also provides a broader space for the development of language art ^[19].

2.2 The lexico-grammar is self-contained

Although the Dai-Thai languages share many cognate vocabularies, reflecting the close historical and cultural ties between the two, their distinctive vocabulary systems are also evident ^[20]. This is mainly due to the differences in geographic environment, the influence of social changes, and exchanges with other ethnic cultures ^[21]. For example, the rich natural resources of the Dai region have given rise to many unique vocabularies related to flora and fauna and farming activities, while the vocabulary of Thailand, as the cultural center of Southeast Asia, has incorporated more elements of foreign languages, especially Sanskrit, Pali, and English vocabularies, making the Thai vocabulary system more rich and diversified ^[22]. In daily grammatical applications, the Dai and Thai languages each follow unique grammatical rules, forming distinctive linguistic features ^[23]. The Dai language mostly adopts the subject-predicate-object word order, which helps to express clear logical relationships and is in line with the Dai people's cultural psychology of organization and order. Thai, on the other hand, tends to use the subject-object-predicate structure, which can emphasize the object of the action more directly in some situations, reflecting the directness and vividness of Thai expressions ^[24]. In addition, the two languages have their own ways of dealing with grammatical categories such as tense and morphology, which further emphasize their respective linguistic characteristics ^[25].

2.3 Highlighting the spirit of culture

A large number of words in the Dai and Thai languages actually reflect the unique spirit of their respective cultures in a certain context. For example, the rich farming vocabulary of the Dai language, such as "rice" and "bamboo building", is not only a direct reflection of the natural environment, but also implies the ecological concepts of the Dai people of harmonious coexistence and adherence to nature. Similarly, Thai words about Buddhism, such as "Buddha" and "temple", emphasize the cultural background of Thailand as a Buddhist country and the Thai people's deep feelings towards religious beliefs. As the skeleton of the

language, the grammatical structure also plays a role in spreading the culture and spirit. The grammatical rules of the Dai-Thai language not only serve the communicative function of the language, but also reflect the cultural psychology and values of the respective ethnic groups at a deeper level. For example, the system of honorifics in Dai language reflects the hierarchical concept and the traditional virtue of respecting elders in Dai society, while the intonation and auxiliary words in Thai language are often used to express delicate emotions and polite attitudes, reflecting the gentleness and modesty in Thai culture.

Besides, the Dai-Thai language and art, such as poetry, ballads and other literary forms, are the direct carriers of cultural spirit. Literary works show the unique understanding and pursuit of the Dai-Thai people on the themes of life, love and nature through vivid language, rich imagination and profound meanings. For example, the euphemistic expression of Dai love songs not only reflects the Dai people's reverence for love, but also their delicate and gentle character traits; while Thai narrative poems show the Thai people's celebration of heroism, loyalty and love through twisted plots and vivid depictions.

3 A COMPARATIVE EXPLORATION OF CHANGES IN DAI-THAI LANGUAGE AND ART IN REGIONAL COUNTRIES

3.1 Comparison of geographical characteristics

Although the Dai and the Thai share the same origin, they live in different regions, which leads to the distinctive regional differences in language and art between them. The Dai mainly live in Xishuangbanna and Dehong in China's Yunnan Province, where dense tropical rain forests and long rivers form a unique natural landscape. This geographical environment not only provides rich materials for Dai language and art, such as words and expressions depicting tropical rain forests, rivers and lakes, but also profoundly influences their artistic style. The Dai language and art are often full of love and reverence for nature, showing the harmonious coexistence of man and nature through delicate emotional expression and vivid image depiction.

In contrast, Thailand is located in the center of the Central South Peninsula, and its geographical environment is more diverse, including plains, mountains, rivers and other landscapes. This geographical diversity provides a broader creative space for Thai language arts. Thai language art is more direct and enthusiastic in expression, often showing the enthusiasm and vitality of Thai people through a strong sense of rhythm and a rich sense of color. At the same time, as a Buddhist country, Thai language and art are also deeply influenced by Buddhist culture, reflecting profound thoughts on life, the universe and morality.

The contrast of geographical characteristics is not only reflected in the content and style of expression of language arts, but also in its mode of dissemination and audience groups. As shown in table 1 below.

Table 1 Table analyzing the modes of communication and audience groups in the Dai-Thai language

Language Type	Dai language	Thai language
Mode of transmission	Usually, it is cultural dissemination, language dissemination, and communication dissemination	Cultural dissemination, religious dissemination, ethnic dissemination, and integrated dissemination
Target audience	Ethnic minority people, culturally relevant people	The people of one's own country and nation

Table 1 mainly analyzes the transmission methods and audience groups of Dai and Thai languages. The Dai language and arts are mostly spread within the community through oral tradition and folk festivals, which have strong ethnic and regional characteristics; while the Thai language and arts are more open and diversified, and have become a bridge connecting Thailand and the world through international exchanges and media dissemination, and so on. This contrast of regional characteristics not only enriches people's knowledge and understanding of Dai-Thai language and art, but also provides useful insights for them to explore the exchange and integration between different regional cultures.

3.2 Comparison of integration paths

The development of Dai-Thai language art reveals the integration of traditional and modern, local and foreign language elements in the face of external factors such as modernization and globalization. The path of integration of Dai language art shows a gentle and introverted quality. On the basis of maintaining their own unique cultural genes, Dai artists skillfully incorporate modern aesthetic concepts and creative techniques to revitalize traditional language arts. As shown in Figure 2.

In Dai traditional music, dance and drama

Table 2 Exploration Table of Dai and Thai Language Fusion Paths

Fusion type	Fusion connotation	Defined declaration
Music hybridization	Guided by musical notes, using language to sing about culture, highlighting charm	Integration of Music Terms and Tones+Appeal
Dance hybridization	The display of action language enhances value and highlights characteristics	The fusion of action language+Attractive force
Traditional opera hybridization	Using language, action, and music to coordinate performance and form a complete story	The fusion of melody language+Appeal
Stage play hybridization	The rendering of scenes and language	Integration of Scene and

Figure 2 is mainly an exploration of the path of Dai-Thai language fusion. Diversified elements not only enrich the artistic expression, but also enhance the attractiveness and infectiousness of the works. At the same time, Dai language art also actively absorbs the essence of other ethnic cultures and expands its artistic boundaries through cross-cultural exchanges and integration. The integration path of Thai language arts is more open and diversified. As one of the cultural centers of Southeast Asia, Thai language arts have been influenced by neighboring countries and foreign cultures since ancient times. In the process of modernization, Thai artists have boldly tried to combine traditional elements with modern technology and international popular culture to create art works with distinctive characteristics of the times. For example, Thailand's film, music and dance industries have made full use of modern technology and international market resources to successfully promote Thai language arts to the world stage. In addition, Thailand also actively organizes various cultural exchange activities to provide local artists with opportunities to exchange with international counterparts, further promoting the integration and development of Thai language arts. While enriching the expression and content of language arts, it also injects new vitality into the cultural development of the two peoples.

3.3 Comparison of cultural identity and differences

From the perspective of regional countries, cultural identity and differences constitute the core of the unique charm of Dai-Thai language arts. These two languages and arts not only carry the deep cultural heritage of their respective ethnic groups, but also show the persistence of cultural identity and coexistence of differences in the course of change. The Dai language art is deeply rooted in the Dai people's cultural identity of nature, harmony and unity. Their music, dance, drama and other art forms all reveal their reverence and love for the natural environment and their pursuit of social harmony. The Dai people have expressed their pride in and adherence to their traditional culture through language arts, and this cultural identity has made the Dai language arts maintain their distinctive national characteristics in the process of modernization.

The Thai language and arts reflect the Thai people's identification with the monarchy, aristocratic culture and hierarchy. Thai language arts, such as classical music, court dances and dramas, are deeply influenced by these cultural elements and display a solemn and elegant artistic style. At the same time, as a Buddhist country, Thailand's language arts are also deeply influenced by Buddhist culture, emphasizing peace of mind and transcendence. Despite the differences in cultural identity, the Dai-Thai language and art have shown a certain trend of integration in the course of change. With the advancement of globalization and cultural exchanges and mutual understanding, the two languages and arts have begun to absorb each other's cultural elements to enrich their own artistic expressions and become more dynamic and lively.

3.4 Comparison of language arts heritage and development

From the perspective of language and art inheritance, both the Dai and the Thai have a long history and rich cultural heritage. The Dai literature has been deeply influenced by Buddhism, and through the translation and localization of Buddhist classics, such as the Sutra of the Buddha, a unique literary system has been formed. In Dai literature, Buddhist teachings, ethics and morals are intertwined with folk tales, reflecting the Dai people's pursuit of harmony, equality and unity. The literature of the Thai people is also deeply influenced by Buddhism and attaches great importance to the translation and imitation of Buddhist classics, forming a literary pattern similar to that of the Dai literature. The specific forms of transmission are shown in figure 2 below.

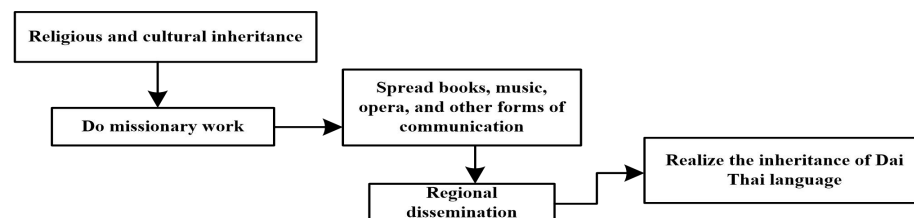


Fig. 2 Diagrammatic representation of the forms of transmission of the Dai-Thai language

Figure 2 is mainly about the design and analysis of the Dai-Thai language inheritance form. However, in the process of development, the two also show different characteristics. The Dai language and art have maintained strong regional characteristics in the inheritance, and the Dai language and art in different regions have their own characteristics, such as the use of Xishuangbanna Dai and Lao Dai is obviously different. On the other hand, the Thai language and art have done a better job in terms of unification and standardization, and the spelling rules of Thai are relatively uniform, which makes its literary works have higher dissemination and readability among different regions. In addition, there are also differences in the ways of transmission of the Dai and Thai languages and arts. The inheritance of Dai literature relies more on oral teaching and folklore, while the Thai people emphasize more on written records and literary education, and promote the inheritance and development of language arts through school education and literary creation. The above differences reflect the different characteristics of the two ethnic cultures and provide valuable perspectives for people to understand and study the changes in language arts. Respecting and protecting the uniqueness of these two languages and arts and promoting their exchange and integration will jointly promote the prosperity and progress of human culture.

CONCLUSION

To sum up, the in-depth exploration and comparative study of the changes of Dai-Thai language and art in different regions and countries have realized the profound revelation of the laws of cultural changes in the era of globalization. After the above analysis, it can be found that the Dai-Thai language and art in different regions and countries show a rich variety of forms and characteristics, and these differences and commonalities together constitute the unique charm and vitality of Dai-Thai culture. Modern science and technology and international exchanges have, to a certain extent, provided a broader platform for the dissemination and development of Dai-Thai language and art, but also posed a severe test of cultural homogenization and the crisis of local cultural identity. Therefore, to realize innovation and development while maintaining the essence of tradition has become an urgent problem in the field of Dai-Thai language and art. Based on the background of globalization, the Dai-Thai language and cultural heritage will continue to maintain its unique cultural identity and artistic characteristics, and at the same time, actively absorb the excellent elements of foreign cultures, realize the organic fusion of tradition and modernity, and jointly promote its inheritance and development, so that the Dai-Thai linguistic and cultural heritage will shine with a more brilliant luster in the new era.

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