



CHAPTER IV

CONCLUSION

From the study of the articles and their equivalents in Thai, it can be seen that Thai has a set of words that correspond to the definite articles this / these and that / those. The variant form of the cardinal numeral nỳn generally corresponds to the indefinite article a / an. The definite article the, however, has no exact corresponding form in Thai.

It seems that the notion of definiteness is expressed in Thai by a determinative and indefiniteness by nỳn. The definite article the in one case only corresponds to a determinative in Thai and the indefinite article a in many cases correspond to nỳn. This may be because the definite article the does not always indicate definiteness and the indefinite article a can be quite specific.

A native speaker of Thai learning English will probably find a and the more difficult than this/these and that / those. From the analysis in Chapters II and III, it can be seen that the English articles that have corresponding forms in Thai will present one kind of problem, and those that have no corresponding form will present problems of another kind.

The English articles that have corresponding forms in Thai, i.e. this/ these and that / those, may present

problems concerning agreement between the article and the noun. In Thai, it is not generally indicated whether the noun phrase is singular or plural. However, when it is necessary to do so, number is indicated not by the form of the noun or the determinative but by other words in the noun phrase. Thus, a Thai learning English may use singular articles with plural nouns and vice versa.

A, with its variant an, which in some cases correspond to นัยน์ may be a problem for Thai students. The difficulty may arise because students tend to confuse vowel sounds with vowel letters. When the written word begins with a vowel letter e.g. unit, university, it is likely that students will use an with these words instead of a.

The English articles that do not have corresponding forms in Thai, i.e. a and the in many cases, may present the following problems:

1. Omission of articles

Students will probably omit the appropriate article in the case of the following noun phrases which are equivalent to N in Thai.

- a. determinative the + N when there is no modifier after N.
- b. generic the + N
- c. the + proper noun which is well-known
- d. the + adjective or adverb in the comparative or superlative degree.

- e. generic a + N
- f. a + N when a means 'a certain amount or quantity of'
- g. a + N in certain expressions
- h. a + N when N is predicative nouns

2. Wrong choice of articles

This problem may occur when the does not express definiteness and a indefiniteness.

- a. Use of a instead of the when the article precedes an adjective or adverb in the comparative or superlative degree
- b. Use of a instead of the in **certain expressions**
- c. Use of the instead of a when the article precedes predicative nouns.

The study of the English articles as treated in various grammars and the attempt to find their equivalents in Thai have revealed differences between the two languages. It is felt that these differences might be the cause of the difficulty that Thai students have concerning articles. This work could be used in analysing mistakes Thai students make on articles. It may be of **some** use to teachers of English in the preparation of teaching materials. It would help them to understand the problems of the students and find new and useful methods to solve the problems and teach more effectively.