

CHAPTER I
INTRODUCTION



I. Background of the Study

The knowledge of a foreign language, by a growing number of people, has become a matter of significance and immediate concern. During World War II, educators began to be interested in the solution of many outstanding problems of language teaching and learning for military communication and international understanding. During the month of August, 1963, UNESCO sponsored in Ceylon an international seminar on "The Contribution of the Teaching of Modern Languages toward Education for Living in a World Community."¹

One approach to the study of foreign languages that has received much attention is Descriptive Linguistics, which is "the discipline which studies languages in terms of their internal structure and focuses its attention on different facets of human speech."² Linguistics is being applied to the study and analysis of languages and has

1. Andersson, Theodore, The Teaching of Foreign Languages in the Elementary School, D.C. Health and Company, Boston 1953.

2. Gleason H.A., An Introduction to Descriptive Linguistics, Henry Holt and Company, Inc. 1958

proved itself very useful and practical.

It was during World War II that the Thai language was first studied by modern linguists. Mary R. Haas studied the Thai Language under a program of the Linguistic Society of America and the Intensive Language Program of the American Council of Learned Societies. Her 4 books on the Thai language are "Spoken Thai"; "Thai Reader"; "Thai Vocabulary" and "Thai System of Writing."

Descriptions of Mary Haas's studies and other studies related to Thai can be found in the doctoral dissertation of Miss Foongfuang Kruatrachue.³

Miss Kruatrachue herself was one of the first Thais to study Thai scientifically. Her dissertation includes a phonemic analysis of Thai and English and a comparison of the phonological analyses of these languages.

In 1960 Miss Chalao Chayaratana completed a doctoral dissertation on A Comparative Study of English and Thai Syntax. It is a transformational analysis on the syntactical level which includes a comparison of Thai and English syntax. Her dissertation is commented upon by Mr. Udom Warotamasik-khadit in his dissertation "Thai Syntax: An Outline"⁴

3. Kruatrachue, Foongfuang., Thai and English: A Comparative Study of Phonology for Pedagogical Application, Indiana University 1960

4. Warotamasik-khadit, Udom., Thai Syntax: An Outline, The College of Education, Prassarnmitr, Bangkok, 1963

Mr. Warotamasikkhadit's dissertation is the most complete analysis of Thai syntax that has been done to date. His analysis is based on transformation theory.

A dissertation on Inter-Sentence Relations in Modern Conversational Thai by Miss Vichintana Chantavibulya was presented to the University of London in July 1962. She divided her dissertation to two parts-- Part I, the grammatical framework and Part II, the inter-sentence relations.⁵ This analysis approaches Thai from a different point of view from that of Mr. Warotamasikkhadit. Miss Chantavibulya's dissertation is the basis for the present thesis.

All these books are very significant for the study on Thai, especially the books written by the Thai themselves since they have shown clearly their leadership value for the further study of the Thai language by the younger generation.

The Research Problem

This research on compound words in Thai is directed at certain details of the syntactical features of Thai sentences. It is an attempt to study the particular area of Thai Grammar in which new words are created. According to Robert Lees:

5. Chantavibulya, Vichintana Inter-Sentence Relations in Modern Conversational Thai, The University of London, 1962

"We cannot get along with any single common noun to refer to a familiar object, but must have at every moment modifiers with which to construct new, more complex names to use for all specific instances of that object which we encounter and talk about."⁶

The purposes of this research project are several:

1. To extend the formal analysis of compound words in Thai to a greater depth of detail, for as it happens now, there is no thorough analysis of words of this kind done according to modern linguistic principles.

2. An analysis of compound words in Thai would be useful to two groups:

a) to native speakers who will gain more knowledge about the grammatical structure of Thai, and

b) to non-native speakers who are learning Thai language.

In case b) a comparison with English, for instance, would be valuable. An example will make this more clear.

In Thai there are two vocabulary items ^{ใจดี} ('heart-good') and ^{ดีใจ} ('good-heart'). In English, there is a vocabulary item 'good-hearted' which looks similar to the second

6. Robert R. Lees, The Grammar of English Nominalization, International Journal of American Linguistics, Volume 26, Number 3, July, 1960, p.17

Thai item (i.e. 'good heart'). However, the second item is translated 'happy' in English, while the first ('heart-good') is the one that means, roughly, 'good-hearted'. Obviously, this could cause problems for speakers of either language who are learning the other. However, no such comparison with English will be undertaken here. This study will be concerned only with the definition and testing of compound words in Thai.

II. Guiding Principles

The guiding principles of this study are taken from the modern linguistic method of analysis. The first principle is the use of constituent classes. "Linguists believe that each word class has some syntactic characteristics in addition to the inflectional characteristics by which they were defined. Each can therefore serve as the base for a constituent class"⁷

The characteristics are brought out by the use of frames and slots. A slot is the position that a form occupies in a certain linguistic environment. The linguistic environment is called the frame. For example, in setting up nouns and intransitive verbs in Thai, the frames and slots are as follow:

- | | | | | | |
|----|----------|--|----------|--|----------|
| a) | <u>1</u> | | <u>2</u> | | ๒๒๓ |
| b) | <u>1</u> | | ทำ | | <u>3</u> |

Any word which may occupy place 1 in both frames is labelled a "noun". Any word which may occupy both place 2 in the first frame and place 3 in the second is labelled an "intransitive verb". e.g. since both

- a) นาฬิกา ที่ ช้า
- b) นาฬิกา กำลัง ที่ ช้า

are possible, นาฬิกา is a noun and ช้า is an intransitive verb.

The second principle is the application of the criterion of inseparability.⁹ The principle means that whenever two words are compound, they are syntactically inseparable. If two words can be separated, they are regarded as a sequence of two simple words.

For example:

- ยัง ไม่ ได้ เขียน จดหมาย
- or จดหมาย ยัง ไม่ ได้ เขียน

We can separate the verb (เขียน) and noun (จดหมาย) without any change of meaning or distortion of the syntax, which we cannot do in

ยัง ไม่ ได้ เขียน ช้า
since ช้า ยัง ไม่ ได้ เขียน is not Thai.

8. Chantavibulya, op.cit., p. 161 these and the definitions given in chapter II. from Miss Chantavibulya's thesis since they seem to be accurate and certainly serve adequately for the purposes of this thesis.

9. Chantavibulya, op.cit., p. 227

so "โศกนาถ" is a compound word.

III. Related Studies

Compound words are mentioned in every traditional Thai Grammar book. They have always been defined on the basis of meaning alone.

Pra Voravetpisit, in his grammar book has presented the idea that a compound word is a combination of two words built up when the Thai people communicated with many nations who used polysyllabic languages and met many new things in the South.

The examples of compound words he gives include:

พ่อยาย	'father of wife' ('father' + 'grandfather')
แม่ยาย	'mother of wife' ('father' + 'grandmother')
ชาวนา	'farmer' (prefix (ชา) + 'ricefield')
น้ำแข็ง	'ice' ('water' + 'hard')

Though they are 2 syllables the meaning is not sharply the meaning of one syllables plus the meaning of the other syllable. The meaning of the new item usually changes although it may retain some idea which is like the old ones:

For example: หางเสือ (rudder) retains the idea of หาง (tail), since it is like the "tail" of a boat¹⁰

In Phya Upakitsilpasarn "Thai Grammar"¹¹ Compound

10. พระราชบัณฑิตยสถาน พจนานุกรม หน้า ๘๔

11. พระราชบัณฑิตยสถาน พจนานุกรมไทย หน้า ๘

words are the words created by the combination of simple words producing a new meaning, as

แสงอาทิตย์ ('ray' + 'sun' = 'a kind of snake')
 แม่ น้ำ ('mother' + 'water' = 'river')

If the combination contains both meanings, it is not considered a compound word but only a sequence of simple words or a phrase.

There are, according to Phya Upakitsilpasarn, 5 kinds of compound words.

(1) Two words are combined resulting in a new word with a meaning similar to that of the original words:

examples:

หางเสือ 'rudder' ('tail' + 'tiger')
 พ่อตา 'father of wife' ('father' + 'grandfather')

(2) Two words are combined resulting in a new word with a meaning more different than in (1) above from the original examples:

ดีใจ 'glad' ('good' + 'heart')
 หายใจ 'breathe' ('lose' + 'heart')

(3) The meaning is the same or similar to the original words. This includes:

(a) Repetition of the sound sequences:

examples:

ดำดำ 'rather black' ('black' + 'black')
 เร็วเร็ว 'quicker' ('quick' + 'quick')

(b) Repetition of meanings: examples:

ดูตาม 'look after' ('see' + 'see')

สวยงาม 'beautiful' ('beautiful' + 'beautiful')

(4) A long or rather long, phrase is reduced into a compound word: such as,

ชาวป่า 'people of the jungle' (prefix (ชาว) + 'jungle')

ชาววัง 'people of the palace' (prefix (ชาว) + 'palace')

(5) Some compound words are the result of borrowing from Pali-Sanskrit: for examples,

ราชโอรส 'the king's son' (king' + 'son')

ราชธิดา 'the king's daughter' ('king' + 'daughter')

The same ideas are presented in Reference Book of Grammar for Matayom Suksa 4-5 of the Ministry of Education.¹²

However, some examples are a bit different.

"Thai Grammar" by Thai teachers of Pre-University School has nearly the same definition:

"A compound word is a word made by adding simple words together to produce a new one. It is because we know many new things and the simple words are not enough to use that we create new words from our simple words, such as

12. กระทรวงศึกษาธิการ, หนังสือคู่มือวิชาหลักภาษาไทย, ประถมมัธยมศึกษาตอนปลาย,

แม่น้ำ - river ('mother' + 'water'). But, though it represents a new lexical meaning, there is still some sign of old meaning as a remainder."¹³

Mary R. Haas mentioned compound words in her "Outline of Thai Grammar"¹⁴ without really defining compound words, she merely says that the derivational processes used in Thai are compounding and reduplication. Common types of compounding resulting in verbs are

1. Verb + Noun

as เข้าใจ - to understand ('enter' + 'heart')

2. Noun + Verb

as ใจดี - to be good natured ('heart' + 'good')

3. Verb + Verb

as ปรุงต้ม - to cook ('cook' + 'boil')

Important types of Compounding resulting in nouns are

1. Noun + Verb (head + attribute)

as น้ำแข็ง - 'ice' ('water' + 'hard')

เสื้อคลุม - 'overcoat' ('coat' + 'cover')

2. Noun + Noun (head + attribute)

as รถไฟ - 'train' ('car' + 'fire')

ไฟฟ้า - 'electricity' ('fire' + 'sky')

13. คณะอาจารย์โรงเรียนเตรียมอุดมศึกษา, หลักภาษาไทย, โรงเรียนเตรียมอุดมศึกษา, หน้า ๒๘

This passage includes a rather free translation of the ideas presented in the book.

14. Mary R. Haas, "Outline of Thai Grammar", University of California, Berkeley.

3. Noun + Noun (coordinate compound)

- as พ่อแม่ - 'parents' ('father' + 'mother')
 สามีภรรยา - 'married couple' ('husband' + 'wife')

Miss Vichinatna Chantavibulya in her Hector's dissertation includes a partial study of compound words. Her study is deeper than Mary Haas's both in detail and in method of analysis. She used the criterion of inseparability in order to determine compound words as contrasted with sequences of simple words

According to Miss Chantavibulya, compound nouns are made up of

a) Noun + Noun e.g.

เพื่อนบ้าน - neighbour ('friend' + 'house')

b) Noun + Pronoun e.g.

เสื้อของฉัน - a blouse of mine ('blouse' + 'mine')

c) Pronoun + Noun e.g.

คุณวีต - Mr. Vinit

คุณphon - Mr. Phon

d) Noun + Verb e.g.

มีดพับ - ('knife' + 'fold')

น้ำหอม - ('water' + 'smell good')

(Contrast the first utterance with มีด พับ มีด พับ)

e) Verb + Noun e.g.

พัดลมไฟฟ้า - (an electric fan)

(('blow' + 'wind')

(Contrast this with พัด ลม พัด ลม)

f) Noun + Verb + Noun e.g.

ห้องรับแขก - (a drawing room)

(room to receive guest)

'room' + 'receive' + 'guest'

(Contrast this with ห้องนี้ใช้รับแขก)

Compound verbs in this dissertation are of two kinds, one of which consists of a transitive verb and a noun and the other consists of a noun and an intransitive verb.

The frame used to prove the inseparability of the compound word is

ยังไม่ได้ $\frac{V}{\quad} \quad \frac{N}{\quad}$
 or $\frac{N}{\quad}$ ยังไม่ได้ $\frac{V}{\quad}$
 as ยังไม่ได้เขียนจดหมาย
 or จดหมายยังไม่ได้เขียน

This is to be compared with ตกใจ or เดินทาง which are inseparable and regarded as compound while เขียนจดหมาย is a combination of 2 simple words.

However, there are other combination that according to this frame must be considered as two single words:

for example, ทอดสะพาน and นอนทอดสะพาน may mean

1) lay a bridge

or 2) flirt a lot

นอนทอด can only mean 'sleep in sitting position'

It is necessary to enlarge Miss Chantavibulya frame to show that ทอดสะพาน may or may not be compound, while นอนทอด is always compound.

As for a compound verb made up of noun and intransitive verb, it has been observed that a noun (n) which may be found in the blank space of a sentence frame as

N C ^๔ _____ V_I

may be transferred to the beginning of the sentence without change of meaning.

e.g. ^๔ ไบ ^๔ ดูจน ^๔ ก็
or ดูจน ^๔ ไบ ^๔ ก็

But we cannot do this with the following example.

^๔ ดูจน ^๔ คน ^๔ นี้ ไป ตลอด

Hence ดูจน ^๔ ก็ is regarded as a sequence of simple words and ไปตลอด as a compound word.

As has been stated, Miss Chantavibulya's analysis forms the basis for the present study.

ศูนย์วิจัยทรัพยากร
จุฬาลงกรณ์มหาวิทยาลัย