# รหัสยภาษาในกลุ่มคนตาบอด

# นายวีรชัย อำพรไพบูลย์



วิทยานิพนธ์นี้เป็นส่วนหนึ่งของการศึกษาตามหลักสูตรปริญญาอักษรศาสตรมหาบัณฑิต สาขาวิชาภาษาศาสตร์ ภาควิชาภาษาศาสตร์ คณะอักษรศาสตร์ จุฬาลงกรณ์มหาวิทยาลัย ปีการศึกษา 2543 ISBN 974 - 346 - 664 - 9 ลิขสิทธิ์ของจุฬาลงกรณ์มหาวิทยาลัย

### Secret Language of the Thai Blind

Mr. Weerachai Umpornpaiboon

A Thesis Submitted in Partial Fulfillment of The Requirements

For the Degree of Master of Arts in Linguistics

Department of Linguistics

Faculty of Arts

Chulalongkom University

Academic Year 2000

ISBN 974 - 346 - 664 - 9

Thesis Title:	Secret Language of the Thai Blind	
Ву:	Weerachai Umpornpaiboon	
Department:	Linguistics, the Faculty of Arts	
Thesis advisor:	Associate Professor Amara Prasithrathsint, Ph.D.	
Accepted by the Faculty of Arts, Chulalongkorn University in Partial Fulfillment of the Requirements from the Master's Degree:		
	Loby Tight Dean of the Faculty of Arts tant Professor M.R. Kalaya Tingsabadh, Ph.D.)	
Thesis Committee		
	Endoporn Z Chairperson	
	tant Professor Sudaporn Luksaneeyanawin, Ph.D.)  Marae Banthrathes Thesis Advisor	

(Associate Professor Amara Prasithrathsint, Ph.D.)

Theraphan Luangthonghum Committee Member

(Associate Professor Theraphan Luangthongkum, Ph.D.)

วีรชัย อำพรไพบูลย์ : รหัสยภาษาในกลุ่มคนตาบอด (SECRET LANGUAGE OF THE THAI BLIND) อ.ที่ปรึกษา : รศ.ดร.อมรา ประสิทธิ์รัฐสินธุ์.
108 หน้า. ISBN 974-346-664-9

การศึกษาครั้งนี้มุ่งที่จะศึกษารูปแปรทางเสียงที่ปรากฏในรหัสยภาษาในกลุ่ม คนตาบอด วิเคราะห์การปรากฏทางวากยสัมพันธ์ของรูปแปรทางเสียงเหล่านั้น และ ศึกษาวัตถุประสงค์ของการใช้รูปแปรทางเสียงที่ปรากฏในภาษาของกลุ่มคนตาบอด

คนตาบอดไทยคัดแปลงพยางค์ในคำไทยมาตรฐานเพื่อใช้แทนการสื่อสารทาง อวัจนภาษาที่ขาดไป รูปแปรทางเสียงประกอบด้วย 6 รูปแปร ดังนี้

- (1) การสอดแทรกหน่วยเสียงระหว่างหน่วยเริ่มและหน่วยตามของพยางค์ เช่น /kha?câ:w/ ใช้แทนคำว่า /khâ:w/ "ข้าว"
- (2) การถ่ายเสียงระหว่างพยางค์ เช่น /linkon/ แทนคำว่า /kin/ "กิน"
- (3) การถ่ายเสียงระหว่างพยางค์โดยใช้กฎทางเสียงที่ซับซ้อน เช่น /læ:kù:/ แทน คำว่า /kæ:/ "แก่"
- (4) การแทนส่วนท้ายพยางค์ด้วยเสียง /aː/ เช่น /maː/ แทนคำว่า /mia/ "เมีย"
- (5) การแทนส่วนท้ายพยางค์ด้วยเสียง /ɔ:/ เช่น /cɔ:nɔ:thɔ̂:/ แทนคำว่า /câ:wnâ:thî:/ "เจ้าหน้าที่"
- (6) การใช้รูปแบบผสม เช่น /phàʔcǎ:/ แทนคำว่า /phùa/ "ผัว" เมื่อกล่าวถึงการปรากฏทางวากยสัมพันธ์ รูปแปรทางเสียงเหล่านี้มักจะเกิดกับ คำหลัก ได้แก่ นาม กริยา และกริยาวิเศษณ์ ส่วนคำไวยากรณ์ เช่น สันธาน บุพบท และ คำลงท้าย มักจะไม่มีการเปลี่ยนแปลงทางเสียง

เมื่อกล่าวถึงเหตุผลการใช้รูปแปรทางเสียงเหล่านี้ จากการศึกษาพบว่ามีเหตุผล 3 ประการในการใช้รูปแปรทางเสียงเหล่านี้ คือ ใช้เพื่อรักษาความลับ ใช้แทนคำต้อง ห้าม และใช้เพื่อรักษาความเป็นปึกแผ่นในกลุ่มคนตาบอด

ภาควิชา *ภามาสาลทรั* สาขาวิชา *ภามาสาลทรั* ปีการศึกษา 2543 ลายมือชื่อนิสิต Wukashai ลายมือชื่ออาจารย์ที่ปรึกษา Amaca Grauthur 408 01920 22 Major: LINGUISTICS

KEYWORDS: SECRET LANGUAGE / THE THAI BLIND / THAI

WEERACHAI UMPORNPAIBOON: SECRET LANGUAGE OF THE THAI

BLIND, THESIS ADVISOR: ASSOC. PROF. AMARA PRASITHRATHSINT, Ph.D.,

108 PP. ISBN 974-346-664-9

The purposes of this thesis are to analyze the phonological patterns of the secret language used by the Thai blind, to find out in which grammatical categories the phonological patterns occur and to study the motivation for the use of the secret language.

The Thai blind modify standard Thai through the use of the secret sound patterns to substitute for their loss of non-verbal communication. There are six sound patterns as follows:

- (1) The insertion of phonological segments in between the onset and rhyme of the source syllable (e.g. /kha?ca:w/ = /kha:w/), "rice"
- (2) Shuffling of syllable parts (e.g./linkon/=/kin/eat"),
- (3) Shuffling of syllable parts with more complex phonological rules (e.g. /læ;kù:/ = /kæ:/ "old"),
- (4) Replacing the rhyme of the source syllables with the /a:/ sound (e.g. /mai/ = /mia/ "wife").
- (5) Replacing the rhyme of the source syllables with the /ɔː/ sound (e.g. /co:no:thô:/ = /câ:wnâ:thî:/ "staff member"), and
- (6) Mixing type (e.g. /phà?că:/ = /phǔa/ "husband").

In terms of syntactic occurrences, words of the secret sound patterns usually appear in the position of content words, including nouns, verbs, and adverbs. Function words such as prepositions, conjunctions and particles always take their original forms in the blind language.

Concerning the application of the secret language, there are three motivations behind the use of the secret sound patterns of the Thai blind: (1) to conceal their secrets from outsiders, (2) to create euphemisms, and (3) to show the group's solidarity.

ปีการศึกษา... 25.4.3.....

ภาควิชา สามาสาราช ลายมือชื่อบิสิต Weekashai
สาขาวิชา สามาสาราช ลายมือชื่ออาจารย์ที่ปรึกษา Amara Chanthrathra

#### Acknowledgements

I wish to thank all the people who have made this work possible

I wish to express my sincere gratitude to Associate Professor Amara Prasithrathsint, my academic advisor, for contributing much of her time and effort to make this thesis possible. She is very good at stimulating imagination and creativity I feel a great improvement in my life after working with her for almost two years. Not only do I learn the subject matter of the thesis but I also gain various techniques of approaching new knowledge which is an essential skill in life.

I would like to thank Assistant Professor Sudaporn Luksaneeyanawin and Associate Professor Theraphan Luangthongkum for very fruitful advice.

I am indebted for the help of Thailand Association of the Blind in finding the volunteers to work for my thesis. I want to thank all the volunteers who helps finding some reading materials for my thesis, especially Dr. Suphatharika Satayawiboon, Mrs. Kanyaluk Rungdanai, Miss Yupaporn Serewiwattana and Miss Sirikul, Chanumnuisuk. I also want to thank Miss Kanoktip Chantana, Miss Karnjana Rettanamunee, Miss Sasima Rakarayatam, Miss Wipa Tunyacharone, Miss Pimolrat Chalermrtanagomal and Mr. Tuchochai Wongritrungrueng for taking her extra time from work at Thailand Association of the Blind for proofreading and making some corrections of my typing errors

I want to thank all the blind interviewees at the five organizations of/for the blind for giving me information concerning their secret language.

I also want to thank Dr. Chaiwat Bunnag for spending his precious time giving me some useful advice for my research.

I am grateful to Fr. Carlo Velardo, the director of Skills Development Center for the Blind, for lending me a laptop to use for my data collection and giving me a warm hospitality during my data collection time at the Skills Development Center for the Blind.

Thanks to Dale Kvalheim for proofreading my final work.

I am also grateful to all the professors and friends at the Department of Linguistics at Chulalongkorn for sharing a good time and building up my encouragement.

### **Table of Contents**

P	AGE
Abstract [Thai]	iv
Abstract [English]	V
Acknowledgements	. vi
List of Figures	хi
List of Tables	xiv
Chapter 1 Introduction	
1.1 Background	1
1.2 Purposes	7
1.3 Hypotheses	7
1.4 Scope of the Study	7
1.5 Contributions	7
1.6 Research methodology	7
1.6.1 Documentary methodology	7
1.6.2 Data collection	8
1.6.3 Data analytical procedures	10
Chapter 2 Review of Literature	
2.1 Previous research concerning language use of the Thai blind	13
2.1.1 The use of verbs representing visual perception in Thai	
conversation of blind speakers	13
2.1.2 Discourse markers in the language of the Bangkok Thai blind	17
2.2 Other Research Works	22
2.2.1 Pig Latin	22
2.2.2 Reversed speech in Thai	23
2.2.3 The Prohibition of certain words and the replacement of taboo	
words	24
2.2.3.1 Taboos	24
2.2.3.2 Euphemisms	25
2.2.3.3 Phonological forms of euphemisms	26
2.2.3.4 Research works on euphemisms in various languages	. 26

	viii
2.2.3.4.1 Euphemisms in American English	26
2.2.3.4.2 Euphemisms in Thai	27
2.3 Conclusion.	30
Chapter 3 Phonological patterns of the secret language of the Thai blind	
3.1 General concepts in describing the secret sound patterns	33
3.1.1 Onset and rhyme	33
3.1.2 Phonological rules	34
3.2 The insertion of phonological segments in between onset and rhyme of the	ie
source syllable	37
3.3 Shuffling of syllable parts	43
3.4 Shuffling of syllables parts with more complex phonological rules	47
3.5 Replacing the rhyme of the source syllable with the /a:/ sound	52
3.6 Replacing the rhyme of the source syllable with the /ɔː/ sound	63
3.7 Mixing type	67
3.8 Conclusion	73
Chapter 4 Syntactic structure of the secret phonological patterns	
4.1 General concepts concerning content and function words	74
4.2 Secret sound patterns with NP constructions	76
4.2.1 Secret sound patterns with modifiers in NP construction	76
4.2.2 Secret sound patterns with head nouns	78
4.3 Secret sound patterns in VP constructions	84
4.3.1 Secret sound pattern with main verbs	84
4.3.2 Secret sound pattern with adverbs	94
4.4 Conclusion	95
Chapter 5 Motivations for the use of the in-group language	
5.1 The language for hiding secrets of the Thai blind	97
5.1.1 The language for substituting certain communicative channel	s of the
Thai blind	
5.1.2 The language for concealing secrets from outsiders	100
5.1.3 The language for discussing matters between blind interlocut	ors103
5.1.3.1 The language for preventing the blind from being	
endangered	103

5.1.3.2 The language for asking about the useful information
perceived only by vision104
5.1.3.3 The language for expressing the speaker's feeling or
attitudes105
5.1.3.4 The language for asking for assistance about personal
matters among in-group members106
5.1.4 The language to discuss matters concerning the third person 107
5.1.4.1 The language for finding information about the third
person
5.1.4.2 The language for gossiping about the outsiders109
5.1.4.3 The language for preserving the speaker's face from being
threatened by outsiders111
5.2 Special patterns as euphemisms
5.2.1 Euphemisms by phonetic corruptions of Thai tabooed terms 115
5.2.1.1 Frequently used euphemisms among the Thai blind115
5.2.1.2 Occasionally used euphemisms among the Thai blind126
5.2.2 Euphemisms by phonetic corruptions of Thai euphemisms128
5.3 The language for in-group solidarity
5.3.1 The language of intimacy
5.3.2 The language showing relationship between generations133
5.3.3 The language of joke: the declaration of the blind in-group
membership134
5.4 Conclusion
Chapter 6 Conclusion
6.1 Summary
6.1.1 Phonological forms of the secret words
6.1.2 The occurrences of deviant words in the utterances of the Thai blind
139
6.1.3 The motivations behind the use of the secret sound patterns 140
6.2 Discussion on some observations
6.2.1 Braille characters used as secret codes
6.2.2 Personal pronouns used among the Thai blind143
6.2.3 Some jargons of the Thai blind143

.

	6.2.4 Some observations regarding the language use of the Thai blind	
	and other kinds of verbal play	144
6.3 Conclu	uding remarks	144
Reference	S	147
Vita		149

## List of Figures

Figure	Page
Figure 3.1 Onset and rhyme in a syllable.  Figure 3.2 Complete structure of the onset and rhyme of the word /bâ:n/.  Figure 3.3 Output after adding an empty syllable after the word /sǔaj/  Figure 3.4 Output after moving the rhyme of /sǔaj/ to that of the second	34 34 39
syllable of the secret word derived from /sŭaj/	39
Figure 3.5 Output after adding /c/ to the rhyme of the first syllable of the	
secret word derived from /sǔaj/.	40_
Figure 3.6 Output after adding /a?/ to the onset of the second syllable	
of the secret word derived from /sǔaj/	41
Figure 3.7 Output after adding the /cà?/ syllable after the word /sǔaj/	41
Figure 3.8 The two incomplete syllables of the word /caj/	42
Figure 3.9 Adding /à?/ to the rhyme of the first syllable and /c/ to the onset	
of the second syllable of the secret word derived from /caj/	43
Figure 3.10 Output after adding an empty syllable after the word /paj/	45
Figure 3.11 Output after moving the onset of the first syllable to that of	
the second syllable of the secret word derived from /paj/	45
Figure 3.12 Output after adding /l/ to the onset of the first syllable of the	
secret word derived from /paj/	46
Figure 3.13 Output after adding /ɔŋ/ to the rhyme of the second syllable	
of the secret word derived from /paj/	46
Figure 3.14 Output after adding the syllable /lɔŋ/ after the word /paj/	47
Figure 3.15 Output after adding an empty syllable after the word /dèk/	49
Figure 3.16 Output after moving the onset of the first syllable to that	
of the second syllable of the secret word derived from /dèk/	49
Figure 3.17 Output after adding /l/ to the onset of the first syllable of the	
secret word derived from /dèk/	50

Figure 3.18	Output after adding /u/ to the rhyme of the second syllable	
	of the secret word derived from /dèk/	50
Figure 3.19	Output after adding the /lu/ syllable after the word /dèk/	51
Figure 3.20	Output after interchanging the onsets of the two syllables of the secret word derived from /dèk/.	52
Figure 3.21	Output after splitting the word /phû:jiŋ/ into two syllables	55
Figure 3.22	The onset and rhyme of each syllable of the word /phû:jiŋ/	56
Figure 3.23	Output after adding the sound /a:/ to the rhyme of each	
	syllable of the secret word derived from /phû:jiŋ/	56
	4 Output after duplicating the tone of each syllable of the source word to that of the target syllable of the secret word derived from /phû:jiŋ/.	57
Figure 3.25	The onset and rhyme of each syllable in the phrase /kin law/.	59
Figure 3.26	Output after adding the sound /a:/ to the rhyme of each	
	syllable of the secret phrase derived from /kin law/	60
Figure 3.27	Output after duplicating the tone of each source syllable to the target syllable of the secret phrase derived from /phû:jiŋ/	60
Figure 3.28	The onset and rhyme of each syllable in the phrase /kin lâ:p/	61
Figure 3.29	Output after adding the sound /a:/ to the rhyme of each syllable	
	of the secret phrase derived from /kin la:p/	61
Figure 3.30	Output after duplicating the tone of each source syllable to the target syllable of the secret phrase derived from /kin lâ:p/	62
Figure 3.31	Output after splitting the word /câ:wnâ:thî:/ into syllables	64
Figure 3.32	The onset and rhyme of each syllable of the word /câ:wnâ:thî:/	64
Figure 3.33	Output after deleting the rhyme of each syllable of the secret word derived from /ca:wna:thi:/	65
Figure 3.34	Output after adding the sound /o:/ to each syllable of the secret	
	word derived from /câ:wnâ:thî:/	65

Figure 3.35 Adding the falling tone to the last syllable of the secret word	
derived from /câ:wnâ:thî:/	66
Figure 3.36 The onset and rhyme of the syllable of the word /fæ:n/	69
Figure 3.37 Output after adding the sound /a:/ to the rhyme of the syllable	
of the secret word derived from /fæ:n/	70
Figure 3.38 Output after adding an empty syllable after the word /fa:/	71
Figure 3.39 Output after moving the rhyme of the first syllable to that of	
the second syllable of the secret word derived from /fa:n/	71
Figure 3.40 Output after adding the sound /a?/ to the rhyme of the first syllable	
of the secret word derived from /fa:n/	72
Figure 3.41 Output after adding the sound /c/ to the rhyme of the second	
syllable of the secret word derived from fa:n/.	72
Figure 4.1 Secret sound patterns with modifiers	77
Figure 4.2 Secret sound patterns with head nouns	78
Figure 4.3 Secret sound patterns in head nouns containing taboo content	80
Figure 4.4 Secret sound patterns with head nouns in	
NP constructions containing pronoun modifiers	82
Figure 4.5 Normal Thai with pronouns.	83
Figure 4.6 Secret sound patterns with main verbs	85
Figure 4.7 Secret sound patterns with main verbs	87
Figure 4.8 Secret sound patterns with main verbs	89
Figure 4.9 Secret sound patterns with adverbs.	95

## List of Tables

Table	Page
Table 1.1 Definitions of the sound patterns used in the secret language	
of the Thai blind	11
Table 2.1 Discourse markers in the languageof Thai blind	18
Table 3.1 Phonological rules used to describe the secret sound patterns	37
Table 4.1 Types and examples of function words in English	75
Table 5.1 Percentage of different perspectives in defining the word	
"outsider" of the sampled subjects	101
Table 5.2 The translation of four euphemistic terms in the conversation	
in (7)	116
Table 5.3 Numbers of subjects who choose to use the language in	
each item in (9)	119
Table 5.4 Money-related Lexemes as Euphemisms	119
Table5.5EyesightEuphemisms	120
Table 5.6 Euphemisms showing special relation	121
Table 5.7 Euphemisms related to immorality	122
Table 5.8 Euphemisms related to excretion.	123
Table 5.9 Euphemisms for swear words	124
Table 5.10 Euphemisms in the area of sex	125
Table 5.11 Euphemisms for fatal diseases	127
Table 5.12 Metaphorical euphemisms in the area of sex in the	
in-group language	130