Variations of Burmese Language Based on Age: A Case Study of Burmese Language Used by Myanmar Students in Bangkok University, Thailand

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Abstract

This study is entitled "Variations of Burmese Language Based on Age: Case Study of Burmese Language Used by Myanmar Students in Bangkok University, Thailand". The objectives of this research are 1) to study the variations of Burmese language based on age used by Myanmar students in Bangkok University, Thailand, and 2) to analyze the variations of Burmese language used by Myanmar students in Bangkok University, Thailand. The study is mixed with quantitative and qualitative methods. Questionnaires were used for collecting quantitative data from 226 respondents, and in-depth interviews were used for collecting qualitative data from Bangkok University in Thailand. In this research, statistics including Frequency, Percentage, Mean, and Standard Deviation (S.D.) were used for quantitative data, and content analysis was used for analyzing qualitative data.

The researcher found that the general background of respondents were that 100 people were males and 126 people were females. The respondents were mostly 18 to 20 years old about 100 respondents or 44.24%; 21 to 30 years old respondents 39.82%, and 31 up were one 36 respondents 15.92% in this research. According to the responses of the participants to the research questionnaires, the results were that most of the people had difficulties with variations of the Burmese language based on age: case study of Burmese language used by Myanmar students in Bangkok University. The result average was a high level equal to $\bar{x}$ = 3.56 and SD .947 in objective one of this study. In the result of research objective two, the result average level was very high equal to $\bar{x}$ =4.28 and SD .458 because most of the respondents agreed with the statements of objective two.

Keywords: Variations; Burmese Language; Bangkok University

Introduction

The Burmese language is one of the mother languages in Myanmar because there are 33 million people having spoken the Burmese language since the ancient period. They dwell the whole spreads of the country in Myanmar where are divided into three parts of the zones including the upper, middle and lower zones. Moreover, Burmese people who live in the primary regions speak Burmese language (Indaka, 2020: 1). In Myanmar, the population of Burmese is estimated around 70% in mother tongue speakers, and most members of the ethnic minorities people learn Burmese language at school or in the course of trading and travelling. Outside Burma there are groups of speakers in Thailand and Bangladesh, many of them are refugees fleeing persecution.

Burmese has 34 consonant phonemes. Stops and affricates make a three-way contrast with voiced, voiceless, and voiceless aspirated. A two-way voicing contrast is also present with nasals and all approximants except for /j/. Phonetic notes: 1) (သ), which is */s/ in Pali and OB, but is shifted forward by the shift of (ၐ)* /ts/ 'n /s/, is often transliterated as (s) and transcribed /θ/ in MSB but its actual pronunciation is closer to /h~ t/, a dental flap, often accompanied by aspiration or a slight dental fricative, although it can also be voiced. It has a short release generated by moving the tongue back sharply from an interdental position, and will sound to English speakers like a short dental fricative combined with elements of a tap or stop. /ð/ is the voiced allophone of (သ) and is not itself a phoneme. 2) /sh/ is a complex phoneme to define. It is a reflex of the earlier /tʃh/ and then /tsh/ consonants. It is still distinguished from /s/ although it is not so much aspirated as pronounced breathy, and imparts a slight breathy quality to the following vowel making [s̤] a more accurate transcription. 3) /j/ is often realized as [ʝ], particularly word initially. 4) /ʍ/ is rare, having disappeared from modern Burmese, except in transcriptions of foreign names and a handful of native words.

Although this analysis is more or less correct from a purely phonetic point of view, it hides the diachronic nature of Burmese vowel development and mergers. And obfuscates the reasoning behind Burmese orthography. Myanmar writing system has 33 main letters or characters comparable to 26 alphabets from A-Z in English. Unlike English words which can be formed by combination of alphabets with vowels A, E, I, O, U, which are found within the 26 alphabetical system, Myanmar writing system makes use of additional vowel shift symbols, tone change symbols, and consonant modification symbols.

An Atlanta-based consulting firm, Organizational Development Resources concluded that resilient persons were positive about life and themselves; flexible in thoughts and social relations; and could be described as concentrated, organized, and proactive. In addition to internal variations, developing a person's resilience includes environmental or external influences, such as social support, spirituality, and religious practices. Previous literature on this subject describes two main agent variations strength: intrinsic and extrinsic variations.

In Myanmar, intrinsic variations of Burmese language based on age: a case study of Burmese language used resilience: Optimism is a strong predictor of strength in university students (Dawson & Pooley, 2013: 38-49). Ptimistic people believe that they can overcome inevitable obstacles in the future and that setbacks are only (Mcintosh & Shaw, 2017: 46). There is an interactive relationship between the optimism and resilience of international students (Sabouripour & Rosan, 2015: 159). Goal-setting is a process that promotes purpose and agency. Goals direct and sustain people's energies toward performing a particular action and achieving a successful outcome. Resilient students have high expectations and goals concerning their academic future (Mchillan & Reed, 1994: 140). Self-confidence is a positive belief that one can generally accomplish what one wishes to do in the future (Zeller, 1970: 93). People with strong self-confidence can effectively and efficiently solve everyday life problems and overcome many barriers that would otherwise delay or prevent them from achieving their goals. Rutter stated that resilience is characterized by several related elements: self-esteem, self-confidence, self-efficacy belief, and adaptation. Self-control is the ability to wait longer or delay gratification to achieve a better, more positive outcome in the future (Mchintosh & Shaw: 2018: 46). It is an essential characteristic of the development of resilience. People who can control their emotions are unflappable and calm even when they face stress in their daily life. Endurance and persistence are needed to overcome obstacles and complete work successfully. Endurance is the personal strength and fortitude that one possesses to withstand unpleasant or difficult situations without giving up; according to the Oxford English Dictionary, persistence is the act of adhering to an opinion or course of action despite difficulty or opposition. A combination of both abilities is required to be a resilient person (Taormina, 2015: 35-46).

As the above problem statement mentioned, the Burmese language used by Myanmar students in Bangkok University is particularly significant and different in Myanmar; on top of that, there are seven states and seven divisions. The seven states, namely are identified as Shan, Karen, Kayah, Mon, Rakhine, Chin, and Kachin and the seven divisions are Tanintharyi, Yangon, Bago, Ayeyarwady, Magwe, Mandalay, and Sagaing. The purpose of variations of Burmese language based on age: case study of the Burmese language used by Myanmar students in Bangkok University. Especially, these students have been famous among the original Burmese speakers. The researcher will make an attempt to use a scientific method to study the topic with a clear expectation that the result of the study serves as a study for those who want to know variations of the Burmese language based on age: a case study of Burmese language used by Myanmar students in Bangkok University. Another expected benefit is that this study is useful for further linguistics studies in the Burmese dialect.

Objectives of the Study

The objectives of the study are as follows:

1. To study the variations of Burmese language based on age used by Myanmar students in Bangkok University

2. To analyze the variations of Burmese language based on age used by Myanmar students in Bangkok University

Research Methodology

The study is mixed with quantitative and qualitative methods. Questionnaires were used for collecting quantitative data from 226 respondents and in-depth interviews were used for collecting qualitative data and data analysis from 10 villagers. In this research, statistics including Frequency, Percentage, Mean, and Standard Deviation (S.D.) were used for quantitative data, and content analysis was used for analyzing qualitative data.

Finding Results of the Study

According to the research questionnaire, there are several factors that Variations of Burmese language based on age: case study of Burmese language used by Myanmar students in Bangkok University. The findings can be summarized as follows:

1. The Gender of the Respondents

Age	Frequency	Percentage
G1. 18-20 years old	100	44.24%
G2. 21-30 years old	90	39.82%
G3. Over 31 years old	36	15.92%
Total	226	100.00%

The table illustrates the age of respondents divided into 3 groups: 18-20 years old, 21-30 years old, and over 40 years old. The majority of the respondents, 100 (44.24%), were aged 18-30 years old. 90 respondents (39.82%) were 21-30 years old, and over 31 years of respondents were 36 (15.92). The total number of respondents was 226 (100.0) in this study in the Bangkok University, Thailand.

2. Results of Study Variations of the Lexical Burmese Language Used by Myanmar Students in Bangkok University

This section contains the patterns of respondents who studying in the Bangkok University, Thailand. By analyzing statistics, there are adversities to studying variations of the lexical Burmese language used in the used by Myanmar students in Bangkok University. The findings can be summarized as follows:

Statement 1							
1. It's the "tree'. သစ်ပင် thi' pin/ /θiʔ pĩ/ အပင် /apin / /əpĩ/							
Level of opinion							
GP	Strongly agree	Agree	Neutral	Disagree	Strongly disagree	Total	Mean	S. D.
Frequency and percentage						Moderate level	
G1	109 48.23%	100 44.24%	12 5.30%	5 2.21%	0 00.00%	100%	2.56	.967
G2	121 53.53%	89 39.38	11 4.86%	5 2.21%	0 00.00%	100%	2.48	.958
G3	91 40.26%	125 55.30%	7 3.09%	3 1.32%	0 00.00%	100%	2.56	.977

According to statement 1, showed the level of the opinion of the respondents. The researcher demonstrates who studying in the Bangkok University respondents about difficulties for them to called It's the "tree'. သစ်ပင် thi' pin/ /θiʔ pĩ/ အပင် /apin / /əpĩ/. Group (1), It is stated that 12 (5.30%) of respondents were neutral with variations of the lexical subject which is more than other subjects. 100 (44.24%) of respondents were agree with it. 91 (40.26%) of respondents strongly agreed with variations of the lexical subject more difficulties than other subjects, and 5 (2.21%) of respondents disagreed with it. This statement one considered the moderate level mean score of 2.56 and (S.D.=967). Group (2), It is stated that 11 (4.86%) of respondents were neutral with variations of the lexical subject which is more than other subjects. 125 (55.30%) of respondents were agree with it. 121 (53.53%) of respondents strongly agreed with variations of the lexical subject more difficulties than other subjects, and 5 (2.21%) of respondents disagreed with it. This statement one considered the moderate level mean score of 2.48 and (S.D.=958). Group (3), It is stated that 7 (3.09%) of respondents were neutral with variations of the lexical subject which is more than other subjects. 89 (39.38%) of respondents were agree with it. 121 (53.53%) of respondents strongly agreed with variations of the lexical subject more difficulties than other subjects, and 3 (1.32%) of respondents disagreed with it. This statement one considered the moderate level mean score of 2.56 and (S.D.=977).

Statement 2							
2. Call the 'wall, brick wall'. တံတိုင်း /dədáĩ/ နဲ့ရဲ့ /nã̌ yã̌/ အုတ်ရိုး /oʊʔ yó/							
Level of opinion							
GP	Strongly agree	Agree	Neutral	Disagree	Strongly disagree	Total	Mean	S. D.
Frequency and percentage						Moderate level	
G2	150 66.37%	68 30.08%	6 2.65%	2 0.88%	0 00.00%	100%	3.56	.998
G1	142 62.83%	78 34.51%	5 2.21%	1 0.44%	0 00.00%	100%	2.58	.988
G3	121 53.53%	89 39.38	11 4.86%	5 2.21%	0 00.00%	100%	3.56	.977

According to statement 2, showed the level of the opinion of the respondents. The researcher demonstrates who studying in the Bangkok University respondents about difficulties them to called It's "Call the 'wall, brick wall'. တံတိုင်း /dədáĩ/ နဲ့ရဲ့ /nã̌ yã̌/ အုတ်ရိုး /oʊʔ yó/". Group (1), It is stated that 6 (2.65%) of respondents were neutral with variations of the lexical subject which is more than other subjects. 68 (30.08%) of respondents were agree with it. 150 (66.37%) of respondents strongly agreed with variations of the lexical subject more difficulties than other subjects, and 2 (0.88%) of respondents disagreed with it. This statement one considered the moderate level mean score of 3.56 and (S.D.=998). Group (2), It is stated that 5 (2.21%) of respondents were neutral with variations of the lexical subject which is more than other subjects. 78 (34.51%) of respondents were agree with it. 142 (62.83%) of respondents strongly agreed with variations of the lexical subject more difficulties than other subjects, and 5 (2.21%) of respondents disagreed with it. This statement one considered the moderate level mean score of 2.58 and (S.D.=988). Group (3), It is stated that 11 (4.86%) of respondents were neutral with variations of the lexical subject which is more than other subjects. 89 (39.38%) of respondents were agree with it. 121 (53.53%) of respondents strongly agreed with variations of the lexical subject more difficulties than other subjects, and 2 (2.21%) of respondents disagreed with it. This statement one considered the moderate level mean score of 3.56 and (S.D.=977).

Statement 3							
3. I say 'sunrise'. နေထွက် /nèi tʰweʔ/ အရှဉ်တက် /à yòõ teʔ/							
Level of opinion							
GP	Strongly agree	Agree	Neutral	Disagree	Strongly disagree	Total	Mean	S. D.
Frequency and percentage						Moderate level	
G1	121 53.53%	89 39.38%	11 4.86%	5 2.21%	0 00.00%	100%	2.48	.958
G2	142 62.83%	78 34.51%	5 2.21%	1 0.44%	0 00.00%	100%	2.56	.977
G3	105 46.46%	98 43.36%	20 7.51%	3 1.32%	0 00.00%	100%	2.58	.986

According to the findings in statement 3, indicated the respondents' levels of opinion. According to the data (Group 1), 89 (39.38%) of the respondents agreed with the designation "I say 'sunrise'. နေထွက် /nèi tʰweʔ/ အရှဉ်တက် /à yòõ teʔ/". Additionally, 121 (53.53%) strongly agreed with it, while 5 (2.21%) disagreed with the statement regarding the study of variations in lexical Burmese. The remaining 11 (4.86%) respondents were neutral on this matter. The average result indicated a mean of 2.48, with a standard deviation of 0.958. Overall, the respondents' opinions fell within the moderate range for this second statement. According to the data (Group 2), 78 (34.51%) of the respondents agreed with the designation "I say 'sunrise'. နေထွက် /nèi tʰweʔ/ အရှဉ်တက် /à yòõ teʔ/". Additionally, 124 (62.83%) strongly agreed with it, while 1 (0.44%) disagreed with the statement regarding the study of variations in lexical Burmese. The remaining 5 (2.21%) respondents were neutral on this matter. The average result indicated a mean of 2.56, with a standard deviation of .977. Overall, the respondents' opinions fell within the moderate range for this second statement. According to the data (Group 3), 98 (43.36%) of the respondents agreed with the designation "I say 'sunrise'. နေထွက် /nèi tʰweʔ/ အရှဉ်တက် /à yòõ teʔ/". Additionally, 105 (46.46%) strongly agreed with it, while 3 (1.32%) disagreed with the statement regarding the study of variations in lexical Burmese. The remaining 20 (7.51%) respondents were neutral on this matter. The average result indicated a mean of 2.58, with a standard deviation of 0.986. Overall, the respondents' opinions fell within the moderate range for this second statement.

Statement 4							
4. I say 'rotate'. လှည့် /l̥e/							
Level of opinion							
GP	Strongly agree	Agree	Neutral	Disagree	Strongly disagree	Total	Mean	S. D.
Frequency and percentage						Moderate level	
G1	43 19.02%	175 77.43%	6 2.65%	2 0.88%	0 00.00%	100%	2.98	.758
G2	160 70.79%	56 24.22%	7 3.09%	3 1.22%	0 00.00%	100%	2.86	.870
G3	23 10.22%	189 83.62%	12 5.30%	2 0.88%	0 00.00%	100%	2.96	.887

As per the results presented in statement 5, according to (Group 2), 175 (77.43%) of respondents agree with the term "I say 'rotate'. လှည့် /l̥e/", and taking notes. Moreover, 43 (19.02%) of respondents strongly agree with it. On the flip side, 6 (2.65%) were neutral, and 2 (0.88%) disagreed with this statement. The mean score was 2.98, with a standard deviation (S.D.) of 758. The remaining opinions were at a low level. According to (Group 1), 56 (24.22%) of respondents agree with the term "I say 'rotate'. လှည့် /l̥e/", and taking notes. Moreover, 160 (70.79%) of respondents strongly agree with it. On the flip side, 7 (3.09%) were neutral, and 3 (1.22%) disagreed with this statement. The mean score was 2.86, with a standard deviation (S.D.) of 870. The remaining opinions were at a low level. According to (Group 3), 189 (83.62%) of respondents agree with the term "I say 'rotate'. လှည့် /l̥e/", and taking notes. Moreover, 23 (10.22%) of respondents strongly agree with it. On the flip side, 12 (5.30%) were neutral, and 2 (0.88%) disagreed with this statement. The mean score was 2.96, with a standard deviation (S.D.) of 887. The remaining opinions were at a low level.

The analysis of questionnaire data reveals two main findings related to Variations of the Lexical Burmese Language Used used by Myanmar students in Bangkok University. Conversely, the findings on difficulties in variations of the lexical Burmese language used demonstrate that several challenges persist. Most notably, students struggle with expressing ideas in variations of the lexical Burmese language, hesitating to speak, lacking vocabulary, and feeling shy or anxious when speaking. These difficulties are reflected in lower average scores on corresponding items. Overall, the analysis showcases respondents' proficiency in communication but also underscores specific areas where they encounter hurdles.

Conclusion

In conclusion, the study aimed to investigate the variations of the lexical Burmese language used by Myanmar students in Bangkok University. The research employed qualitative

and quantitative methods with a sample size of 226 respondents. Additionally, students studying from the Bangkok University were chosen as key informants. Data collection tools included in-depth interviews and questionnaires, analyzed using content analysis for qualitative data and statistical measures (Percentage, Frequency, Mean, Standard Deviation) through SPSS for quantitative data.

The researcher demonstrates who studying in the Bangkok University respondents about difficulties for them to called It's the "tree'. သစ်ပင် thi' pin/ /θiʔ pĩ/ အပင် /apin / /əpĩ/. Group (1), It is stated that 12 (5.30%) of respondents were neutral with variations of the lexical subject which is more than other subjects. 100 (44.24%) of respondents were agree with it. 91 (40.26%) of respondents strongly agreed with variations of the lexical subject more difficulties than other subjects, and 5 (2.21%) of respondents disagreed with it. This statement one considered the moderate level mean score of 2.56 and (S.D.=967). Group (2), It is stated that 11 (4.86%) of respondents were neutral with variations of the lexical subject which is more than other subjects. 125 (55.30%) of respondents were agree with it. 121 (53.53%) of respondents strongly agreed with variations of the lexical subject more difficulties than other subjects, and 5 (2.21%) of respondents disagreed with it. This statement one considered the moderate level mean score of 2.48 and (S.D.=958). Group (3), It is stated that 7 (3.09%) of respondents were neutral with variations of the lexical subject which is more than other subjects. 89 (39.38%) of respondents were agree with it. 121 (53.53%) of respondents strongly agreed with variations of the lexical subject more difficulties than other subjects, and 3 (1.32%) of respondents disagreed with it. This statement one considered the moderate level mean score of 2.56 and (S.D.=977).

In summary, this well-structured case study offers valuable insights into the variations of the Burmese language based on age in the specified region, and expanding on examples and addressing the suggested areas for improvement could enhance its impact.

Discussion

The discussion focuses on a research study regarding variations of the lexical Burmese language used by Myanmar students in Bangkok University. The study uses qualitative and quantitative methods with a population of 226 respondents, including in-depth interviews used for collecting qualitative data and data analysis from Bangkok University. In this research, statistics including Frequency, Percentage, Mean, and Standard Deviation (S.D.) were used for quantitative data, and content analysis was used for analyzing qualitative data.

The study's findings indicate that individuals from the new generation in central Myanmar students predominantly use the Burmeses dialect, aiming to assimilate with central Burmese speakers and avoid standing out. This trend, if sustained, could impact the traditional Burmese lifestyle. The researcher foresees a potential crisis for the Burmese language in the

coming generations if the community doesn't actively preserve and nurture their linguistic heritage.

It is crucial to explore whether variations in syntax structure increase through discourse analysis. The study also reveals significant cultural changes across all areas in the Bangkok University, Thailand, impacting the local population. By utilizing both historical research data and new findings, dialectologists in Myanmar can examine lexicon changes through comparable studies. This research serves as a valuable addition to language change theories, contributing to a deeper understanding of the mechanisms driving linguistic transformations.

Furthermore, the respondents' general point average has nothing to do with their performance because it's computed $x2$ 0.289 which is greater than the phi-value. It means that although the respondents had distinct performances during the fourth year of high school this does not affect their performance on the first quarter of the semester. The findings of this study agree with Prasit et al. (2011), wherein they found that there is no significant relationship between former school background or GPA and academic performance.

The assortment of the respondents' learning styles does not correlate with their performance on the said subject as its computed $x2$ exceeds the phi-value. Hence, the respondents' preferred learning styles are suitable and effective in the teaching-learning process.

Ultimately, the variations in personality among the respondents have no significant impact on their performance in the posttest, making them effective participants aligned with the instructor's discussion learning strategy. The constant communication along the border fosters cultural and linguistic exchanges, prompting consideration of lexical variations between the adjacent regions.

Suggestion

The study on variations in the Burmese language based on age in the used by Myanmar students in Bangkok University offers thorough insights, encompassing lexical changes, pronunciation, language attitudes, code-switching, formal vs. informal language, dialectal differences, and language maintenance. The comprehensive understanding provided by this research suggests its relevance to future studies addressing the same research topic and objectives.

1. Examine the language variations in the Burmese language used used by Myanmar students in Bangkok University.

2. Efforts to improve using the including lexical changes in the Burmese language for effectiveness.

3. Explore effective variations in the Burmese language to assess the effectiveness of inclusive language curricula and language preservation programs.

4. Explore dialectal variations in the Burmese language across different regions within the burmese district.

5. Investigate language variations in specific contexts such as family interactions, community events, and religious gatherings. Understand how language adapts to different communicative needs.

Suggestions for Further Studies

Including suggestions for further researcher, such as identifying unanswered questions or emerging trends, would encourage further exploration.

The researcher hopes this study can be a reference and a little inspiration for developing other research related to the variation of the Burmese language used in the Bangkok University.

Therefore, further study can present the following area and further studies are focused on what will be studied for;.....

1. A study of difficulty in variations of Burmese language based on age: case study of Burmese language used by Myanmar students in Bangkok University.

2. Developing the phobias in variations of the lexical Burmese language in the Bangkok University.

3. Dynamic variations in the spoken Burmese language: an in-depth analysis of linguistic diversity in the Bangkok University.

4. Investigate and document the lexical variations present in the spoken Burmese language among the diverse communities within the Bangkok University.

5. Unraveling the tapestry of linguistic diversity: variations in the Burmese language across communities in the Bangkok University, Thailand.

This set of research objectives aims to provide a comprehensive exploration of variations in the Burmese language within the Bangkok University, covering linguistic, cultural, and historical dimensions.

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