

## **Thai Netspeak : The Register of New Generation Thai for Internet Communication**

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**Abstract:** This research is aimed at the study of Thai netspeak in the age of globalization during 2012-2013. Thai netspeak is examined utilizing examples presented in the mass medium language and in teenager love stories (novels). The study utilized the social linguistics research method and stylistics analysis

The central conclusion of this research suggests that Thai netspeak is a new variety or version of the Thai language that does not share the same features of traditional speech and writing, but is rather a register of the new generation Thai for Internet communication where communication is primarily by typing and where the text is shown on a computer or Smartphone screen. The research found 6 distinctive features of Thai netspeak 1) Spelling Variation 2) Special Typing 3) Using Emoticons 4) Creations of the new words 5) Using Symbols 6) English and Thai words Mixed in one phrase or one sentence.

Thai netspeak used as a Mass Medium language is used to primarily satirize, to create a parody or to enhance the visual attractiveness of traditional written communication. For example, in teenager love stories (novels) when the last of characters are repeated this is used to show the character's emotional voice and enhance the general tone of the story. Emoticons are used to show the character's emotions.

**Keywords :** Thai netspeak, the register, new generation Thai, Internet communication

### **1.INTRODUCTION**

In Thailand, there are two schools of thought concerning emergence of Thai netspeak. The first, is concerned that the new generation Thai wasting too much time chatting on the internet and that they will eventually use Thai netspeak in writing and speaking, which will cause of the evolution of Thai written language and Thai speech. The second school of thought does not worry about that. Some of them are certain the new generation Thai will use Thai netspeak only for a short time. It is pop-culture of the moment (“จีมี” ไม่วินิตี ราชบัณฑิตยสถาน, 2553) But when I considered the Thai netspeak research, I found that it began around 1997 and Thai netspeak is still used in the Internet by new generation Thai. Thai netspeak is not used in Internet exclusively but can also be found in mass medium and the teenager love stories also.

There are, also, two differing opinions about netspeak in linguistics study. The first opinion is that netspeak is new form of human communication. It is more than aggregate of spoken and written features. It is neither “spoken writing” nor “written speech”, it is something fundamentally different from both writing and speech, it is a fourth medium (David Crystal, 2001 : 238) The contrasting opinion of netspeak in linguistics is that it is the result of merging speech and writing language; essentially, it is speaking by writing (Davis & Brewer, 1997)

It is interesting to study the features of Thai netspeak during 2012-2013 for understanding it as a fourth medium or the result of contact between speech and written language. In addition, I introduce Thai netspeak in teenager love stories and in Mass medium language, where it is used for special meaning.

### **2.RESEARCH METHODS**

This research surveyed and gathered Thai netspeak from the primary forums of new Thai generation. These include these popular Thai websites ; [www.yenta4.com](http://www.yenta4.com), [www.dek-d.com](http://www.dek-d.com), [www.panthip.com](http://www.panthip.com) and [www.facebook.com](http://www.facebook.com). The research found words that were different from standard Thai language and always used in those forums. Specifically, Thai netspeak was found in mass medium news headlines, Thai song's title, Thai movie's title and in teenager love stories published in 2012-2013.

Two research methods were used in this study. 1) Sociolinguistics Research. It is the study of the the relationship between language and society. 2) Stylistics Analysis. It is a part of several linguistics methods. It used for critical analysis of language style in order to understand the aim/intent of the text sender and the result/effect on the text receiver (such as the feeling, meaning understanding).

The important concepts in this research are from linguistics; the nature of language and language variety

*The nature of Language:* The language is a medium for communication of the humans. It has the features similar to the culture. It relays from a generation to a generation. It is systematic and humans come to use it by learning not by instinct. Further, language is changeable. It changes according to changes in lifestyle or society. This concept is helpful for understanding Thai netspeak as a medium for communication. When the society changed and created Internet communication, there was limited space for each message, there was a need for fast typing, there was no face to face interaction where one can see countenance and where one can hear tone, inflection or rhythm. Thus a new form of communication was created in order to enhance understanding and emotion with in the context of the Internet. Specifically, Thai Netspeak allows for an emotional face and emotional voice through a special language.

*Language Variety* A variety of language which is a system of linguistics expression where its use is governed by situational factors. In its broadest sense, this notion includes speech and writing, regional and class dialects, occupational genres (such as legal and scientific language), creative linguistic expression (as in literature) (David Crystal, 2001 : 6-7)

### 3.FINDINGS

**Thai netspeak features in the age of globalization during 2012-2013** recognized 6 main types.

**3.1. Spelling Variation:** this variation means the language forms are modified but only partially modified from the original word. (change some part, not change all)

- 1) *General spelling variation* for example อยู่ - อยุ่, รูป - รุปล, ไม่รู้ - ไมรุ้ , ทำไม - ทำมัย, ใจ - จัย, ใคร - คัย
- 2) *Pronunciation spelling variation* for example จริง-จิง, เสรีจ -เส็ด, เสรีา - เส้า, กรรม - กำ, ธรรมดา - ทำมชะดา, ช๊ะ - จ๊ะ, อะ - อะะ
- 3) *Impact to speech spelling variation* for example เลข - เรข, แล้ว - แراء, จ้า - จร้า, บ้า - บร้า, ค่ะ/คะ - คร่า/คร้า
- 4) *Spelling variation at the last alphabet of the word/phrase* for example ชะงั๊น - ชะงั๊ถ, เชน - เเชถ, กั๊น - กัถ

**3.2. Special Typing:** Variations and changes in typing in order to show emotion or special meaning.

1) *Alphabet Special Typing:* There is the case where the last letter is repeated or a special symbol is repeated such as ?(question mark) , ! (exclamation mark) and ๓ (Mai ya mok in Thai language) for present the tone of the voice. For example กรั๊ตตตตตตต ไม่อวาวว กั๊ากกกกก จ้าาา or for present the frequency and quantity for example ปมมีอจจจ (it means to clap many times) มีความสุขมากจจจจจ (it means to be very happy) or for the meaning emphasize for example เอมามาให้อ่านจจจจจจ้า (to emphasize the meaning of the word “จ้า”) คินคิจจจจจจจจกาน (to emphasize the meaning of the word “คินคิ”)

2) *Space Character for present seriously tone:* for example โ ช ค ดี ใ พื อ น (Lucky, my friend) ข อ โ ท ค น ะ (I apologize)

**3.3. Use of Emoticons:** The use of emoticons in order to display emotions or countenance. Emoticons were created for solving the problem in internet communication; the communicants can not see each other and can not hear each other voice

3.3.1) *single emoticons* for example

A: เกรคออกแล้ว ไม่ได้ A นะ

B : T^T

3.3.2) *Emoticons with text* It is used to display the text sender’s emotions and action for example

เพลงแน่นอก ^\_\_^ สุขออกไปเลย (smile)

สู้ๆนะคร้า ^^V (smile and show V sign)

ไปด้วยยย!! ^^/ (smile and show hand up)

### 4. CREATING NEW WORDS:

1) *Laughing Words:* There are several newly created words which display “laugh” meaning. There are different laughing acts and different feelings. For example: onomatopoeia words 555 อ่าๆ เอ็กกกกก , The word represents the laugh sound such as ออิ คริคริ หึหึ หุหุ

2) *Interjection Words:* They have several feeling interjection words. For example แอริยยย! อริยยย! อัยยัย! ห๊ะ! เง้อ! ง๊ะ/งะ เฮ้อ! ง่า!

3) *The ending of Sentence Words:* – in Affirmative sentence. For example อะ/อะ, จี as the sentence สวยอะ ซีดเลยอ่า ถ้าคนอะ เพิ่งทำเสร็จ— in question sentence อ่า อะ/อะ อะ จี as the sentence เท่าไหร่อะคะ ทำอะไร ช่วงนี้ไม่มีแต่คนนอนดึกอะ ไปไหนมาจ้

4) *“Nod” action words:* Some words are used to display a “nod” action for reply the affirmative sentence. For example อิม อะจ๊ะ อ่า/อะนะ จิม จื่อ/จื่อๆ

Such as A : อาทิดนี้จี้ กลับบ้านนนนน...

B : อิม...

5) *other words:* such as เทพ. เทพ means God. It means someone who has special talent or is very clever about doing something. For example, in an online game the player can raise his skill level by doing many quests. If he has a high level he will acquire a special skill, such as can flying, driving under water or having a pet etc. Such as หล่อซันเทพ (handsome same God) ฝีมือระดับเทพ (clever same God)

## 5. USING SYMBOLS:

1) ? (question mark) Thai language does not use question mark but in Thai netspeak the use of question mark symbol is used in the question sentences. I assume the text sender wants to make sense so fast to text receiver. They use it for receiver can notice it is question, not affirmative sentence. For examples เจอกันไม่รู้จิกมาขอถ่ายรูปด้วย ทำยังไรดี?? จำน้องด้วยยยมิ? เทื่อ?

2) ! (exclamation mark) It used for attract to the text receiver. For examples เก่งมมมม..จัดหนักไปนะ หลัง ดีเบตวะ!! อย่าให้เราต้องสวยแค่หน้าตาอย่างเดียว!!!

3) ... (Ellipsis mark) It used for continue meaning. It is English influences. Such as แต่เคยเจออีกแบบ คนตัวสูง...เง้อ เคี้ยวเตี้ย...นั่งข้างหลัง สวยเลย, มีความสุขมากๆ ร่ำรวย...มั่งคั่ง...มันคงจะดีกว่า

**6. ENGLISH AND THAI WORDS MIXED IN ONE PHRASE OR SENTENCE:** In Thai netspeak I found English words that always used in speech also. For example Ok จ้า ไม่เคย Fake Thanks จ้า กระเทียม Like

From this result, we see Thai netspeak is used for solving the problem in internet communication. The communicants can not contact by face to face, can not see each other emotions or action, can not hear each other voices and need to type fast for robust communication. Therefore, new generation Thai created Thai netspeak language for enhancing communication via the internet. Emoticons are used to show the emotions and action, the last of characters are repeated to show the tone of voice or emotion voice and spelling is changed with some words for faster typing. Furthermore, they created new words from always wrong typing. Such as เทพ. It always type wrong to เทพ (because the alphabet ม and ท are closed at keyboard), after that เทพ becomes to new word in same meaning of เทพ. The word ครับ type wrong to ครัซ always, after that ครัซ becomes to new word in same meaning of ครับ. The new words used for “nod” action in affirmative sentence. Such as อือ อิม จื่อ and they created the words to show the character. Such as there are many words has sub-meaning about cute or childhood character. For examples จิมิ คิตลุง จุงเบย อืออ. All of this supports the opinion about netspeak “It is neither ‘spoken written’ nor ‘written speech’, it is something fundamentally different from both writing and speech, it is fourth medium” (David Crystal,2001 : 238)

## Thai Netspeak Used as a Mass Medium Language

Thai netspeak is a variant from standard Thai language. Many Thai netspeak words display funny, childhood character and intimately meaning. So Thai netspeak used as mass medium language is primarily to satirize, to create a parody or to enhance the visual attractiveness. For example the headline in **M2F newspaper** on July 10th 2013 “ราชกิจรัชจิงมิชรรรมดา เณรคำ โทษแล้วโยม ชุกอเมริกา” They use “ราชจิงรัชจิง มิชรรรมดา” instead “ราชมากจริงๆไม่ชรรรมดา” This headline presents the meaning to satirize a monk, his name is “Kam”, he is wealthy from money laundering.

The headline in political news, **Komchadluek online** on August 8<sup>th</sup> 2013 “อุดมการณ์ปฏิวัติจุงเบย!! : มนุษย์สองหน้า” by Kan Salika. This headline used Thai netspeak word “จุงเบย” instead standard Thai word “จิงเลย” for satirize the red shirt protesters who come to Bangkok and show red star symbol for present they come for revolution Thai politic to complete democracy. But Kan says red shirt protesters not do for democracy but do for a wealthy capitalist who is the back up of them.

Thai netspeak used in the parody movie’s title for enhance the visual attractiveness and present funny substance. For example, the movie “ผู้ชายลัลล้า” by Ped choenyim, which is a story about 3 men who are best friends. Each has a wife but they flirt with other woman. Their wives follow them and discover what they do, so there are many funny happenings in this story. The word “ลัลล้า” means the happiness deal with independence or free from wife or work. This meaning contrast to their real status, they have wife and not free. Other example the



Thai netspeak during 2012-2013 has 6 distinctive features 1) Spelling Variation 2) Special Typing 3) Using Emoticons 4) Creation of New Words 5) Using Symbols 6) English and Thai word Mixed in one phrase or one sentence. It accords the research hypothesis. The new finding in this research is Thai netspeak is new register of Thai language, it is the effect from internet communication. Thai netspeak is neither spoken written nor written speech, but it is something fundamentally different from both writing and speech, it is fourth medium. Thai netspeak is used as the mass medium language in headline, movie's title and song's title to display the parody meaning and enhance the visual attractiveness. Thai netspeak used in teenager love stories such as spelling variation (for fun substance), use of Emoticons (for present character's emotions and countenance) and the last of character repeating (for show the character's voice and the general tone in the happenings in the story). The language stylistics in teenager love stories created from the effect of Thai netspeak.

This research uses linguistics method to study. The concept "The nature of language" and "Language variety" are useful and help us understand Thai netspeak as a new medium for communication of human in globalization. Moreover, Thai netspeak was created as a result of the communication problem with the internet. Namely, the communicants can not see each other and can not hear each other. Thai netspeak signify the human intelligent, we can create new communication technology, while we can create the language for use in that communication also.

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