'ตีโบก' อวจนภาษาเพื่อการสื่อสารในประเทศไทย
'Tibok' Argot Nonverbal Communication in Thailand

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บทคัดย่อ

การศึกษาครั้งนี้ มีวัตถุประสงค์ เพื่อวิเคราะห์ภาษาที่ปรากฏใน 'ตีโบก' อวจนภาษาในประเทศไทย ซึ่งประกอบด้วย ชนิดของคำ รูปแบบประโยค และลักษณะทางภาษาศาสตร์อื่น ๆ รวบรวมข้อมูลและวิเคราะห์ข้อมูลโดยเก็บรวบรวมข้อมูลจาก การสังเกต สัมภาษณ์ผู้ให้ข้อมูลหลัก รวมทั้ง ศึกษาข้อมูลที่เป็นเอกสารจากผู้ให้ข้อมูลหลักซึ่งเป็นผู้ที่มีประสบการณ์ มาเป็นเวลา 3 ปี และอาศัยอยู่ในจังหวัดเชียงราย ผลการศึกษาพบว่า 1) ชนิดของคำ ที่พบใน 'ตีโบก' อวจนภาษา เรียงลำดับจากมากไปหา น้อย ดังนี้ คำกริยา (44.10%) คำนาม(26.15%) คำคุณศัพท์(15.38%) กริยาวิเศษณ์(4.10%) คำบุพบท(3.59%), คำสรรพนาม (1.03%) คำสันธาน (0.51%) ตามลำดับ นอกจากนั้น พบว่า มีลักษณะทางภาษาอื่นๆ(5.13%) ที่พบในการศึกษาครั้งนี้ 2) รูป แบบประโยค จำแนกออกเป็น 3 รูปแบบ ได้แก่ บอกเล่าทั่วไป คำถาม และปฏิเสธ และ 3) ลักษณะทางภาษาศาสตร์อื่นๆ ที่พบ ใน'ตีโบก' อวจนภาษา พบว่ามีข้อแตกต่างที่ไม่สามารถนำมาจัดประเภทกับกลุ่มที่กล่าวมาข้างต้นได้ จำนวน 2 รูปแบบ คือ ใช้ ภาษาท่าทางที่แตกต่างกันแต่ให้ความหมายเดียวกันและใช้ท่าทางที่เหมือนกันแต่ให้ความหมายแตกต่างกัน นอกจากนั้น การแปล ความหมายของภาษา มีทั้งความหมายตรงและความหมายแฝง

คำสำคัญ ตีโบก, อวจนภาษา

Abstract

The purpose of this study aimed to analyze the Tibok argot nonverbal communication in Thailand, including parts of speech, syntactic structures of Tibok and other linguistic features. Data were collected and analyzed by descriptive and qualitative design using observations, interviews and document studies as the research instruments. Data collection process and instruments were employed by the key informants who had experienced in using Tibok argot for three years and lived in Chiangrai Province. The results were found as follows: 1) The part of speech found in Tibok argot sorted from the most to the least which were: verbs (44.10%), nouns (26.15%), adjectives (15.38%), adverbs (4.10%), prepositions (3.59%), pronouns (1.03%), conjunction (0.51%) respectively. In this study, it was also found other features (5.13%) appeared in Tibok. 2) Syntactic structures of Tibok found in this study could be classified into declarative, interrogative and negative sentences and 3) Other linguistic features were found in some figures of Tibok argot which could not be categorized. The two features were: different figures referred to the same meaning and same figures referred to different meanings. Besides, there were not only explicit meanings but also implicit meanings.

Keyword 'Tibok' Argot Nonverbal Communication

Introduction

People from different places and cultures around the world communicate using varieties of language and more than five-thousand languages in the world are in verbal and nonverbal varieties. So, people around the world have tried to communicate with other people by using expressions, gestures or body language called sign language to help them understand people from other languages, disabled people or specific groups of people who use the secret language for communication in the secret places such as in the prison.

From the researcher's experience with the some people who were arrested and have been inmates in the prison for three years revealed that there were too many people living together in the same building so the warden of each building had to use special language as a nonverbal communication, using signs or gestures to command or direct all the inmates to do something at the assembly. They mentioned that it was an unusual sign language used only for communicating with the others in the prison. Moreover, it was the prison's regulation that all the inmates were not allowed to communicate with other people not only by speaking or writing but also by using any technology. So when the inmates understood the argot language used by the wardens, they tried to imitate and used this specific languages with other inmates in the same building or the wardens in the prison or their relatives who visited them in order to communicate without saying such as begging for something, asking for help, reacting some response or expressing something confidential to someone special. It was the regulations that all the inmates in the prison had to do because of the protection for illegal things passing by all kinds of verbal communication. The argot language used in the prison is called "Tibok" which is an interesting language using gestures or signs for communicating.

"Tibok" argot is a nonverbal language for communication which is very significant for all people who would like to identify the meanings behind the gestures and it is also beneficial for all people in related fields who encountered with the consequences happened from the illegal or prohibited crimes. Therefore, the researcher would like to learn more and analyze the "Tibok" argot nonverbal communication used in Thailand.

Objective of the Study

To analyze the Tibok argot nonverbal communication in Thailand

Significance of the Study

1. This study is significant to the people who are interested in "Tibok" argot language used in prison. The results of this study is useful for many people who would like to understand the meanings, beliefs, values, culture and structures in terms of linguistics.

2. It is significant for linguists or people from outside linguistic fields who would like to acquire the verbal and nonverbal language for communication in Thailand.

Scope of the Study

1. The content of this study based on "Tibok" argot nonverbal communication language in Thailand using hands, arms, and body gestures, drawing and describing the meaning hidden in the language by the key informants.

2. The key informants were the three persons who had experienced in using and communicating with "Tibok" argot nonverbal communication for three years and lived in Chiangrai Province, Thailand.

Methodology

The key informants of this study were three persons who had experienced in using and communicating with "Tibok" argot nonverbal communication for three years who lived in Chiangrai Province, Thailand. Data collection process and instruments were as follows:

1. Observations : The researcher used the observation method to find for the information from the key informants. The researcher observed how the key informant present the "Tibok" argot language with body gestures to make a clear understanding, including the details and information written by their own languages in the notebook.

2. Interviews:The formal and informal interviews were used in order to ascertain the "Tibok" argot language information, discussed deeply in order to understand language use, meanings, colloquial, gestures, symbols, structures, synonyms, antonyms and notion.

3. Documentary Studies :The master pieces of the figures and description of the "Tibok" argot language were provided by the key informants and translated into English.

Data obtained were categorized into groups, tallied frequency, analyzed by using linguistic features and other relevant information, summarized and conducted the findings.

Results

The findings and description of the study divided into three parts; parts of speech, types of sentences and other linguistic features found in 'Tibok' as follows:

Part I: Parts of Speech

From the observation, there are 187 figures of Tibok found in this study, and their functions are used in different kinds of part of speech as shown in Table 1.

Table 1 : Part of Speech appeared in Tibok

Part of Speech	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Verb	86	44.10
Noun	51	26.15
Adjective	30	15.38
Adverb	8	4.10
Preposition	7	3.59
Pronoun	2	1.03
Conjunction	1	0.51
Others	10	5.13
Total	195	100.00

Figure 1: R = Aunt

Figure 2: R +U = Age

Part II: Syntactic Structure of Tibok

Three types of Syntactic Structure of Tibokwere found in this study; declarative, interrogative and negative.

Type 1: Declarative Type

Declarative theme was mainly focused on messages sent purposively to tell something. They may or may not want any reply. These figures were examples of this theme.

Figure 3: Example of declarative sentence 1

Figure 3 showed an example of declarative sentences. This sentence was formed with three independent words: Phom + Rak + Ther when combined together mean 'I love you'. It was Thai

syntactically composed as, 'Subject + Verb + Object'. Actually, the word 'Ther' is used specifically for a woman while 'Phom' is for a man, and 'Khun' can be neutral for both genders.
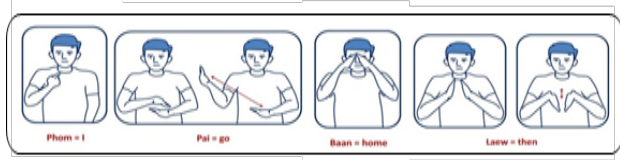

Figure 4: Examples of declarative sentence 2

This sentence is particularly different from the previous ones because the word 'Laew' in figure 4 means finished, done, already which was added in order to show past participle form of the word 'go'.

Type 2 : Interrogative Type

Interrogative theme was used to investigate the answers and many kind of information. Mostly in this theme composed of at least three figures for one sentence.

'Sa-bai Dee Mai' (how are you?)

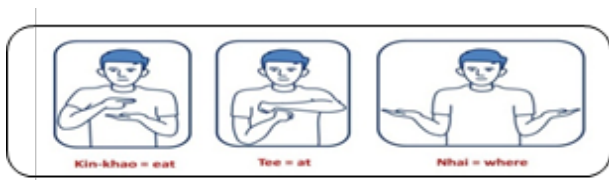'Kin-khao Tee Nai' (where do you eat?)

Figure 5: How are you?

Figure 6: Where do you eat?

Figure 5 and figure 6 demonstrate the examples of interrogative sentences. The sentencescould be identified in these forms as follows:

(1) Sabai Dee Mhai   fine good ?   (How are you?)

(2) Kin-Khao Tee Nai   eat - rice at where   (Where do you eat?)

Both sentences are mostly used in Thai syntax but using for; (1) the combination of two adjectives and a marker of question with a rising tone whereas form (2) the adverbial clause begins with a verb which comes along with a noun, a preposition and a marker of question. However, these two sentences employ different markers of question containing no subjects which is a Thai way of forming sentences.

If the speaker wants to emphasize the tense in a sentence, he/she will use the sentence which has a bit longer as in, 'Where are you going to eat?'

Figure 7: Where are you going to eat?

(Future indicator)   =   Ja Pai Kin-khao Tee Nhai
will go eat-rice at where (Where are you going to eat?)
Where are you going to have...breakfast, lunch, dinner..?
Where will you go for ...breakfast, lunch, dinner..?

From Figure 7, it can be indicated that the sentence is clearly a Thai syntax but there was not rarely found that subject and three verbs were put together: a modal verb (will), infinitive verb (go), and infinitive verb (eat). The word 'Ja' (will) is a future indicator showing that the action has not happened yet. To recognize the question forms in Tibok easily was to look for these words: Mai (?), Nai (where), Rue (?), A-rai (what), and Krai (who). It is also found a sentence which formed by using two words; 'Tham-a-rai' (What are you doing?) shown in figure 11. This gesture is to stranglehold right hand and put over the left palm, and moves up and down. Syntax construction indicates as a verb with Wh- question word: Tham (do) + A-rai (what?). The word 'Tham-a-rai' does not indicate any tense of this sentence, but it can be implied that the speaker is asking at the actual

moment to communicate with someone.

Figure 8 : What are you doing?

Three different gestures of the word 'A-rai' (what) illustrates as follows;

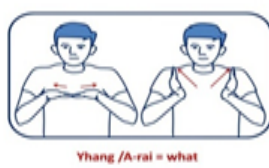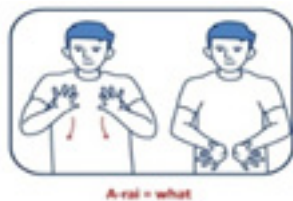Figure 9 :Gesture 1 : A-rai (what)Figure 10 : Gesture 2 : A-rai (what)

Figure 11 : Gesture 3 : A-rai (what)

Figure 9 demonstrates gesture 1: A-rai (what) by raising both hands into V shape with arms straight along your body and show palms up. Figure 10 demonstrates gesture 2: A-rai (what) by putting both hands upside down in the level of one's chest, and then raising both hands straight up. Figure 11 demonstrates gesture 3: A-rai (what) by showing both palms with back hands against one's chest then putting them together and outstretching.

Type 3 : Negative Type

Negative theme contained with the word 'Mai' which means 'no', illustrated in figure 12, to showing negative or to refuse. This figure displays both hands with five fingers each and shakes them to the right and left.

Figure 12 : No

In this study, it is mostly noticed that one figure or one action represented one word. However, among the words observed in the study, there are some words which composed more than one action; for instance, 'tomorrow' (2 actions), while 'television' (3 actions), and 'love' (4 actions) illustrate in Figure 13-15 as follows;
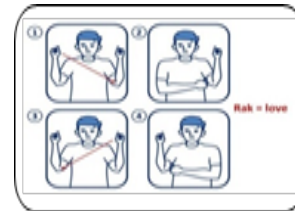

Figure 13 : Tomorrow
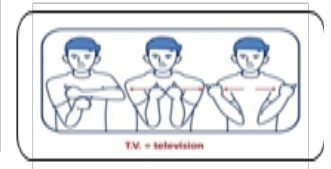

Figure 14 : Love   Figure 15 : Television

Part III: Other Linguistic Features

From the investigation of Tibok, it was found that there were some other kinds of linguistic features which containing the same meaning but using figures differently as well as some words use similar figures but convey two or more meanings. Details are as follows;

1. Different figures referred to the same meaning

There are two groups of figure differences referred as the same meaning in Tibok.

The first group consists of the following words;

'Laew' (already, finished, done) '   'Rak' (love)   'Nae' (sure)

'Koey' (ever)   'Dai' (okay)   'Loey' (over side)

'Dee' (good)   'Narn' (long time)   'Tao-kan' (equal)

'Tok long' (okay)   'Sa-bai' (fine)   'Krueng' (half)

'Fark' (deposit)   'Harm' (stop, don't)   'Thueng' (arrive)

'Lerkkan' (terminate)   'Keb' (keep)   'Klab' (turn)

The following figures (Figure 16 – 19) are shown as the example words used inTibok which containing two figures but both of them defined the same meaning.

Figure 16 :Laew   Figure 17: Laew

Figure 18: Love   Figure 19: Television

Figure 16 and 17 represent the word 'Laew' (already, finished, done). It also indicates past tense which does not appear in Thai language. Figure 18 and 19 represent the movements to compose the word 'Love' in Tibok.

The second group consists of the following words which are;

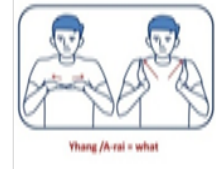'A-rai' (what), 'Koy' (wait), 'Fun/ Han/ Tad' (cut).

These kinds of words present in different figures but they are the same meanings as shown in Figure 18 – 20 below;

Figure 18: A-rai   Figure 19: A-rai   Figure 20 :Yhang/ A-rai

Figure 18-20 demonstrate the word 'A-rai' (What) used in the interrogative sentence. The word in Figure 20 can be pronounced in northern Thai dialect.

The two following words in the Figure 21-26 are also presented in this group.

Figure 21:Koy   Figure 22 : Ror/ Koy   Figure 23:Ror/ Koy

Figure 24: Koy   Figure 25: Ror/ Ko   Figure 26:Ror/ Koy

2. Same figures referred to the different meanings

In this study, it was found that seven figures contained two meanings;

'Wok' (monkey/lie)'Kwai' (buffalo/stupid) 'Kluay' (banana/easy)

'Lhang' (back/behind) 'Kad' (market) 'Ar-kad'

(air) 'Thorn' (pull out withdraw).

Besides, there are not only explicit meanings but also obtain the implicit meanings. Details of the theme are shown in Table 2;

Tibok	Explicit meaning (First meaning)	Implicit meaning (Second meaning)
Wok	a kind of monkey (noun)	to lie (verb)
Kwai	a buffalo (noun)	stupid (adjective)
Kluay	a banana (noun)	easy (adjective)
Lhang	a back (noun)	behind (preposition)
Kad	a market (noun)	air (noun)
Thorn	to pull out (verb)	to withdraw (verb)

From Table 2, the word 'Wok' actually means a kind of monkey. It is a northern Thai word. It can also use as the meaning of 'to lie'. This word is used in northern Thai language. The word 'Kwai' does not only mean 'a buffalo', but also imply for 'stupid'. When it is used, it means 'you are stupid'. Moreover, a buffalo in Standard Thai is formally used as 'Kra-bue'. The word 'Kluay' or 'banana' is also recognized the same in this group. Functions of three words are different, for the first meanings are nouns and the second meanings are adjectives. Besides,, the gestures presented in Figure 32 meaning the same for two nouns; market and air. The word 'Kad' in Figure 27 means 'market' which is pronounced in Northern Thai dialect whereas 'Ta-lard' is pronounced in Standard Thai. The word 'Thorn' in Figure 28 functions as a verb for both meanings; 'to pull something out' and 'to withdraw money from the bank'.

Figure 27: Kad/ A-kad

Figure 28: Thorn

Summary and Discussion

Tibok is the nonverbal communication language that people use to send messages through the movements of hands, using for people who stand in a distance can interact and easily communicate. It can be classified as argot or a secret or special language used in a specific group of people with high intention. Argot is also generally defined as a language of thieves, but it is also applied to other groupings, too (Bowker, 1980; Nielson &Scrapitti, 1995). The findings in this study can be discussed as follows;

Part I: Parts of Speech: From the result, it was found that verbs were mostly use in the part of speech of Tibok in order to illustrate actions while nouns, adjectives, adverbs, pronouns, prepositions, and conjunction were ranked lower than verbs respectively. Besides, words which could not be categorized were grouped together in others,discussed as follows;

Nouns were put into four groups, and they obtained specific significances. The first group was nouns referred to person included words relating to kinships and general words. The second group was nouns referred to things which included small groups of food, fruits, parts of body, and lawsuits. Nouns referred to food were compound words combination between verbs and nouns; for instance, LaabMhoo, LaabPla, and LaabKwai. The third group was nouns referred to animals. There were four words in this group. Two of them conveyed both connotative and denotative meanings as in 'Kwai' and 'Wok'. Also, these words were colloquial or spoken form. The last group was nouns referred as places including 'Baan', 'Sarn' and 'Kard'. The word 'Kard' was mentioned to be Kham Muang- a language used by people living in northern Thailand.

Verbs often used in pairs of antonyms in order to show the people's different actions. Moreover, there were verbs came together with complements

to form phrases, and the meanings were exactly the same in both Thai and English language ; for instance, 'Kin-ya' (take a medicine), 'Thai-roop' (take a photo), 'Zak-phaa' (wash clothes), and 'Arb-nam' (take a bath).People use 'Jah, Kha, Krub' to refer to 'Yes'. These particle words were used according to the gender of a speaker. 'Jah', signifying politeness and friendliness, was used by both genders. 'Kah' was especially used by females whereas 'Krub' was used only by males.

Besides, Angkana (2005:10) stated that universal emotions are expressed similarly worldwide related to happiness, fear and sadness. However, there were a few words found in Tibok similar to the mentioned words; for example, 'khod' (hug), 'horm' (kiss), 'ronghai' (cry), "rak' (love), and 'jai' (heart). These words are expressed emotionally by some means.

Code/ Variety: Standard Thai, Kham Muang and English language : There were varieties of code represented in Tibok including Standard Thai, Kham Muang (northern Thai), and English. Most of the words were in Standard Thai language though some of them were pronounced using northern Thai style which called Kham Muang; for example, Kard (market), Wok (monkey/ to lie), Fun (cut), Khai-hua (laugh), Lom-khuen (faint), Lum (delicious), and Yhang (what). Whereas T.V. was classified in English abbreviation, borrowing from English and using in a short form of 'television'. It is actually used as 'torathat' in Standard Thai.

Colloquial: There are no colloquial in English like in Thai language. In Thai language, there are formal and informal forms of words. In English, a couple who married together can be called a husband and a wife while in Thai language, they are 'Samee' and Panraya' for the formal and standard form, and 'Pwua' and 'Mia' is used for informal and spoken form. Another example was 'Kwai' known as spoken form, or 'Kra-bue' in Standard Thai. Northern Thai

people including the informants and Tibok users, which are native northern Thai people, use all spoken form, but a standard form is occasionally used.

Part II: Types of Sentence: There were three main forms of sentences composed in Tibok. These forms were quite different from English sentence structures due to this kind of language, in this study, it was used by Thai people, especially by northern Thai people; therefore, Thai sentence structure was used. In Thai language, words were not modified or conjugated for tenses, person, possession, number of person, gender, or subject-verb agreement. The other forms of linguistics are accomplished with the addition of modifying words to the basic 'subject-verb-object' word order. Sentence patterns found in Tibok could be categorized into three groups: declarative, interrogative, and negative sentences.

Generally, a declarative sentence in English emphasizes on a subject and a verb while a sentence in Thai often omits a subject pronoun (Lingvosoft online: 1990). Furthermore, verbs in Thai language neither inflect nor obtain any participles. Tense makers convey tenses, and they are placed either before or after the verb including 'Ja' (will) indicating future tense, 'Laew' (already, done, finished) indicating past tense. This is contrast to Lingvosoft online (2011) which indicates that the word 'Laew' is used in present perfect progressive tense as shown in 'Khao kin sap-pa-rot laew' (He has been eating pineapples).

In English language, auxiliary verbs; be, do, and have, regularly used at the beginning of an interrogative sentence. Some interrogative sentence begins with wh-, for a speaker want to have a specific answer. Question words are put at the end of the sentence shown by the words 'A-rai' (what), 'Nhai' (where), 'Mhai' (?), 'Rue' (?), 'Yhang' (what), 'Krai' (who). In the case, the word 'Mhai' (M) is used as an alternative if you just expect a yes or no answer; for instance, 'nnam yen mhai' means 'Is the water

cool?'. This is similar to making a statement and then asking "isn't it?' (Lingvosoft online: 1990).

In Thai language, words are placed differently even a speaker wants to form a question. It is general to use auxiliary verbs in a negative sentence. 'Don't' is usually used when a speaker wants to make a negative sense of the sentence whereas the word 'mai' (say it with rising tone and strong feeling) which means 'no' is used in Thai language.

Part III: Other linguistic features: Often, many manners presented in Tibok convey the same meaning what so called syno-gestures as well as one gesture can be conveyed different meanings. The meanings embedded in manners or gestures can be recognized and interpreted differently depends on cultures and knowledge. Hudson (1980) stated that argot obtained dynamic changes; therefore, it does not rely on the concept of one word equals one meaning. There are many new words, terms and expressions invented and used hence the old words are likely to change their meanings in new contexts.

Recommendation

Recommendation for Application

This study can be applied to the people who are interested in sign language and who would like to study more in related field of non-verbal communication or would like to know how people use this kind of sign language to communicate with each other. Not only for those reasons but the study also provided information for people who work related to inspect criminals or to understand if this language is used for doing illegal things.

Recommendation for Further Study

The further study can be suggested as follow;

1. Study about other specific languages which are used by people in specific fields of interests; for example, sports, hobbies, careers, etc.

2. Compare the nonverbal communication used in Thai language and other languages.

3. Analyze the deep meanings underlying the sign language.

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