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A CONTRASTIVE ANALYSIS OF TYPES OF NOUN IN THAI AND ENGLISH

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Abstract

The Thai language is Thailand's national language, written in its own alphabet, which is used to speak as the Thai standard language by Thai people. The Thai language is classified as a member of the Tai language group within the Tai-Kadai language family, which originated in what is now Southern China. The English language is a West Germanic language that was first spoken in Anglo-Saxon England in the early middle Ages. It is now the third most widely used language in the world, behind Mandarin and Spanish. The aim of this article mainly concentrates on a contrastive study of the types of nouns in Thai and English. It has been observed that there are a lot of differences in the syntactic features of these two languages. It is very interesting to note that some similarities among the nouns in these two languages. In Thai language, there are no variants forms of plural forms of noun.

Keywords: Thai language, Tai-kadai, English language, Nouns, Contrastive analysis.

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Introduction

This article is mainly concentrates on a contrastive study of the types of nouns in Thai and English. It has been observed that there are a lot of differences in the syntactic features of these two

languages. It is very interesting to note that some similarities among the nouns in these two languages. In Thai language, there are no variants forms of plural forms of noun.

Thai language

The Thai language is Thailand's national language, written in its own alphabet, which is used to speak as the Thai standard language by Thai people. The Thai language is classified as a member of the Tai language group within the Tai-Kadai language family, which originated in what is now Southern China. The Thai language consists of 42 consonant signs, as well as vowel and tone markers, and is written using an alphabet based on the Khmer alphabet, which is derived from the ancient family of Brahmic scripts. The Thai adopted and modified the Khmer script to create a writing system appropriate to the expression of the Thai language.

Thai Language is a language that is isolating language, whereas English language is inflectional language. They belong to the different family of languages which is different in syntactic system; however, they are almost the same in the morphological system and word-formation.

English language

The English language is a West Germanic language that was first spoken in Anglo-Saxon England in the early middle Ages. It is now the third most widely used language in the world, behind Mandarin and Spanish. It is spoken in many countries around the world. It is often used in work and travel, and there are at least a billion people who are learning it. This makes English the second most spoken language, and the most international language in the world. English belongs to the Indo-European family of languages and is therefore related to most other languages spoken in Europe and western Asia from Iceland to India

English language has grammatical systems, structures and patterns of sentences which are different from Thai Language. Thai Language is Isolating Language which is not the same of English. It is difficult to study English for Thai people. If there is a contrastive of both the language, it will help one who knows one language and wants to study both the languages easily. A contrastive of Thai and English of noun to find out the similarities and differences would make the language learner understand of both the languages even more.

As we have seen the benefit in the study of two languages that they are the resting things, the researcher is interested in a contrastive of noun in Thai and English to discover the similarities and dissimilarities between both the languages. It is useful to connect learning skill of both languages to understand more easily, and other sciences as well as it may be useful for teachers

who teach Thai or English and students who study Thai or English as well. Thai and English languages have differences and similarities (Kanetnog, 2010)¹.

Contrastive Analysis

Contrastive Analysis is the study of the similarities and differences between languages. Contrastive analysis is the systematic study of a pair of languages with a view to identifying their structural differences and similarities.

Crystal (2008)² said that “In the study of foreign language learning, the identification of points of structural similarity and difference between two languages.”

Richards, Platt and Weber (1985)³ added that “Contrastive analysis was developed and practiced in the 1950s and 1960s as application of structural linguistics to language teaching.”

According to Johnson (1998)⁴ in Encyclopedic Dictionary of Applied Linguistics, a contrastive analysis describes the structural differences and similarities of two or more languages. As an area of enquiry, contrastive Analysis is concerned with the principles and uses of such descriptions.

Aim and objectives of the study

- To study and analysis of noun in Thai and English
- To find out the similarities and dissimilarities of noun in Thai and English

Research Methodology

A contrastive analysis of Thai and English at this time is the documentary and qualitative study which has the methodologies and procedures consisting of the processes as follows:

The researcher studied the data collecting and compiling from sources concerned with noun in Thai and English.

The researcher operated to analysis the data in the different points as shown below:

- A classification of type's nouns in Thai and English.
The researcher was analysed the different and contrast the similarities and dissimilarities of noun in Thai and English as follows:
- A contrastive of noun in Thai and English.

Nouns in Thai language and English

A nouns is a word which is used as the name to person, thing, animal, place, quality, characteristic, person etc. (Walter, 2002)⁵.

1. Common nouns

Common nouns are in Thai language. They are called **สามัญนาม (Sa-ma-na-ya-nam)** Some (sa-ma-na-ya-nam) in Thai language, they are no gender and do not bent, there no plural forms or articles. For example: แขน / kǎen /arm, หลัง/ lǎng/ back, หน้าอก / nǎa òk / chest etc.

Common nouns in English are used to refer to general things rather than specific examples. Common nouns are not normally capitalized unless they are used as part of a proper name or are placed at the beginning of a sentence.

For example: girl, city, animal, friend, house, food.

Some of the common nouns in English language doesn't have plural forms, e.g. sheep (Nathong, 2003)⁶.

2. Proper Nouns

Proper nouns in English are include the days of the week, the months of the year, towns, cities, streets, states, countries, and brands. A proper noun which is the name given to something to make it more specific. Proper nouns are beginning with capital letters regardless of where they appear in a sentence. For example: John, London, Pluto, Monday, France.

Proper nouns in Thai language. They called **วิสามัญนาม Vi-sa-ma-na-ya-nam**. Vi-sa-ma-na-ya-nam is the name of person, thing, animal and place. In the Thai language, they are used normally. They need no the capital letter. But in English, they are begun with the capital letter. This is the difference in use between the Thai language and the English language. The capital letter doesn't appear in the Thai language.

For example, The name of person: สำราญ /sǎm-raan/ Samran, The name of animal: ขาว /kǎao/ with, The name of thing: ปากกา / bpàak gaa/ Pen, The name of place: วัดโพธิ์ / Wát- po / Wat Po.

3. Collective Nouns

Collective noun in English is a noun that mention to a group of people or things as one unit. Although typically words that recognize more than one person, place, or thing are made plural in the English language, collective nouns are irregularity.

For example: staff, team, crew, herd, flock, and bunch etc.

Collective noun in Thai language called **สมุหนาม** sa-mu-ha-nam. Sa-mu-ha-nam are a name of people of group and animal etc. The collective noun is the noun which is used to mention the group of people and animal.

For example: คณะ / ká-ná / group, ทีม / team / team, ฟอง / fõong / guoup etc.

4. Abstract Nouns

Abstract noun in English language is a noun that denotes an intangible concept such as an emotion, a feeling, a quality, or an idea. In other words, an abstract noun does not denote a physical object. An abstract noun is the name of a quality, action or state. Abstract nouns refer to ideas that we cannot see or touch.

For example: time, happiness, bravery, creativity, justice, freedom, speed etc.

Abstract noun in Thai language called **อาการนาม** A-gan-nam. An abstract noun refers to the noun which is the characteristic, the statute and the action of the thing. They don't have the shape and can't touch. In Thai language abstract noun came from noun, verb and adjective.

For example: ความสุข / kwaam sùk / happiness, ความทุกข์ / kwaam túk / sorrow, ความงาม / kwaam ngaam / beauty.

5. Countable Nouns and Uncountable Nouns

In English language, Countable noun is a noun which can be counted whether available in the form of singular or plural. Examples of countable nouns are like dog, tree, house, friend, book, orange, etc. Uncountable nouns are always considered to be singular, and can stand alone or be used with some, any, a little, and much. For example: water, coffee, cheese, sand, furniture, skin, wool, gold, and fur etc. In English use singular verbs with the singular countable nouns whereas plural verbs are used with the plural countable nouns.

In Thai language every noun is non-countable, therefore the plural and singular forms in Thai Language are the same. Thai language use numerals classifiers in place of a plural marking system. They use only numerals classifiers instead of plural forms.

Conclusion

In Thai language, there are no variants forms of plural forms of noun. Unlike English nouns, the morphological marks are not used to imply plural nouns. Thai language use numerals classifiers in place of a plural marking system. Therefore the plural and singular forms in Thai Language are the same, but in English the plural and singular forms are difference. Proper nouns in English language are beginning with capital letters, but in Thai language do not have capital letters.

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