Slang Words from Loanwords Reflecting Thais' Language Use on the Facebook Fan Page "Tai Tiang Dara"

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Abstract
This article aims to present results of an analysis of slang words from loanwords reflecting Thais' language use on the Facebook fan page *"Tai Tiang Dara"* collected between September and November 2017 from a total of 344 posts to reflect Thai culture in language use during this period. It was found that there were 23 slang words classified into two categories: words from other languages and words from Thai dialects. Of 21 words from other languages, 18 are from English, 2 Korean, and 1 Chinese while only two slang words are borrowed from a Thai dialect. The 18 words borrowed from English are mum, babe, he, she, guru, pay, happy, know, drama, boy, bed, fin, mouth, way, sis, friend, and focus; two from Korean are *oppa* (오빠), and *annyeong* (□) and one from Teochew Chinese *seiy* (财主), and two words from a Northeastern Thai dialect are "sap" and "nua". The results of the analysis reflect Thai culture in language use, particularly preference in using loanwords from other languages over Thai dialects because foreign languages have influence on Thais in various aspects from mass communication to education which makes them easier to access than Thai dialects which are usually accessed through studying or mingling with the speech community.

Keywords: slang, loanwords, culture

Introduction

Slang words are words derived from various factors. Some are derived from a situation at the time. For example, the word "Tueanchai" is derived from a murder case about which newspapers used a phrase "Khati tuenchai" so often that the last part of it became a slang word. Others are derived from entertainment of various forms such as an exclamation "Hai tai thoe Robin! (Damn it Robin!)" that comes from a film; and a phrase from a song "Ao khuam thuk pai thing thale (Throw the troubles into the sea.)" (Khanitthanan, 1993, p. 36; Kanchanathat, 1999, pp. 29-30).

Presently, slang words are more popularly used in Thai society as a result of the fact that language users use them for various reasons. For example, in order to reduce stress or strict language usage, they say "Pai sawan (Go to heaven)" instead of "Tai (die)"; to express a strong emotion or satirity, they use "apple" instead of the Thai word "Appri (unpropritious)" (Khanitthanan, 1993, p. 37-38; Kanchanathat, 1999, pp. 29-30).

Slang words can be made by borrowing foreign words using transliteration techniques such as the word "Heng suai" in Thai comes from the Chinese word (兴衰) meaning without principles and not reliable but when used as a Thai slang word, it means "very bad". Some slang words comes from a dialect not the standard Thai language such as the word "Li" which is a northeastern Thai word originally means beautiful but when used as a slang word, it means "flirting" (Khanitthanan, 1993, p. 30-33; Thewaphalin, 1988, pp. 54-57).

Slang words made from loanwords from another language or dialect are popular because language is transferred and exchanged between cultures or races all the time. Moreover, sometimes using loanwords makes it easier to understand than using a standard word in the speaker's own language. Presently, many slang words that are loanwords are found in online communication. Facebook is one of the most popular networking websites with an increase number of users that went over 10 percent in the past year (Kemp, 2019).

Facebook is an online social networking website that allows users to create various forms of communication that can be used for various purposes. Some members use it for communicating with other members while some use it for commercial purposes. They can also create a group which is a public feature of Facebook called a fan page which offers a space for members to recount or transfer their interest so that other members with the same interest can interact and freely express their opinions. One of the most popular fan page where members share their interest about famous actors and actresses in Thailand and other countries is the page *"Tai Tiang Dara"* meaning under the stars' beds. On this Facebook fan page, many informal and slang words made from loanwords from other languages or Thai dialects are used to convey emotions and feelings. As a result, there are more than 2.5 million followers of the page (Tai Tiang Dara, 2019).

 The importance of slang words used on the fan page and of the fan page *"Tai Tiang Dara"* itself prompted the researcher to investigate slang words from loanwords that reflect the Thai language use culture on the Facebook online social networking web

page *"Tai Tiang Dara"* which is a language use phenomenon that reflects a social dimension of Thai society.

Objective

To investigate slang words from loanwords that reflect Thais' language use culture on the Facebook fan page *"Tai Tiang Dara"*.

Hypothesis

Slang words from loanwords that reflect Thais' language use on the Facebook fan page *"Tai Tiang Dara"* from other languages are found to be more in number than those from Thai dialects.

Concepts, theories and conceptual frameworks

Slang words are words borrowed from other languages and local dialects for use with specific persons or items instead of words in the standard Thai language. For example, the word "Chai hot", the last part of which comes from the English language. This slang word is used to mean "hot-tempered". Another example is the word "Sap", a slang word meaning "spicy hot and delicious" which comes from a northeastern Thai dialect (Thewaphalin, 1988, pp.54-57; Khanitthanan, 1983, pp. 30-33).

Methods

1. Investigate concepts on slang words that are borrowed from other languages and local dialects.

2. Collect posts from the Facebook fan page *"Tai Tiang Dara"*, particularly posts that were posted by the admin of the fan page excluding posts relating to advertisements during the period September to November 2017 totaling 344 posts.

3. Analyze the slang words from loanwords reflecting Thai culture from the Facebook fan page *"Tai Tiang Dara"* from September to November 2017 based on Khanitthanan's concept on slang words derived from loanwords (Khanitthanan, 1993, pp. 30-33; Thewaphalin, 1988, pp. 54-57).

4. Present the study results using descriptive analysis with examples and tables presenting the results in numbers and percentages.

Results

The study found 23 slang words from loanwords that reflected Thai culture especially on language use on the Facebook fan page *"Tai Tiang Dara"* which could be classified into two categories as follows.

1. Slang words from words borrowed from foreign languages—a total of 21 word were found, of which 18 were loanwords from the English language: mum, bebe, he, she, guru, pay, happy, know, drama, boy, bed, fin, mouth, way, sis, friend, runway,

and focus; two from the Korean language: *oppa* (오빠), and *annyeong* (□), and one from Teochew Chinese *seiy* (财主).

2. Slang words from words borrowed from a Thai dialect—a total of 2 words were found: "Sap" and "Nua".

They could be explained in detail as follows.

1. Slang words from words borrowed from foreign languages

A total of 21 slang words was found in this category; 18 were from the English language, mum, bebe, he, she, guru, pay, happy, know, drama, boy, bed, fin, mouth, way, sis, friend, runway, and focus; two from the Korean language: *oppa* (오빠), and *annyeong* (□), and one from Teochew Chinese *seiy* (财主). They were detailed as followed.

1.1 English: 18 words were found: mum, bebe, he, she, guru, pay, happy, know, drama, boy, bed, fin, mouth, way, sis, friend, runway, and focus as in the following Post 1 and Post 2.

Example 1
"Well, *Sis*, at the moment netizens seem to be rather obsessed with something about major wives; Thinking of the scene the day before yesterday when *She*, Mae Khem Ru, came on Ploeng Bun; only her walking into the scene was intimidating enough. Even that cool Ee Roeng gave in!"

(Tai Tiang Dara, September 22, 2017)

The word, "Sis" in Example 1 is a slang word borrowed from the English word "sister". It is used with the same meaning as it is in English. However, when it is used as a slang word in the above example, it is used by an actress speaking to her escort to show intimacy meaning that they are as close as sisters. It is used among close friends to show their close relationship. Therefore, the example indicates a context of a close relationship.

The word "She" in Post 1 above is a slang word borrowed from English and is used instead of the word "woman". In this context, "she" is modified by the word "Mae" to praise Khem Ru, with a respectful tone as she is well-respected. Thus, the phrase "She, Khem Ru" is to express admiration for Khem Ruchira, a famous TV actress.

Example 2
"I feel really sorry for *Mum* Phloi. If you followed Phloi Choe's IG, you would have seen her always visiting and taking care of her grandma at home and the hospital. On the 5th of last September, her grandma passed away because of old age. My deepest condolences to Khun *Mum*. Be strong and of good courage. /holding hands

#Under Khun *Mum*'s sorrow, #Under Dear Grandma

(Tai Tiang Dara, September 7, 2017)

"Mum" in Post 2 above is borrowed from the English word "mom" or "mother" but when used as a slang word in this context it refers to a woman who is highly respected for her expertise in her career. The use of the word "Mum" in the above example is used to refer to Phloi Choe, a famous actress who has long been in her entertainment career. This indicates the admin of the page's respect for her well-rounded characteristics.

1.2 Korean: Two Korean words were found: *oppa* (오빠)*,* and *annyeong* (형) as shown in the following example.

Example 3
This is the origin of "Klong loves Kan; Kan loves Klong." Ha ha ha. From a young northeastern Thai man in that program the other day to being "Lua (hubby)" today with an international *oppa* style. The four of us don't have to come   at the same time. Only one can come alone is enough.

#Under Kan of Luk Ket Team, #Under oppa, # Under Klong loves Kan, #Under being lua

<div align="right">(Tai Tiang Dara, September 28, 2017)</div>

The word: *oppa* (오빠) is borrowed from Korean meaning an older brother (used by a woman only). However, in the above example, when used as a slang word, it is a word used by Thai women to refer to Korean actors for whom they have admiration. In the above example, "…with an international *oppa* style", the word *oppa* (오빠) is used to refer to a Thai actor who looks like a Korean actor.

Example 4
She, Am the same person with an additional talent, dancing, can dance beautifully twisting her hip, shaking her head, dancing however crazily is so lively, lovely, irresistibly and *annyeong* in whatever she does. Cut and focus on me too, please. Ha ha ha. Ma says Dtac is so smooth that she would not trade it with anything at all.

#Under Am Pat dancing style, #Under loveliness #Under attractive whatever she does, # Under would not trade it with anything

<div align="right">(Tai Tiang Dara, September 10, 2017)</div>

The word *annyeong* (□) in Example 4 above is borrowed from Korean. It is used for greeting and saying goodbye, Hello, Hi, Good bye, Bye, but when used as a slang word in the above context, it means very good or excellent. The word *annyeong* in the statement, "…so lively, lovely, irresistibly and *annyeong* in whatever she does" conveys a meaning that Am Patcharapha, a famous actress is so beautiful, lively, lovely and attractive.

1.3 Chinese: One word was found. The word *seiy* (财主) in Teochew Chinese was the only word found in the present study as in the following Example 5.

Example 5
This is really *sap*. It makes me wanna be *Seiy* Chiang's daughter-in-law right now. Well, here is Grace of Sticky Rice and Grilled Pork, who is now grown up and so smart. She has filed a request to dress as a man on her graduation day and to take part in the commencement ceremony. "Let us be what we are on the day we are most proud of."
#Under Grace, *Seiy* Chiang's daughter, #Under Sticky Rice and Grilled Pork, #Under graduation day, #Under Let us be what we are on the day we are most proud of.

(Tai Tiang Dara, September 28, 2017)

The word *seiy* (财主) in Example 5 above is borrowed from Teochew Chinese meaning donation or a rich man but when used as a slang word it has a broader meaning which is "an elder rich man of Chinese descent who usually has a young woman as a mistress". Therefore, the statement "It makes me wanna be *Seiy* Chiang's daughter-in-law right now." indicates that Chiang is an elderly rich man of Chinese descent, and only the word *Seiy* is needed to convey this long meaning.

2. Slang words from words borrowed from a Thai dialect

A total of two slang words was found in this category. They were "Sap" and "Nua" which are from a northeastern Thai dialect. No words from other Thai dialects were found. The two words were found in the context shown by the following Example 6 and Example 7.

Example 6
Pi Mai's grandpa was here to explain so many issues. He said "It is normal for a couple to quarrel. What is the matter that they will get a divorce? I don't' know but I don't want to interfere my children. If they cannot solve the problem, then I'll help clear it up."

"If a man does not love his children and his wife, which dog will he love?"

"Wow! This is so *"sap"* and so direct, Grandpa. Ha ha ha."

#Under Grandpa's words, #Under Grass leaves Bonanza, #Under A man does not love his children and his wife, which dog will he love, #Under Songkran and Af's bed leg

(Tai Tiang Dara, September 23, 2017)

The word *"Sap"* in Example 6 above is borrowed from a northeastern Thai dialect meaning delicious. However, when it is used in the above context, it means like, very good, excellent, and perfect. The word is easy to pronounce and conveys an exact meaning of feeling and emotion that is more than the meaning "delicious" for food. In the statement "Wow! This is so *"sap"* and so direct, Grandpa. Ha ha ha." communicates the speaker's behavior, feeling, and emotion. It also conveys the speaker's close relationship with the listeners.

The word *"Nua"* in Example 7 above is borrowed from a northeastern Thai dialect meaning mellow and delicious. However, when it is used in the above context, it means being satisfied, meeting the emotional needs or serving the purpose. The statement "Wow! This is so *"sap"* and *"nua."* Conveys a meaning that this statement by Khan-ngeon is direct and satisfied reporters.

The results of the study on slang words from loanwords on the Facebook fan page *"Tai Tiang Dara"* collected between September and November 2017 reflected Thai culture and revealed two categories of loanwords as follows.

1. Slang words borrowed from other languages that are not the standard language for Thailand. The slang words came into existence as a result of various influence factors. For example, some slang words are a result of trading with many countries from the past until the present. Others are a result of the media, entertainment, education, and economy. In this study, 21 slang words from loanwords were found. 18 words are borrowed from English which are mum, babe, he, she, guru, pay, happy, know, drama, boy, bed, fin, mouth, way, sis, friend, and focus. Two are borrowed from Korean are *oppa* (오빠), and *annyeong* (□) and one from Teochew Chinese *seiy* (财主). Table 1 shows the numbers of meanings: literal meanings and contextual meanings.

Table 1:
Loanwords from foreign languages and numbers of literal meanings and contextual meanings

No.	Loanwords from foreign languages	Literal meaning	Contextual meaning
1	Mum	-	/
2	Bebe	/	-
3	He	/	-
4	She	/	-
5	Guru	/	-
6	Pay	/	-
7	Happy	/	-
8	Know	/	-
9	Drama	/	-
10	Boy	/	-
11	Bed	/	-
12	Fin	-	/
13	Mouth	/	-
14	Way	/	-
15	Sis	-	/
16	Friend	/	-
17	Runway	/	-
18	Focus	/	-
19	*annyeong* (□)	-	/
20	*oppa* (오빠)	/	-
21	*seiy* (财主)	/	-
	Total	17	4

The meanings of slang words from loanwords revealed that there were 17 words with literal meanings: babe, he, she, guru, pay, happy, know, drama, boy, bed, mouth, way, friend, and focus. There were only four words that had contextual meanings when used as slang words by Thais: mum, sis, fin and *annyeong* (□).

The words mum and sis when used as slang words have contextual meanings. The meanings of the words change from their literal meanings. They are used to refer to a woman who is not a family member of the speaker but the words are used to honor the woman who is respected by the speaker. The word mum and sis are chosen by the speaker to address or to refer to a woman taking into consideration the woman's age and status. Another slang word which is a word borrowed from English is fin. This is shortened from the word finale in English. However, when used by Thai people, it means being satisfied of feeling great. The word *annyeong* (□) which literally means hello or good bye has a different meaning when used as a slang word; it means beautiful, good looking, lively, lovely or attractive. Therefore, these four words have contextual meanings when used by Thais as slang words.

2. Slang words from loanwords of a northern Thai dialect are not words from the standard Thai language. Thailand is divided into four major parts: northern, southern, central, and northeastern parts, and the language spoken by people in the central part or central Thai is the standard language and is taken as the official language.

However, in each part, there are dialects spoken by locals of different areas. People from all parts of the country work in the central part and therefore some words comes from a dialect and in this study, two words were found to be from a northeastern Thai dialect: *sap* and *nua*.

Table 2:
Loanwords from a Thai dialect and numbers of literal meanings and contextual meanings

No.	Loanwords from a Thai dialect	Literal meaning	Contextual meaning
1	Sap	-	/
2	Nua	-	/
		0	2

The meanings of the two words borrowed from a northeastern Thai dialect: *sap* and *nua* were found to have only contextual meanings; the literally meanings were not found to be used. Both *sap* and *nua* literally means delicious but when used as slang words, *sap* means spicy hot, excellent, and perfect which communicates with more feeling and emotion while *nua* means "directly to the point", "meeting the objective" and "serving the purpose". Thus, *sap* and *nua* have contextual meanings when used as slang words.

Conclusions

The study found 23 slang words that were loanwords reflecting the use of the Thai language on the Facebook fan page, *"Tai Tiang Dara"* as shown in the table below.

Table 3:
Numbers of slang words from loanwords reflecting the use of Thai on the Facebook fan page, *"Tai Tiang Dara"*

No	Loanwords	Number of words found	Percent
1	Slang words which are loanwords from other languages	21	91.3
2	Slang words which are loanwords from a northeastern Thai dialect	2	8.7
	Total	23	100

Of all the 23 slang words that were loanwords reflecting the use of the Thai language on the Facebook fan page, *"Tai Tiang Dara"*, 21 words were from foreign languages; 18 of them were from English: mum, bebe, he, she, guru, pay, happy, know, drama, boy, bed, fin, mouth, way, sis, friend, runway, and focus; two from the Korean language: *oppa* (오빠), and *annyeong* (□), and one from Teochew Chinese *seiy* (财主). These loanwords accounted for 91.3 percent while only two words were found to be loanwords from a Thai dialect accounting for only 8.7 percent.

Table 4:
Meanings and numbers of slang words from loanwords from other languages and from a Thai dialect

No.	Meanings	Number of words	Percent
1	Literal meanings	17	73.9
2	Contextual meanings	6	26.1
	Total	23	100

Regarding the meanings of the loanwords from other languages and from a Thai dialect, it was found that 17 words had literal meanings: bebe, he, she, guru, pay, happy, know, drama, boy, bed, mouth, way, friend, runway, focus, oppa, and *seiy* accounting for 73.9 percent. For words with contextual meanings, 6 words: mum, sis, fin, *annyeong, sap* and *nua* were found and they accounted for 26.1 percent.

Discussion

The study found 23 slang words that are loanwords reflecting the use of the Thai language on the Facebook fan page, *"Tai Tiang Dara"* which can be grouped into two categories. 1) Slang words from loanwords from foreign languages; a total of 21 words were found consisting of 18 English words, 2 Korean words and 1 Chinese word. 2) Slang words from loanwords from a northern Thai dialect; only two words were found. It is noticeable that more loanwords from other languages were found than from Thai dialects which confirmed the hypothesis. This reflects that Thai people enjoy using foreign language words more than they do Thai dialect words. Foreign languages have influence on Thai people in many aspects; one of them is mass communication and media as evidenced by this post.

"This is the source of "Klong loves Kan; Kan loves Klong." Ha ha ha. From a young northeastern Thai man in that program that day to being "Lua (hubby)" today who has an international oppa style. The four of us don't have to come at the same time, Only one can come alone..." #Under Kan of Luk Ket Team, #Under oppa, # Under Klong loves Kan, #Under being lua (Tai Tiang Dara, September 28, 2017).

Other reasons why foreign languages have influence on Thais are that they are easily accessible and that they can be learned and found in daily life, especially on various forms of mass media. Therefore, slang words borrowed from foreign languages are more popular and influential than slang words from a Thai dialect. In order to learn a Thai dialect, people have to mingle with locals or a group of people who speak it. As a result, more slang words from loanwords from other languages were found than those from a Thai dialect.

Recommendations for further studies

This article presents only slang words that are derived from loanwords. There are slang words derived from other factors that can be studied further. The scope of this present study is limited to slang words used on the Facebook fan page, *"Tai Tiang Dara"* during a specific period. Thus, there are more aspects of the topic that can still be examined.

The results of this study can be utilized as a guideline for further study on related topics, such as to find out more reasons why foreign languages have more influence on the Thais' use of slang words. Moreover, characteristics and values of borrowing words from other languages or from Thai dialects for use as slang words can also be investigated.

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