

*The Development of Application for Thai-ASEAN Neighboring Language- English  
Common Base Concepts Wordnet of 1st Order Entity*

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**Abstract**

The application of Thai, ASEAN neighboring languages, and English common base concept words was developed from the equivalent translation WordNet of English-Thai-Lao-Vietnamese words in the 1st Order Entity. Present study selected Lao and Vietnamese languages to include in the pilot application based on the study of BanSomdejchaopraya Rajabhat University students' need. The 1st Order Entity words used in the application were selected and examined using bi-directional translation method and the native speakers of English, Thai, Lao, and Vietnamese were asked to translate from source language to target languages and then from target to source language; for example, from English to Thai and from Thai to English.

Keywords: Application, Thai, ASEAN neighboring language, English, 1st Order Entity words

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## **Introduction**

Language is an key towards the ASEAN integration in 2015 because the use of English as an Asian language encourages the usage of English in Asian contexts. So, the development of application for Thai- ASEAN Neighboring and English common base concept words was developed from the equivalent translation WordNet of English-Thai-Lao-Vietnamese words in the 1st Order Entity research project. According to the equivalent translation WordNet of English-Thai-Lao-Vietnamese words in the 1st Order Entity research project, ASEAN WordNet using translation equivalence of English-Thai-Lao-Vietnamese words in the 1st Order Entity was examined. In this project, the translation equivalence of English-Thai-Lao-Vietnamese words in the 1st Order Entity were examined and selected to be used in the further development of ASEAN WordNet.

Web application is selected for further research development because web strategies and activities were most commonly used by language teachers. Presently, these technologies have been used in language education Language. Teachers are interested in using computer-based technologies both to facilitate language learning and to help their learners acquire the new knowledge.

## **Theoretical Background**

### **Four orders of entities**

Lyons (1977:442-447) presents a three-way typology of entities, which refines the traditional distinction between concrete and abstract nouns.

#### 1) First-order entities

Entities of the first order are physical objects, i.e. persons, animals, and things. First-order entities are evaluated in terms of their existence (Lyons1977).

#### 2) Second-order entities

Entities of the second order are “events, processes, states-of-affairs, etc., which are located in time and which, in English, are said to occur or take place, rather than to exist” (Lyons 1977:443).Second-order entities are evaluated in terms of their realization.

#### 3) Third-order entities

Entities of the third order are “such abstract entities as propositions, which are outside space and time” (Lyons1977:443).Third-order entities are evaluated in terms of their truth.

In addition, Hengeveld (1992:7) added a fourth order of entities, which are located in space and time, and are evaluated in terms of their felicity. An overview of the four orders of entity was presented in the following table.

Order	Evaluation	Examples
first	existence	woman
second	Reality	arrival
third	Truth	belief
fourth	Felicity	question

Table 1: Orders of entities

According to Lyons (1977), first-order nouns are universally regarded as the prototypical examples of the category of nouns. Whereas, first-order entities are in general identified exclusively by nouns, second- and third-order entities are also referred to by embedded clauses, and fourth-order entities by quoting direct speech.

### Translation equivalence

Translation equivalence is a principal concept in Western translation theory. As Catford mentioned, "the central problem of translation-practice is that of finding target language (TL) equivalents. A central task of translation theory is that of defining the nature and conditions of translation equivalence." (Catford 21: 1965). The concept of equivalence in translation becomes an essential feature of translation theories in the 1960s and 1970s, equivalence was meant to indicate that source text (henceforth ST) and target text (henceforth TT) share some kind of sameness. The different kinds of equivalence was described by many scholars as Vinay and Darbelnet (1958), Jakobson (1959), Nida and Taber (1969), Catford (1965), House (1997), Koller (1979), Newmark (1981), Baker (1992), and finally, Pym (2010).

As Jean-Paul Vinay and Jean Darbelnet mentioned in their *Stylistique Comparée du Français et de l'Anglais* (1958) and also, in its English version, first published in 1995, they distinguish between direct and oblique translation, the former referring to literal translation and the latter to free translation. Moreover, they propose seven procedures, the first three covered by direct translation and remaining four by oblique translation. These procedures are: borrowing, calque, literal translation, transposition, modulation, equivalence, and adaptation. Through this procedure, it is claimed that the stylistic impact of the source-language (henceforth SL) text can be maintained in the target-language (henceforth TL) text. Furthermore, Vinay and Darbelnet (1995) considered as a necessary and sufficient condition for equivalent expressions between language pairs to be acceptable to be listed in a bilingual dictionary "as full equivalents."

According to the structuralist Roman Jakobson (1959), there are three kinds of translation, that is, intralingual (rewording or paraphrasing within one language), interlingual (rewording or paraphrasing between two languages), and intersemiotic (rewording or paraphrasing between sign systems). It is interlingual translation that has been the focus of translation studies. He addressed the problem of equivalence in meaning between words in different languages because there can be no full equivalence between two words (Jakobson, 1959/2000).

With Eugene Nida's two famous books in (1964) and the co-authored *The Theory and Practice of Translation* (Nida and Taber, 1969), Nida maintained that there are two basic types of equivalence: (1) formal equivalence and (2) dynamic equivalence. In particular, Nida argued that in formal equivalence the TT resembles very much the ST in both form and

content whereas in dynamic equivalence an effort is made to convey the ST message in the TT as naturally as possible.

Another important view is Catford's main contribution in the field of translation studies lies in the introduction of his idea of types and shifts of translation (1965). Catford described very broad types of translation according to three criteria. Firstly, full translation is contrasted with partial translation which differs according to the extent of translation. Secondly, total translation differs from restricted translation according to the levels of language involved in translation, and, thirdly, Catford distinguished between rank-bound translation and unbounded translation, depending on the grammatical or phonological rank at which equivalence is established.

Regarding to House (1997), House has distinguished between two basic types of translation, namely, overt translation and covert translation. As the term itself denotes, an overt translation points to a TT that consists of elements that it is a translation. On the other hand, a covert translation is a TT that has the same function with the ST since the translator has made every possible effort to alleviate cultural differences.

Werner Koller, the most prominent German scholars (1979), distinguished five different types of equivalence: (a) denotative equivalence involving the extralinguistic content of a text, (b) connotative equivalence relating to lexical choices, (c) text-normative equivalence relating to text-types, (d) pragmatic equivalence involving the receiver of the text or message, and, finally, (e) formal equivalence relating to the form and aesthetics of the text (p. 186-191).

The major difference between the two types of translation proposed by Newmark (1981) is that semantic translation must focus on meaning whereas communicative translation concentrates on effect. Semantic translation focused on the author of the original text whereas communicative translation is meant to serve a larger readership. Hence, the two methods of translation may be used in parallel, with varying focuses where each is employed. Moreover, Newmark (1981) strongly believes that literal translation is the best approach in both semantic and communicative translation.

Baker (1992) addressed the issue of equivalence by adopting a more neutral approach. According to Baker, a distinction of equivalence is made between word-level and above-world-level equivalence. Adopting a bottom-up approach, Baker acknowledges the importance of individual words during the translation process, since the translator looks firstly at the words as single units in order to find their equivalent in the TL. Grammatical equivalence refers to the diversity of grammatical categories across languages and the difficulty of finding an equivalent term in the TT due to the variety of grammatical rules across languages. On the other hand, textual equivalence refers to equivalence that may be achieved between a ST and TT in terms of cohesion and information. Baker argued that the feature of texture is of immense importance for the translators since it facilitates their comprehension and analysis of the ST and helps them to produce a cohesive and coherent text in the TL. Lastly, pragmatic equivalence deals mainly with implicature.

According to Pym (2010), he distinguished between natural and directional equivalence. Natural equivalence exists between languages prior to the act of translating, and, secondly, it is not affected by directionality. On the other hand, theories of directional equivalence give the translator the freedom to choose between several translation strategies which are not dictated by the ST. The most important assumption of directional equivalence is that it involves some kind of asymmetry since when translating one way and creating an equivalent does not imply the creation of the same equivalent when translating another way.

## **The web application and language learning**

Presently, the web application is one of the best ways to learn language other than the other ways. This is because of the advantages of online learning; for example,

- 1) The web application offers the accessible possibility to experience English anytime and anywhere.
- 2) The web application allows for users to learn language when they want, where they want.
- 3) The web application can provide the repetition usage to the user.
- 4) The web application is a multi modal learning tool. It stimulates in a rich sensory and cognitive and thus fertilizes language acquisition successfully.
- 5) The web application allows the language learner choice and variety in both what and with who will be learned.
- 6) The web application is a safe way to learn English language.

## **Research Objective**

To develop the application of Thai, ASEAN neighboring languages, and English common base concept words from the equivalent translation WordNet of English-Thai-Lao-Vietnamese words in the 1st Order Entity.

## **Research Methodology**

The present section, we will present 2 parts of research methodology. The first part concerning how we get the equivalent translation WordNet of English-Thai-Lao-Vietnamese words in the 1st Order Entity and the second part concerning how we develop the application to present the selected information from the first stage.

### **The methodology of examining and selecting the equivalent translation of English-Thai-Lao-Vietnamese words in the 1st Order Entity**

The methodology of examining and selecting the equivalent translation of English-Thai-Lao-Vietnamese words in the 1st Order Entity using the bi-directional translation method will be presented.

- 1) The 1st Order Entity words were selected from Brown Corpus (Word frequency corpus)
- 2) The equivalent translation of English-Thai-Lao-Vietnamese words in the 1st Order Entity was developed by following translating procedure:
  - 2.1) The two English (Native language, NL, henceforth) -Thai (Foreign language, FL, henceforth) henceforth), two Thai (NL) -English (FL), two English (NL) -Lao (FL), two Lao (NL) - English (FL), two English (NL) - Vietnamese (FL), and two Vietnamese (NL) - English (FL) bilinguals were assigned as the translators.
  - 2.2) The translators will independently translate the items bi-directionally and then compare the results to obtain the most equivalent item. The procedure of bi-directional translation includes the procedure of the native speakers of each language were asked to translate from source language to target languages and then from target to source language. The translators

will independently translate the items and then compare the results to obtain the most equivalent item.

2.3) The translated items should then be back-translated into English by the translators to determine whether they are equivalent in meaning to the English original. For example, the native speakers of Thai who knows English language were asked to translate from English to Thai and from Thai to English and also the native speakers of Lao who knows English language were asked to translate from English to Lao and from Lao to English.

3) The translation results were tested using F-Measure ( $\geq 70\%$ )

### **The methodology of the present development**

The research methodology consisted of 3 phrases.

1) The focus group study of specialists. The focus group was conducted for 5 specialists of related fields as linguistics, EST, IT, visual design, and art. The focus group was conducted by the interview concerning the appropriated characteristics of word application.

2) The application was developed based on the results of focused group.

3) The application was developed based on the following process.

4) The focus group consisting of 5 specialists in related fields: linguistics, EST, IT, visual design, and art. The focus group was conducted by the interview concerning the appropriated characteristics of word application.

5) The application was developed based on the results of focused group.

6) The developed application was evaluated by 5 specialists in related fields.

7) The developed application was improved based on the evaluation of 5 specialists.

8) The developed application will be operated off-line in 100 Bachelor's degree students in order to examine users' satisfaction.

## Results

290 equivalent translation of English-Thai-Lao-Vietnamese words in the 1st Order Entity have been selected and the accuracy of selected synsets has been evaluated manually. The examples of equivalent translation of English-Thai-Lao-Vietnamese words in the 1st Order Entity were as.

<p>adult</p> <p>1   any mature animal</p> <p>2   a fully developed person from maturity onward</p> <p>ผู้ใหญ่</p> <p>Viet: người lớn</p> <p>Laos: ຜູ້ໃຫຍ່ ' 0ຄົນໃຫຍ່ '</p>	<p>bed</p> <p>  a piece of furniture that provides a place to sleep;</p> <p>"he sat on the edge of the bed";</p> <p>"the room had only a bed and chair"</p> <p>เตียง 0 เตียงนอน 0 ที่นอน</p> <p>Viet: giường</p> <p>Laos: ຕັບງູ່ ຕັບງູ່ນອນ 0 ທີ່ນອນ</p>
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These selected translation equivalent words were developed as the application as presented in the following figure.

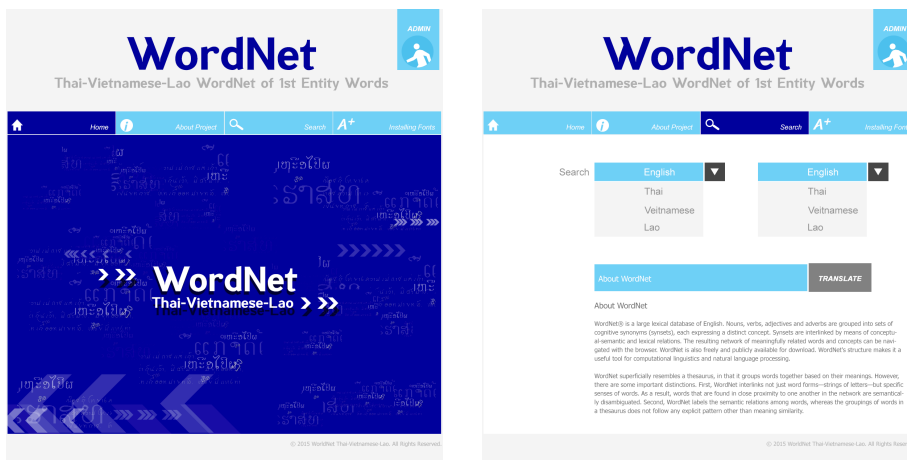


Figure 1: Example of Interface

## **Conclusions and Discussions**

The next ongoing process is that the developed application will be operated off-line in 100 Bachelor's degree students in order to examine users' satisfaction.

In addition, a few numbers of equivalent translation of English-Thai-Lao-Vietnamese words in the 1<sup>st</sup> Order Entity obtained from the previous study can be implied that it is difficult to get the equivalent translation between words in any two languages or more than two languages which are absolutely identical in meaning. Hence, for the study of equivalent translation of many languages, it is difficult to get the cross-language equivalent translation. This proposed that equivalence between the source language and the target language should be investigated in different aspects based on the purposes of the study.

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