

Linguistic Characteristics of Village Typonyms in Yala, Thailand: An Analysis of Functional-Typological Grammar

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Abstract

This article was aimed at 1) analyzing forms and structures of village typonyms in Yala Province and 2) analyzing syntax of typonyms of 379 villages in Yala Province using the functional-typological approach. The research results were as follows: First, the forms of village typonyms in Yala Province can be divided into four groups: (1) singular form, (2) phrase form, (3) sentence form, and (4) complex form, and the most common form is phrase form, followed by singular form, sentence form, and complex form, respectively. Second, the syntax of village typonyms in Yala Province can be divided into grammatical and semantic roles. Grammatical roles can be divided into two groups: 1) phrase syntax and 2) sentence syntax. The structure of phrase syntax consists of (1) main - supplementary units and (2) supplementary - main units. Sentence syntax can be divided into 1) simple clauses with the following structures: (1) subject-verb and (2) verb-object, and 2) variant clauses with the fronting/Y-movement/topicalization with object-verb structure. Semantic roles can be divided into two groups: 1) phrase semantics, which can be divided into two types: (1) noun phrase semantics consisting of thirty six groups and (2) preposition phrase semantics consisting of one group, and 2) sentence semantics, which can be divided into two types: (1) simple clause semantics consisting of two types: the subject acts as the patient or agent and the object acts as the patient, and (2) variant clause semantics with the subject acting as the patient.

Keywords: Linguistic Characteristics, Typonyms, Functional-Typological Grammar

Introduction

Yala Province is a multicultural society which is home to diverse ethnic groups. This province is resided in by Thai, Chinese-Thai, Malay-Thai, and tribal people. The circumstance encourages cultural integration in the area as shown and reflected through the toponyms of its villages and its underlying cultural concepts. To be specific, the toponyms of villages in the province are in Thai and Malay words. This idea is supported by Suphanwanit (2000: 109-119) who conducted a study, namely "The Names of Villages in Four Southern Border Provinces: Yala, Pattani, Narathiwat, and Satun." The findings showed that the villages with Malay names outnumbered those with Thai names in Yala Province, while the integration between Thai and Malay words or other languages were found in some villages. It was also found that out of the four provinces Yala had the most villages with Malay names. In addition, more villages with Malay names were found in Yala and Narathiwat than in

Pattani and Satun. This is congruent with Ruangnarong (1997: 121)'s study, entitled "Malay Names of Local Places in the Southern Thailand." The findings indicated that the names of provinces, districts, sub-districts, and villages in the areas were in Malay. Similarly, the expertise also investigated history of the names of districts and provinces in fourteen southern provinces in a study, namely "Names of villages and cities in the South: Provinces, Amphor, Places, and Some People's Name." (Ruangnarong, 2008) According to the aforementioned studies, the linguistic units of the toponyms of villages in the south of Thailand have not been studied. Most previous investigation relied greatly on the examination of available lists of the village names. To date no attempt was made to investigate the linguistic elements of those toponyms. This refers to an analysis of forms, structures, and syntax. Such information was very interesting and was the background of this research to analyze structure and syntax of the village typonyms in Yala Province applying Functional-Typological Approach by Talmy Givón (2001). The main notion was the study of language coupled with context emphasizing on the role and language use to express the relationship between structure and role of language in order to resolve the overlap of compound nouns, nouns, phrases, and sentences. The research objectives were to analyze the form and structure of village typonyms in Yala Province and to analyze the syntax of village typonyms in Yala Province. This research might constitute new knowledge about linguistic materials of village toponyms and the findings could be applied in teaching and learning of languages, societies, and cultures in the three southern border provinces. In addition, this study might also shed light on a new research approach in which linguistics and cultures are concurrently investigated.

Literature Review

Functional Typological Grammar Theory by Talmy Givón in connection with this research involves the following:

1. Syntactic structure: The syntactic structure of sentences and phrases in Thai language may be displayed by a set of rules explaining the sentence and phrase structures called phrase structure rules. These illustrate three syntactic qualities, which are word order, hierarchy, and categoriality of word or morpheme. This rule shows the unit order in sentence such as subject-verb-object. The unit may be word or phrase that is the subject, object, or other function in the sentence. For example, A tree that I gave. The phrase structure consists of main-supplementary units, with the supplementary unit being the unit that can be classified. Besides, phrase structure rules shows grammatical categories/ functions of the units such as subject, verb, object, or etc. as well as lexical categories such as noun or verb with grammatical function.

2. Grammatical relation of argument and verb: Talmy Givón explained that a noun that was in any condition or played any role would always have grammatical role. Unchalee Singnoi (2005) explained about the grammatical relations that apart from being the position and grammatical categories of units in phrases and sentences, another syntactic characteristic was the grammatical relation of sentence phrase unit, which was the grammatical role of the unit in phrase or sentence. The grammatical relation of phrase unit is a main-supplement unit. Generally, for syntax, most people refer to the relation of sentence unit with verb as the focus and grammatical relation with nouns in the sentence differently which would identify what is the syntactic role of the noun phrase. In general, noun phrase is considered to have syntactic role as subject, object, or oblique, which is other noun unit that is not subject or object of the verb in the sentence. For example, the sentence Daeng grew a tree in front of the house yesterday consists of noun phrase, Daeng as the subject of the verb grew, noun phrase a tree is the object, and in front of the house (which is in prepositional phrase front of the house) and yesterday (which is in prepositional phrase yesterday) are the supplementary unit of the verb grew.

3. Semantic characteristics of argument and verb, semantic role, and meaning of sentence: In regard to semantic relation and the verb, Talmy Givón mentioned about the argument structure that it had semantic relation with the verb which is involved in the situation. He gave the definition of semantic roles which is the indicator of semantic relation between noun phrase and verb as follows.

Agent - an argument which was normally living thing who performed an action intentionally and realized such incident.

Patient - the living and non-living argument who displayed the status of the situation. This argument might be transformed as a result of the action outcome.

Dative - the living argument who recognized the incident from the sense. It was different from the agent as the dative did not begin the incident but was the object of the incident.

Instrument - argument that was object used by the agent.

Benefactive - living argument gaining

Location - the argument that was the location where the situation, incident, or action took place, or the movement direction.

Temporal - the argument that was the time when the situation or incident took place.

Associative - the argument who took part in the action with the agent. The role was similar to the agent but not so important.

Manner - argument that was the state of incident or the agent performed the action.

The research titled “Thai Noun Phrase Syntactic Structure in Poster of Parliament Election Campaign of 2011: A Case Study of Bangkok and Pitsanulok Province” by Narongkorn Rodsap. It was a study of noun phrase using Functional-Typological Approach initiated by Talmy Givón for the analysis. The objectives were to analyze the semantic structure of Thai noun phrase in the poster of the parliament election campaign in 2011, and to analyze the meaning and communication of Thai noun phrase units in the poster of the parliament election campaign in 2011. The findings showed that Thai noun phrase consisted of noun at least, and might have the modifier before noun. The modifier might be one or six units at the maximum, which were relative clauses, quantifiers, possessive phrases, demonstratives, prepositional phrases, and nominal modifiers. All modifiers might appear alone and/or together as noun modifiers.

The foreign scholar, David Smyth (2002: 33-38.), classified noun phrase structure in Thai language into 12 structures.

1. Noun + Quantifier (number) + Classifier: Four cats, Many houses
2. Noun + Quantifier (number) + Classifier + Definite Pronoun: That four cats. Those many houses.
3. Noun + Quantifier (for all or part) + Classifier (every, each, some, many, only, few, lot): Some kids, all animals
4. Noun + Classifier + Quantifier (order): A first car, the second book
5. Noun + Classifier + Definite Pronoun: This kid. That dog.
6. Noun + Adverb: New house, Old book
7. Noun + Adverb + Classifier + Definite Pronoun: That new house. This old book.
8. Noun + Adverb + Quantifier (number) + Classifier + Definite Pronoun: Those three new houses. These old four books.
9. Noun + Adverb + Classifier + Quantifier (order): The third new house. The second old book.
10. Noun + Classifier + Adverb: Big house, Thin book
11. Noun + Noun: Justice of the Juvenile Division, Criminal Defendant
12. Noun + Preposition + Noun/Pronoun: My house. National radio program

Research Methodology

This research was basic of humanities employing linguistic theories. Research data was collected from the Local Directory 2012 of Provincial Affair Bureau (2012, pp.101-106), Department of Provincial Administration, Ministry of Interior. In Yala Province, there were 379 villages. Qualitative research method was applied to collect data by studying documents and doing fieldwork in Yala Province, involving interviews with the village headmen or the local elders, at least two persons from each village, who were accepted and suggested by the community that they had the insight about the community historical background. Then, the collected data were analyzed for linguistic characteristics of village toponyms in Yala Province using functional-typological approach of TalmyGivón.

Research Findings

Form and structure of village toponyms in Yala Province

The analysis on form and structure of 379 village toponyms in Yala Province was classified into four groups: 1) single word, 2) phrase, 3) sentence, and 4) complex, as shown in Table 1.

Table 1 Number of form of village toponyms in Yala Province

Form and Structure		Quantity (village)	Percentage
Single word	Noun	148	39.05
	Verb	19	5.01
	Preposition	6	1.58
Phrase	Noun Phrase	167	44.06
	Verb Phrase	1	0.27
	Prepositional Phrase	7	1.85
Sentence	Sentence	14	3.69
Complex	Complex Phrase	16	4.22
	Complex Sentence	1	0.27
Total (village)		379	100

1. Single word was the unit conveying the meaning with one syllable or more. **1.1 Noun** There were 148 villages consisting of one noun and compound word that accounted for 39.05%, such as:

- 1) Ban Khla (Thai) Khla (name of plant)
- 2) Ban Kwuan (Thai) High hill
- 3) Ban Jue Nga (Malay) Iron Wood (name of tree)

1.2 Verb There were 19 villages consisting of verbs that accounted for 5.01%, such as:

- 1) Ban Krapong (Malay) Transformed from the word Kue Pong, meaning surrounding
- 2) Ban Sakae (Malay) Glided from the word Sue Khae, meaning frightened

The village name Ban Krapong was the name identified in the local directory 2012 by the government agency. The Royal Society Dictionary B.E.2554 gave the definition to the word Krapong as the container made from tin foil or zinc. The classifier was Bai or Luk. However, from the interview with local people, it was found that the name was transformed from Malay dialect Kue Pong meaning surrounding. For this reason, Ban Krapong was classified into verb category. Sakae, the name that the government agency identified in the local directory 2012 had the meaning according to the Royal Institute Dictionary as the name for the species of jackfruit that had no seed (Kanoon Sampalo). From the interview with local people, they said that the name was glided from dialect Malay Sue Khae meaning frightened. Therefore, Ban Sakae was classified into verb category as well.

1.3 Adverb There were six villages with toponym consisting of adverbs, which accounted for 1.58%, such as:

- 1) Ban Khae (Thai) Nearby
- 2) Ban Bai (Malay) Good

2. Phrase

2.1 Noun phrase The main unit is on the far left while the modifier was on the right. 167 villages, accounted for 44.06%, had noun and at least one modifier, preposition, or noun classifier after it as follows.

1) Noun-Noun 142 villages, accounted for 37.47%, such as:

Table 2 Samples of village toponyms consisting of Noun-Noun

Village Name	Language	Meaning	Overall Meaning
Than-Mali	Thai-Thai	Than meaning Stream Mali meaning Jasmine tree	Jasmine tree stream
Krong-Pinang	Malay-Malay	Krong was from the word Kapong (Pattani Malay) meaning Village Pinang was shortened from the word Penang meaning Betal Nut (name of plant)	Betal Nut village
Thung-Yamu	Thai-Malay	Thung meaning Field Yamu meaning Guava Tree (name of tree)	Field of Guava trees

2) Noun-Adverb 15 villages, accounted for 3.96%, such as:

Table 3 Samples of village toponyms consisting of Noun-Adverb

Village Name	Language	Meaning	Overall Meaning
Wang-Mai	Thai-Thai	Wang meaning Deep basin Mai meaning New	New basin
Bukae-Khla	Malay-Malay	Bukae meaning Mountain Khla was glided from the word Khue La meaning Dark	Dark mountain

3) Noun-Preposition 8 villages, accounted for 2.11%, such as:

Table 4 Samples of village toponyms consisting of Noun-Preposition

Village Name	Language	Meaning	Overall Meaning
Bungnung-Luwa	Malay-Malay	Bungnung was glided from the word Kham Bern Dung meaning Field Luwa meaning Outside	Outside field
Muang-Lang	Thai-Thai	Muang meaning Mine Lang meaning Below (the position)	Below mine
Pawang-Nok	Malay-Thai	Pawang was from "Pawae" which was the name of tree mostly found in the village Nok meaning Outside	Pawae at the outside area

4) Noun-Classifier One village, accounted for 0.26%, which was:

Table 5 Sample of village typonyms consisting of Noun-Classifier

Village Name	Language	Meaning	Overall Meaning
Samroi-Rai	Thai-Thai	Samroi meaning Three hundred Rai meaning Rai (measurement unit)	Three-Hundred Rai area

5) Noun-Quantifier-Classifier One village, accounted for 0.26%, which was:

Table 6 Sample of village typonyms consisting of Noun-Quantifier-Classifier

Village Name	Language	Meaning	Overall Meaning
Bo-Ched-Luk	Thai-Thai-Thai	Bo meaning Well Ched meaning Seven Luk meaning Luk (qualifier)	Seven wells

2.2 Verb phrase The main unit is on the left and the modifier is on the right. The main unit of verb phrase is the verb and had at least adverb as the modifier next to it. It is in a form of Verb-Adverb, as shown in Table 7. There was one village, accounting for 0.27%

Table 7 Sample of village typonyms consisting of Noun-Classifier

Village Name	Language	Meaning	Overall Meaning
Lum-Mai	Thai-Thai	Lum was from the word Lam meaning New	New

The word “Lum Mai” was originated from the elephant chain. In the past, an elephant of Chao Praya Lor was let out from Lum Phaya. People tried to catch and tie it at Lum Phaya. However, it went out again. When people caught it ones more, they tied it at a new location. People pronounced it as “Lam Mai” and transformed it to “Lum Mai”.

2.3 Prepositional phrase The main unit is on the left and the modifier is on the right. The main unit of prepositional phrase is a preposition modifying a noun, To be Preposition-Noun. There were six villages for this form, accounting for 1.58%, such as:

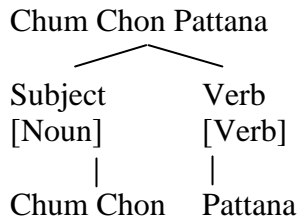
Table 8 Samples of village typonyms consisting of Preposition-Noun

Village Name	Language	Meaning	Overall Meaning
Ata-Kuwo	Malay-Malay	Ata meaning On (preposition) Kuwo meaning Cave	On a cave
Lung-Kaset	Thai-Thai	Lung meaning Behind Kaset meaning Yala Horticultural Research Center	Behind Yala Horticultural Research Center

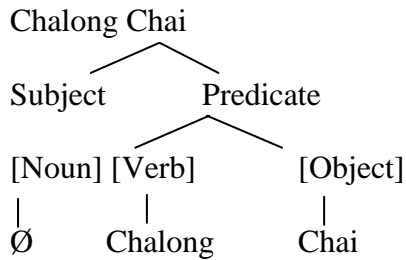
3. Sentence

1) Noun-Noun Ten villages, accounted for 2.64%

(8) Chum Chon-Pattana [Noun-Verb]



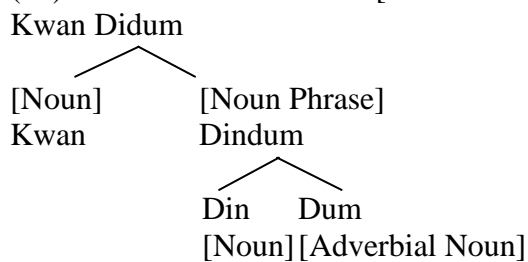
2) Verb-Noun Four villages, accounted for 1.05%
 (9) Chalong-Chai [Verb-Noun]



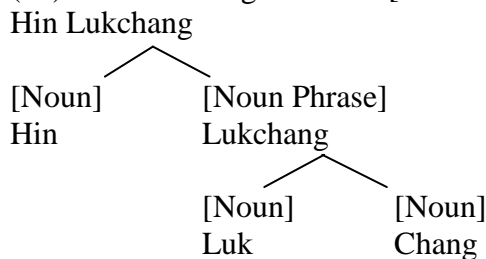
4. Complex

4.1 Complex phrase It could appear with noun phrase.

1) Noun-[Noun Phrase] Nine villages, accounted for 2.38%
 (10) Kwan-Dindum Noun-[Noun Phrase]

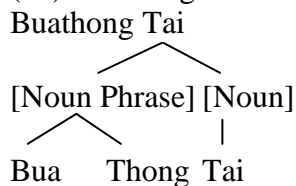


(11) Hin-Lukchang Noun- [Noun Phrase]



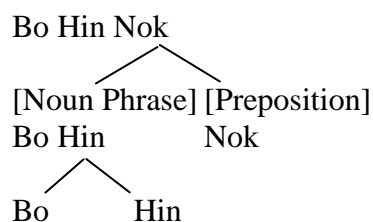
2) [Noun Phrase] - Noun One village, accounted for 0.2%

(12) Buathong-Tai [Noun Phrase]-Noun

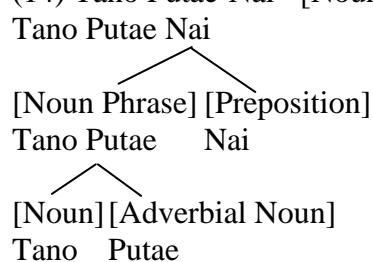


3) [Noun Phrase] - Preposition Four villages, accounted for 1.05%

(13) Bo Hin-Nok [Noun-Noun] - Preposition

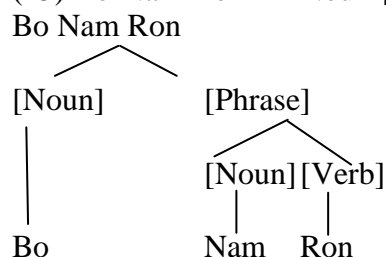


(14) Tano Putae-Nai [Noun Phrase] - Preposition



4) Noun-[Sentence] Two villages, accounted for 0.53%

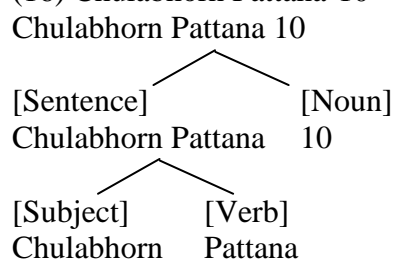
(15) Bo-Nam Ron Noun-[Sentence]



4.2 Complex sentence

5) [Sentence]-Noun One village, accounted for 0.27%

(16) Chulabhorn Pattana-10 [Sentence]-Noun



Syntax of village toponyms in Yala Province

The study on sentence structure rule as partial grammar. The syntactic analysis on village toponyms in Yala Province was classified into grammatical roles and semantical roles.

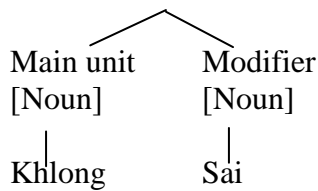
1 Grammatical role

1.1 Syntactic phrase explained the role of word as the component of phrase. It was classified into two characteristics.

1) Main unit-Modifier The main unit was noun or preposition and the modifier was noun or adverbial noun.

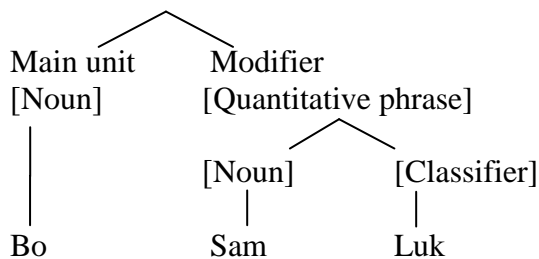
(17) Khlong-Sai [Main unit-Modifier]

Noun Phrase



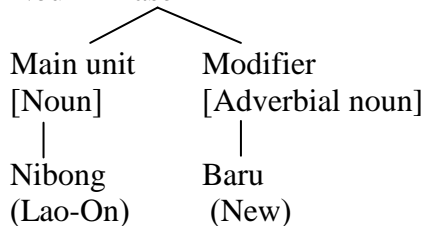
(18) Bo-Sam Luk [Main unit-Modifier]

Noun Phrase



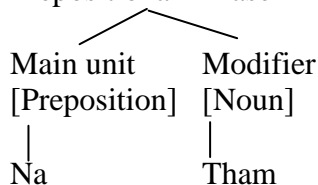
(19) Nibong-Baru [Main unit-Modifier]

Noun Phrase



(20) Na-Tham [Main unit-Modifier]

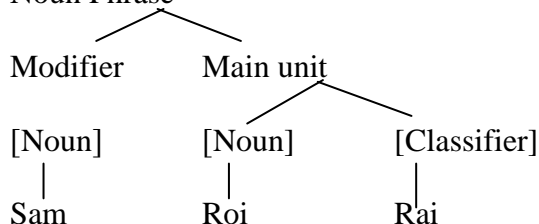
Prepositional Phrase

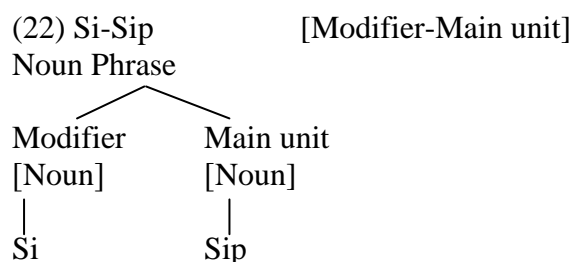


2) Modifier - Main unit was the syntax that rarely existed. There were only two village toponyms found which were Ban Si Sip and Ban Sam Roi Rai. This form of noun phrase was the special compound, modifier-main unit. For example, Ban Si Sip has Sip as the main word after the modifier which modified to how many Sip. Therefore, the word Si Sip meant the four times of ten number.

(21) Sam-Roi Rai [Modifier-Main unit]

Noun Phrase

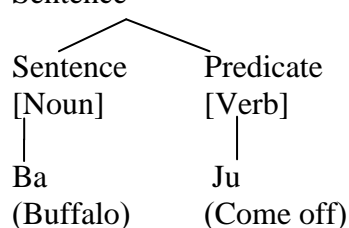




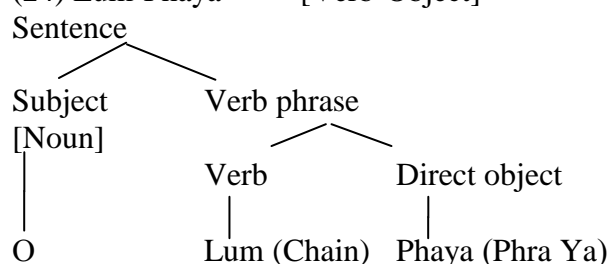
1.2 Syntactic sentence was classified into simple clause and variant clause.

1) Simple clause had the subject as noun or verb and the modifier was the predicate which consisted of single verb or at least one verb or noun after it. Village typonyms that were simple sentence were classified into various forms, Subject-Verb, Verb-Object, as the following chart.

(23) Ba-Ju [Subject-Verb]
Sentence

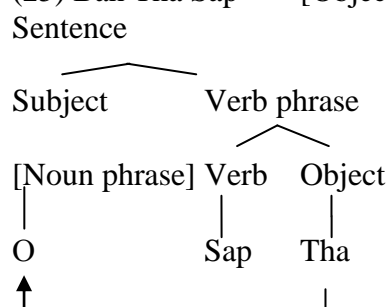


(24) Lum-Phaya [Verb-Object]



2) Variant sentence The syntax of village typonyms was fronting / Y-movement / topicalization). Thus, it was Object-Verb form as the following chart.

(25) Ban Tha Sap [Object-Verb]



2. Semantic role was to consider semantics that noun phrase had on verb. It was to identify that how the noun phrase had semantic role to verb. Semantic role was very important to convey the meaning of the sentence. Moreover, it needed to differentiate from syntactic role and function.

2.1 Noun phrase semantics The semantic analysis of noun phrase of village typonyms in Yala Province was classified into 36 groups as follows.

- 1) Main terms-Sub terms - The main unit was the main terms and the modifier was the sub-terms. The modifier was a member of the main unit. Most modifiers were the specific name. There were six names such as Ton Pikul, Ton Sae.
- 2) Area-Plant - The main unit as the word conveying plain area and the modifier was the plant class terms. There were 51 names such as Thung Yo, Thung Maprang, Bannang Sata.
- 3) Area-Characteristic - The main unit as the word conveying plain area and the modifier was the word conveying characteristic. There were 24 names such as Buenae Baru, Bannang Buyo.
- 4) Area- Parallelism - The main unit as the word conveying plain area and the modifier was the parallelism terms. There were two names, which were Bannang Bubo and Jaro Susu.
- 5) Area-Location - The main unit as the word conveying plain area and the modifier was the location terms. There was one name, which was Bannang Luwa.
- 6) Area-Animal - The main unit as the word conveying plain area and the modifier was animal class terms. There were six names such as Kae Ro, Talo Halo.
- 7) Water source-Object - The main unit as the source of water and the modifier was the object terms. There were five names such as Khlong Sai, Jo Timo.
- 8) Place-Plant - The main unit as the place and the modifier was the plant class terms. There were six names such as Koro Ramae, Krong Pinang.
- 9) Place-Charateristic - The main unit was the place and the modifier was the characteristic. There were five names such as Kota Baru, Kumpong Buenae.
- 10) Place-Location - The main unit was the place and the modifier was the direction terms. There were six names such as Talad Lang, Kumpong Tue-ngo.
- 11) Place-Owner - The min unit was the place and the modifier was the possessive pronoun. There were nine names such as Nudto Mong, Patae Rayo.
- 12) Place-Objective - The main unit was the place and the modifier was the objective terms. There was one name, which was Basa Tapae.
- 13) Place-Place - The main unit and the modifier were the place. There were two names which were Talad Nikom and Soi Muang.
- (Place-Characteristic - The main unit was the place and the modifier was the composition terms. There was one name which was Maarsamilae.
- 14) Place-Location - The main unit was the place and the modifier was the location class terms. There were two names which were Kilometer 26 Nok and Kilometer 26 Nai.
- 15) Parallelism-Place - The main unit was the parallelism and the modifier was the location class terms. There were two names which were Palo Bata and Pak Bang.
- 16) Parallelism-Object - The main unit was the parallelism and the modifier was the object terms. There was one name which as Kachasila.
- 17) Construction-Objective - The main unit was the construction and the modifier was the objective class terms. There were two names which were Khok Chang and Bo Namron.
- 18) Construction-Plant - The main unit was the construction and the modifier was the plant class terms. There were three names such as Koto Tuera, Muang Labu.
- 19) Construction- Parallelism - The main unit was the construction and the modifier was the parallelism terms. There was one name which was Rua Tawan.
- 20) Construction- Quantifier - The main unit was the construction and the modifier was the quantifier. There was one name which as Bo Jed Luk.
- 21) Object-Parallelism - The main unit was the object and the modifier was the parallelism terms. There were four names such as Hin Luk Chang, Buathong.
- (Object-Objective - The main idea was the object and the modifier was the objective terms. There were two names which were Ngo Kapo and Tanor Puyo.
- 22) Object-Order - The main unit was the object and the modifier was the order class terms. There was one name which was Luk ha.

- 23) Object-Location - The main unit was the object and the modifier was the location terms. There were two names which were Bo Hin Nok and Tanor Putae Nai.
- 24) Object-Characteristic - The main idea was the object and the modifier was the characteristic terms. There were five names such as Tanor-Putae, Badu-Putae.
- 25) Measurement unit-Order - The main idea was the measurement unit and the modifier was the order class terms. There were six names such as Kilometer 7, Kilometer 18.
- 26) Plant-Quantifier - The main unit was the plant name and the modifier was the quantifier. There was one name which was Yue Nang.
- 27) Plant-Characteristic - The main unit was the plant name and the modifier was the characteristic class terms. There was one name, Nibong Baru.
- 28) Plant-Location - The main unit was the plant name and the modifier was the location class terms. There were six names such as Budee Hilae, Bua Thong Tai.
- 29) Quantifier-Area - The main unit was the quantifier and the modifier was the area class terms. There was one name, Sam Roi Rai.
- 30) Quantifier-Quantifier - The main unit and the modifier were the quantifier. There was one name which was Si Sip.
- 31) Organ-Animal - The main unit was the name of organ and the modifier was the living thing terms. There was one name, Tasa.
- 32) Person-Location - The main unit was the name of person and the modifier was the location terms. There were two names which were Palae Tai and Saae Nai.
- 33) Person-Order - The main unit was the name of person and the modifier was the order class terms. There was one name which was Chulabhorn 9.
- 34) Animal-Parallelism - The main unit was the word conveying the living thing and the modifier was the parallelism terms. There was one name, Kadong.

2.2 Prepositional phrase semantics There was one category, Location-Place. The main unit was the location class terms and the modifier was the place class terms. There were even names such as Na Tham, Lung Kaset.

2.3 Semantic sentence

1) Simple sentence semantics could be analyzed from the subject and the object of the sentence as follows.

- Subject functioned as the agent as the following sample.

(86) Ban Tham-Thalu (Agent-Verb)

The main unit was the subject. Considering the meaning, the name Tham Talu, Tham had semantic relation with the sentence unit while the semantic role was the agent. Verb Talu gave the meaning as the cave that had the hold through caused by the nature, not the man-made.

(87) Ban Chulabhorn Pattana - 10 (Agent-Verb)

The main unit was the subject. Considering the meaning, the name Chulabhorn semantic relation with the sentence unit, Pattana which had the semantic role as the agent as the person developed the area. People joining in her project had better well-being and became the power for country development. Object had semantic role as the agent as the following sample.

(88) Ban Lum-Phaya (Verb-Agent)

Lumphaya, the main unit was the object. Considering the meaning, the word Phaya was changing agent. The elder people told that this village was the jungle where many wildlife were living. In Ayutthaya period, Phraya Pattani was chained here. The word "Lam" in Thai language was transformed later to "Lum" and "Lumphaya" as present, which meant the chained Phraya. Thus, Phraya was the object of verb Lum (chain).

2) Variant clause semantics was the fronting/Y-movement / topicalization which the subject acted as the patient. For example:

(89) Ban Tha Sap (Patient-Verb)

Tha Sap, when considering the meaning, the word Tha was the patient to verb Sap. The elder in Ban Tha Sap told that in the past, there was no bridge to cross Pattani River. People used the raft to transport. The shadow play group, classical Thai tune, and the fortunetellers believed in the magic. They believed that the magic would disappear if they used the raft. Moreover, the raft took people's life at least one life a year. For this reason, people called this place Tha Sap. Thus, Tha was the object of the verb Sap.

(90) Ban Chumchon-Pattana (Patient-Verb)

Chumchon Pattana, when considering the meaning, the word Chumchon was the patient. It was consistent with the tell of the elder that people from outside moved to this village together with the victims from Laem Talumphuk storm surge, Nakhon Si Thammarat Province. They cleared the jungle on the mountain to settle the residence and earn a living with rubber plantation and orchard. In 2000, people led by Mr. Somporn Phadkhong, had the referendum to name the village as Ban Chumchon Pattana.

Conclusion and Discussion

Forms and structures of village toponyms in Yala Province were classified into four groups, which were 1) singular form, 2) phrase form, 3) sentence form, and 4) complex form. The most frequent form found was phrase form, followed by singular form, sentence form, and complex form, respectively. To analyze forms and structure of the village toponyms in Yala Province the researcher should know the actual meaning of the name by analyzing language together with the context emphasizing role and language use. At present, government agencies have changed many village's names from Malay to Thai using newly created specific nouns with change in meaning. For example, Tha Wang was the name registered in the directory of B.E.2554. If the name is analyzed, it might be classified into noun phrase: Tha + Wang, which is all noun. However, from the interview with local people, it was found out that the name was changed from Malay word Kumpang Tuwae which later glided to Tha Wang. Tuwae meaning an owner. It was believed that the land was owned by someone. Therefore, Ban Tha Wang was grouped in the singular form. Another name is Pa Wang. Analyzing it, it might be classified into sentence: Pa + hope, compound noun and verb. However, local people said that the name was changed from Malay, Pa Wae, which is the name of the plant mostly found in the village. Thus, Tha Wang was classified as singular form as well.

Syntax of village toponyms in Yala Province was classified into grammatical roles and semantical roles. Grammatical role was classified into two groups. First, syntactic phrase that explained the role of words as phrase component. The study on syntax of village toponyms in Yala Province showed that phrase consisted of noun and the modifier to the left. All compound nouns had modifiers as noun phrases syntactically. This type of noun phrase had syntactic relation as main unit-modifier unit. However, village toponyms in Yala Province were found to be modifier unit-main unit. For example, Ban Si Sip had the main word Sip after the modifier, Si, which modified Sip. Therefore, Si Sip means four times ten. Second, syntactic sentences classified into simple clauses, Subject-Verb and Verb-Object, and variant clauses, fronting/Y-movement/topicalization. Hence, it was Object-Verb. Semantical role was grouped into two groups. Firstly, semantic phrase which were noun phrase and prepositional phrase. Noun phrase semantics had 36 groups while prepositional phrase semantics had 11 groups. Secondly, semantic sentence which consisted of two types, simple clause and variant clause. Simple clause might be in form that the subject was the patient or agent, and the object was the patient. Variant clause was the type that the subject was the patient.

The structure of naming the village names in Yala Province indicated five structures out of 12 structures classified by David Smyth (2002: 33-38).

The interesting point of the study on the syntax of village toponyms was that it must display the actual meaning such as Ban Bannang Bubo, which showed the semantic relation as Area-Parallelism, not Area-Food, although Bannang meaning a field and Bubo meaning the dessert in coconut milk. However, since the actual meaning was the village where the mud was in the field. Therefore, the semantic relation was Area-Parallelism because it compared the soil as the build dessert in coconut milk. In terms of sentence semantics, Ban Chulabhorn Pattana and Ban Chumchon Pattana contained the same verb, Pattana (develop). However, when analyzing the actual meaning, it was classified into different sentence semantics; Ban Chulabhorn Pattana was simple clause semantics with the subject acting as the agent while Ban Chumchon Pattana was variant sentence semantics with fronting/Y-movement/topicalization) structure where the subject was the patient. This form supported the idea of Unchalee Singnoi (2005: 16-17), who stated that meaning and language form must be considered independently as form-meaning where the related semantics was the phrase called semantic relations. The consideration of syntax of a noun phrase on a verb was to identify the semantic role of the noun phrase on a verb. Semantic role was very significant in conveying the meaning and should be differentiated from role or syntactic function (Subject, Object, etc.) clearly. Syntactic roles many adhering to various semantic functions.

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