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A CONTRASTIVE STUDY ON LISU AND THAI PHONOLOGY

BY

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ABSTRACT

This thesis is a study of the phonological systems of Lisu and Thai. The objective is to present the phonological contrast between the two languages. The study of Thai pronunciation in Lisu speakers is added for the use of teaching Thai to Lisu people. The phonological comparison is done on the Intonation Group, the Stress Group, the Syllable, and the Phoneme. The study of Thai pronunciation for Lisu speakers is on the Phoneme. The study shows that the two languages are very different, especially the Intonation Group and the Phoneme. This is because Lisu and Thai belong to different language superstocks: Lisu is of Tibeto-Burman, Thai of Austro-Thai. In the Intonation Group, Lisu has two Intonation types: the Statement and the Question, Thai has only one type: the Statement. In the Phoneme: 1) the consonants: Lisu has 31 initial consonants, Thai has 21; Lisu has 4 medial consonants, Thai has 3; and Lisu has 3 final consonants, Thai has 9. 2) the vowels: Lisu has 9 main vowels and 5 neutral vowels, Thai has 18 short and long simple vowels, and 3 complex vowels. 3) the tones: Lisu has 6 tones, Thai has 5. One of the tones in Lisu occurs with laryngealized vowels, this phenomenon does not occur in Thai.