Language is a cornerstone of national identity. The Thai language, which is most widely spoken in Thailand, is both the national language and the official language of the country.

Compared to other countries in Southeast Asia, Thailand seems to be remarkably homogeneous from a linguistic point of view. Although there are approximately seventy languages/dialects used in Thailand, only standard Thai is dominant with the highest prestige. The main reason is perhaps that Thailand is the only country in this region that was not colonized by any western country.

Due to globalization, English and some other languages gain more importance in Thailand. Thai and English compete with one another in many domains of language use. Although Thai is still playing a bigger role in most domains, English is gaining more and more favour. English is considered a symbol of modernization. While Thai is considered a symbol of cultural pride. This lecture focuses on the attitudes of Thais toward their own language.

M.L. Dr. Jaralvilai Charunrochana (รองศาสตราจารย์ ดร. ม.ล.จรัลวิไล จรูญโรจน์) is an Associate Professor of Linguistics at Department of Liberal Arts, Faculty of Liberal Arts and Sciences, Kasetsart University (Kamphaeng Saen Campus), Thailand. M.L. Dr. Jaralvilai was also a lecturer at the Faculty of Arts, Silpakorn University in 2001-2003 and the Faculty of Humanities, Kasetsart University (Bangkhen Campus) in 2003-2014. She teaches, researches and writes about sociolinguistics, attitudes of speakers on their languages, and also the impact of languages on grammatical categories and speakers' worldview. Her textbooks, articles and learning lessons on linguistics were published by many universities in Thailand. Her latest publication in English is “Attitudes towards Thai Regional Dialects among Students Who Have Studied Linguistics and Those Who Have Not Studied Linguistics.” published in the Journal of Letters in 2019.

Monday, 22 February 2021
16h-18h (CET)

via Zoom: https://uni-hamburg.zoom.us/j/99234618746

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