Language Change as an Evidence for Dating Old Thai Texts

Old Thai texts are traditionally dated by non-linguistic criteria such as material, content, letters and orthography. Fewer works which use language-internal criteria are usually limited to lexical and idiomatic features and less attention has been paid to the role of language changes. This lecture shows that semantic and grammatical changes of words can be used as an alternative criteria to date old Thai texts because these kinds of linguistic changes occur in a gradual and directional manner. They result in different semantic and grammatical properties in stages of change. Thus, a text can be chronologically dated by examining semantic and grammatical properties of words and placing them in order of pathways of semantic and grammatical changes. This is exemplified by using historical changes of the words /ṭhīː/ and negators /bɔ̀/ /mí/ /pàj/ and /mâj/ as case studies to date samples of old Thai texts ranged from the Sukhothai era to the early Rattanakosin era. Additional discussion on linguistic dating of Traibhūmi (the National Library of Paris Version) and Royal Chronicle of Ayutthaya (Luang Prasert Aksornnit’s version) is included in this lecture to support that texts can be dated linguistically.

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Friday, 26 November 2021
14h-16h (CET)

via Zoom: (copy the link into your webbrowser to join, you might be asked to download the software)
https://uni-hamburg.zoom.us/j/64563521222

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