

# **THE EXPERIMENTAL ANALYSIS FOR THAI CHILDREN'S ERRORS OF CHINESE TONES IN MONOSYLLABLES**

Name: Ms. Zhang Limin Major: Curriculum and Teaching Methodology  
Directed by: Prof. Zhang Wei Jia

## **ABSTRACT**

The Chinese tones are the most difficult part for Thai children in learning. This thesis focuses on Thai children's performance of Chinese tones in monosyllabic words. The objectives of this study are twofold: to identify Thai learner's problems in listening and producing Chinese tones, and to identify possible causes of these problems.

By the experimental analysis of the vocal tones of twenty Thai children and the dictation skills of 64 students the results are: tones 2 and 3 are the most erroneous. Thai children also had less difficulty with tone 1, and the least difficulty with tone 4. Tone 1 is produced with a relatively lower pitch. Thai children's production of tone 2 and 3 are deviated from native speakers. These are the effects from their native language. However, they did not rise in pitch as highly as the native speakers. Finally, tone 4 pitch patterns of Thai children across the two groups seemed to be generally similar to the target. However, one deviation was recognized. The native speakers produced this tone with a sudden drop in pitch, whereas the Thais with a delayed drop in pitch.

**Key words:** Thai children; monosyllabic words; production; errors