

A Study of Phonological Khmer Dialect Spoken in Surin Province

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Abstract

The objectives of this study were 1. to study phonemes of Khmer dialect spoken in Mueang Kae Subdistrict, Tha Tum District, Surin Province 2. to compare the similarities and differences of phonemes of Standard Khmer and Khmer dialect spoken in Surin Province. This research design was a qualitative study using the methodological procedure for a study gathering through documentary, vocabulary testing and in-depth interviews with 10 key informants. The researcher employed tools as the questionnaires, interview and the testing using the pronunciation word lists of Khmer language used and Khmer dialect spoken by native speakers of Surin province as respondents in commonly used of 10 categories.

The research revealed as follows;

The results of study indicated that speakers of the standard Khmer use the Khmer language for communication in their life as national language due to the Khmer language as a first language used and spoken by their children and grandchildren in communication nowadays. The respondents indicated that they express the Khmer dialect inherited to the new generation through learning of language acquisition. As in the contrast of Khmer dialect speakers of Surin province as indicated that they used and spoken Isaan dialect for communication in their life as a native language in the areas. So, they used only Khmer dialect as a first language for communication including Isaan dialect. In addition, the study explored the phonemes of word lists of the

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similarities and differences of both languages as in the same and different phonemes of 10 categories. Each category described pronunciation word lists of numbers, dates and natural phenomenon, people, pronouns and kinship terms, Human body parts and animals, verbs, states or conditions, trees, plants, vegetables, fruits and food, animals and insects, personal care products and accessory, equipment and tools, most commonly used in daily life, the key informants produced the similarity and difference in both sounds of languages revealed that the sounds produced were at the same and different sounds of consonants and vowels of words given in various phonological segments respectively.

Keywords: Comparative study, Standard Khmer, Khmer Dialect, Phonemes

Introduction

Phonology is the branch of Linguistics that deals with systems of sounds, including phonemes, syllable, structure, stress, accent, and intonation within a language or between different languages. The system of contrastive relationship among the speech sounds that constitute the fundamental components of a language. Phonology describes the way sounds function within a given language or across languages to encode meaning. (Lass Roger,1984) There is a researcher has studied the Khmer language spoken in Surin province indicated that the The Khmer language is a language in the Khmer sub-branch of the Mon-Khmer language group in the Austroasiatic Language Family. It is a language family with a large number of speakers scattered widely in Southeastern Asia.

The Khmer language is a language that falls under the Mon-Khmer language. It is a branch of the Austroasiatic language family, which is another large language family. It is spoken in Southeast Asia. In Thailand, the Khmer dialect is an ancient language spoken in Southeast Asia, especially in Cambodia and neighboring countries such as the border areas of Thailand and South Vietnam. The Khmer language is divided by the Linguists into 3 local areas:

1. The Middle Khmer language is the only Khmer language spoken in all areas of Cambodia.
2. The Southern Khmer language is only spoken close to the border of South Vietnam.
3. Northern Khmer language is included to all languages spoken in Thailand, especially in the area of Surin Province. The Khmer language is divided into two groups spoken by Thais: Khmer High, or Khmer in Thailand, and Khmer Low, or Khmer in Cambodia.

According to the background of both countries, Thai and Khmer ethnic groups have built up a relationship for long times, and the culture is transmitted to each other. In particular, the territory where Thailand is located until to present, according to the historical evidence, is believed to be the territory that Khmer was previously occupied. Later, Thais' kingdom successfully seized the power from the Khmer ethnic. Therefore, they built a city to rule this region instead of the Khmers and at present, the border between Thailand and Cambodia has a city. The close relationship between the kingdom of Thailand and the kingdom of Khmers from the past to the present should be an indication of the nature of the two peoples, whether in terms of tradition, culture, or society, especially the language culture that is unique to the nation.

The Khmer language spoken in Thailand is considered a dialect, which means another local dialect that is not standard Khmer. Currently, there are Khmer-Thai speakers who are living in several provinces in the lower Northeastern regions and in the Eastern regions of Thailand, namely Surin, Buriram, Sisaket, Ubon Ratchathani, Nakhon Ratchasima, Maha Sarakham, Roi Et, Prachinburi, Trat, Chanthaburi, Chachoengsao, and Sa Kaeo. (Suwilai Premsrirat & Orawan Phuisarakit, 1996) From the empirical data and research study of the Khmer-Thai language, it was found that there were studies in both Linguistics, Literature and other areas. For Linguistics, there were studies of phonetics, word systems, grammar systems, and a comparative study of variations according to social factors. and educational linguistics.

When taking of consideration in the study of Khmer- Thai, for example, most of the studies were about the phonological or the grammatical aspects. For example, a phonological comparison of spoken Central Khmer (Phnom Penh) and Northern Khmer (Surin) focusing on the study of phonological sounds and words. (Prakorb Phon-ngam,1960) It is a research study mentioned that the Khmer language is in Surin province as well and focuses on the important issues related to the phonological system of sounds and words. Therefore, there has not been any studies on the Thai-Khmer language in the areas study of Surin province covered the phonological aspects of sound and words, especially the phonemes. Therefore, the researcher considered based on fact that it is interesting and suitable study of phonemes.

The researcher conducted a preliminary survey in the Mueang Kae Subdistrict, Tha Tum District, Surin Province. By exploring multiplex language related information undoubtedly, in any human community language plays a vital role, securing social sustainability. The language of any society and culture tells a lot about local citizens. Indeed, language is not only a way of communication, but national symbols, music, and art. From this point of view, culture is not only a language in its general sense but the mutual recognition of soul values by people communicating within the culture. This way, individuals can communicate both verbally and non-verbally. Khmer Surin dialect is the researcher's native language, and the role it plays can never be overemphasized. Thus, the researcher would like to compare on both sounds of Khmer languages; Khmer Surin and Khmer Standard in some narratives and experiences, to examine how they have changed my outlook, life, and understanding of the world around because the area of study where there are many Khmer Thai speakers living and is a community where the Khmer language is intensive. The researcher found that the aforementioned Khmer-Thai language has many interesting sounds. For example, the consonant sound is still used to spell [-r] and the consonant sound is not

found in [-?], which is different from the standard Khmer language. Therefore, the researcher considered that the Thai-Khmer language in Tha Tum District is interesting. Therefore, the aforementioned area was chosen as the area for this research.

This research presented the phonemes of the Khmer-Thai language in the Tha Tum district, Surin province. This is a body of knowledge in linguistics that can be further studied in the future and can be used as a basis for comparative linguistic studies when language changes. This research will be informed the phonemes of the Khmer-Thai language spoken in the areas of Mueang Kae Subdistrict, Tha Tum District, Surin Province. The body of knowledge in linguistics that can be further studied in the future and can be used as a basis for comparative linguistic studies when language changes. The phonological knowledge gained will be useful for organizations or educational institutions offering the study on languages. The comparison of the aforementioned Khmer-Thai phonemes with Central Khmer will be distinguished the phonemes of the language and given an overview of the languages spoken in Thailand and Cambodia. It also is a body of knowledge that can be passed on to future generations who will use to study when a language changes over time.

According to the above mentioned reasons, the researcher interested to create a body of knowledge that is useful for the study of phonemes and to expand the scope of Khmer-Thai language study to be more complete including the differences of both languages, therefore, the researcher intended to study Khmer-Thai phonemes in Tha Tum District, Surin and compared the similarities and differences of the phonemes of Standard Khmer and Khmer dialect spoken in the areas of study as in Tha Tum District, Surin Province, where is the native place of the researcher and to study an overview of the Khmer-Thai language even more.

Objectives of Research

The objectives of this study are as follows:

1. To study phonemes of Khmer dialect spoken in Mueang Kae Subdistrict, Tha Tum District, Surin Province.
2. To compare the similarities and differences of phonemes of Standard Khmer and Khmer dialect spoken in Surin province.

Research Methodology

The survey research was a qualitative research using the methodological procedure for a study getting through documentary and indepth interviews with the key informants in a total of 10 people.

For the instruments were used in this study such questionnaires; an interview and test. The questionnaires used by asking general information of the respondents. The interview was also used as an instrument to gain more in-depth information of the Khmer spoken by native speakers as the certain participants in their background and language use in their daily life. The results were used to gain on the comparison of both Khmer dialect in Surin used by the local people of the areas study and standard Khmer spoken by native speakers in Cambodia country who played a role in the subjects' performance. The vocabulary test of pronunciation of Khmer languages was adapted from the set of Word Lists of the Language Institute, Chulalongkorn University in total of 300 lists about Khmer dialect terminology.

The questionnaire given to the participants adapted from Language Institute, Chulalongkorn University (1998) to suit the needs of this study. This questionnaire used to collect data for the study of Phonological features of Khmer dialect spoken in Surin province. The comparative scale that researcher employed the questionnaires for asking questions and gave in order to test on words list pronunciations those must be answered in both parts.

The questions asked the interview were the extension of the statements from the questionnaires which needed more probing in order to gauge the subjects in-depth feeling about their test performance. This is in line with "the rationale behind the use of interviews as a data source is that

it can provide access to thing that cannot be directly observed, such as feeling, thoughts, intentions, or beliefs. All the interview sessions were tape-recorded and transcribe for convenience of analysis.

The words of Khmer languages were pronounced by respondents and the researcher recorded by the tape recorder, for assessment test was also used to see if there were any sounds produced similarly and differently of Khmer dialect spoken in Surin and Standard Khmer language. A comparison was made from the results of the assessment test. And also, the questionnaires and interviews were measured whether there was consistency in Khmer dialect of Surin and Standard Khmer.

The procedure of data collection used the creating word lists for language information updated from the Thai and indigenous language research project words list of Language Institute, Chulalongkorn University (1998) 300 words. The data were collected used audio recordings and observations of language usage in real-life situations. In other words, language data was collected by having the speaker pronounce the word and then have the researcher pronounce it until the speaker said it was correctly pronounced. The researcher recorded the data used the International Phonetic Alphabet and recorded it with a digital audio recorder for the duration of the language data collection. The researcher also used the observation method by visiting public places such as markets, stadiums, educational institutions, etc, and the researcher uses the knowledge base of Khmer dialect in Thai and Khmer standard for comparative, analysis and used the concept of mutation and meaning according to Grimm's Law.

The researcher has made some minor alteration toward questionnaires which is based on the research objective and research question of the study. Based on the answers given later in the findings, the answers were recorded by the researcher as samples of data collection. Before the researcher administered the questionnaires for answering session, the researcher had explained briefly on the objectives of this research to respondents and procedure regarding the research study and

what the questionnaires were all about with emphasizing on the importance of honesty and sincerity in answering the question form to respondents understood. When the researcher had finished the interview, all parts related to questionnaires, then the researcher collected all information including taken photographs with the respondents in their houses of study areas as specified details.

The researcher analyzed the data by verifying the accuracy of the word list recorded and then arranged the data based on the rhyming word, analyze fuzzy sounds and then write new data using the phonetic alphabet. Then make a phonemic chart showing the sounds of consonants and vowels. The analysis of the collected data to find the different key sounds in the language based on the theory of morphology, regarding phonemes, syllables, words. Then, the data collected was analysed qualitatively by looking at the similarities and differences in key sounds of Khmer dialect and Khmer standard between the participants as native speakers in different areas of Mueang Kae Subdistrict, Tha Tum District, Surin Province. The collected data were analysed and shown the results correlated to research objectives and the conclusion included the recommendation based on the analysis.

Results of Research

The researcher presented the results of the collected data as a qualitative work concerned. The findings revealed the phonemes of Khmer dialect and the words difference of Khmer dialect spoken in Surin province and Standard Khmer language spoken in Cambodia. There are two findings from the study as the interview and the testing about pronunciation spoken by different native speakers in different areas as the follow:

1. The Interview

The analysis of data was in a qualitative research consisted of a total of 10 questionnaires interview given information by the respondents who are Thai native speakers of Khmer dialect from areas of study, Surin province and Standard Khmer native speakers from Cambodia equally 5

persons who were in process. The researcher conducted interview to the respondents through conversation type of interview to make them comfortable and give rich information.

1.1 Native Speakers of Standard Khmer language

The data was about the respondents' information, they were 5 native speakers from Cambodia country. The ages of the respondents were in respectively of 40-40-43-46 and 54 years old, the occupations of the respondents were 4 persons as a monk, including only one temple boy. The gender of respondents stated that they were male; native speaker. All of respondents were from Cambodia, they have never been stayed at Muang Kae Sub-district, Tha Tum District, Surin Province. The Standard Khmer dialect was used by all respondents and all of them used Khmer language in their daily life. So, they used only Khmer language as a first language for communication. Most of them thought that Khmer dialect was used and spoken by their children and grandchildren in communication nowadays. All of respondents indicated that they expressed the Khmer dialect inherited to the new generation through teaching them when they were children. The respondents stated that the Khmer dialect was important tool for their life at the present in the using for communication in daily life.

1.2 Native Speakers of Khmer dialect spoken in Surin province

The data was about the respondents' information, they were 5 native speakers spoken and used Khmer dialect. The ages of the respondents were in respectively of 48-58-59-59 and 60 years old, the occupations of all respondents were farmer. The gender of respondents stated that they were three male and two females; native speakers. The respondents, all of them were from Muang Kae Sub-district, Tha Tum District, Surin Province, Thailand. The respondents stated that the Khmer dialect and Thai Isaan dialect were the people in village spoken for communication. The Khmer dialect was used by all respondents and all respondents used Khmer dialect and Thai Isaan dialect in their daily life. So, they used only Khmer language as a secondary language. The respondents indicated that most of

them thought that Khmer dialect was used and spoken by their children and grandchildren in communication nowadays. All the respondents indicated that they expressed the Khmer dialect inherited to the new generation through language acquisition in community when they were children. The respondents stated that the Khmer dialect was important tool for their life at the present in the using for communication in daily life.

The researcher has read and analyzed the data collected the Standard Khmer and Khmer dialect spoken by respondents in the areas of study in Surin province.

2. Testing of Khmer Pronunciation

The pronunciation of both languages of Standard Khmer language and Khmer dialect spoken in Surin province by native speakers. The researcher carried out to distribute the test for respondents from the 10 categories of the commonly used Khmer dialect. This is the sample of tests used in the study such the following as:

Table 1 Phonemes Pronunciation of Numbers

Word Lists	Standard Khmer	Khmer Dialect in Surin
one	mu:y	mu:y
two	pi:l	pi:r
three	bə:y	bə:y
four	bu:n	bu:n
five	pra?m	pra?m
six	pra?mu:y	pra?mu:y
seven	pra?mpi:l	pra?mpi:l
eight	pra?mbə:y	pra?mbə:y
nine	pra?mbu:n	pra?mbu:n
ten	dɔp	dɔp
eleven	dɔpmu:y	ma?ta?nɔp
twelve	dɔppi:l	pi:lta?nɔp
thirteen	dɔpbə:y	bə:yta?nɔp
fourteen	dɔpbu:n	bu:nta?nɔp

Word Lists	Standard Khmer	Khmer Dialect in Surin
fifteen	dɔppra?m	pra?mta?nɔp
sixteen	dɔppra?mu:y	pra?mu:ya?nɔp
seventeen	dɔppra?mpi:l	pra?mpi:lta?nɔp
eighteen	dɔppra?mbə:y	pra?mbə:ya?nɔp
nineteen	dɔppra?mbu:n	pra?mbu:nta?nɔp
twenty	ma?pə:y	ma?pə:y
thirty	sa:msip	sa:msɔp
forty	si?sip	sɛ:sɔp
fifty	ha:ssip	ha:ssɔp
sixty	ho:ksip	ho:ksɔp
seventy	cɛtsip	cɛtsɔp
eighty	pɛdsip	pɛdsɔp
ninety	ka:wsip	ka:wsɔp
one hundred	mu:yru:y	ma?ru:y
one thousand	mu:ypu:n	ma?pu:n
one million	mu:yla:n	ma?liən

From the above table shows the phonemes pronunciation of Numbers in 30 words given by the key informants who were native speaker of Khmer dialect in Surin and Khmer language spoken by native speaker from Cambodia. The result shown the words stated that the phonemes of pronunciation of numbers as reflected in Table 1 reveals that, out of the total of 30 words, only 10 words indicated that One-Ten and included Twenty as /ma?pə:y/ pronounced on the similar sounds in both languages except the number of =Two= produced differently sound of /-l/ and /-r/ on the final position as /pi:l /and /pi:r./

There were 20 phonemes of pronunciation words produced on different sounds and indicated the different positions of productivity in position such as eleven; for Standard Khmer = /dɔppmu:y/ but Surin Khmer = /ma?ta?nɔp/ and twelve; Standard Kmer= dɔppi:l but Surin Khmer= /pi:lta?nɔp/. But only 6 words stated that the phonemes difference of the vowels in final position given by the key informants such as the numbers

of thirty-ninety like the phoneme sounds of thirty=*/sa:msip/* and */sa:msɔp/* and forty = */si?sip/* and */sɛ:sɔp/*. The phonemes of numbers shown the words pronunciation indicated that 7 words produced in the different sounds of consonants such the number of thirteen-nineteen indicated that thirteen as sound produced = */dɔpbə:y/* in Standard Khmer and sound as */bə:ytə?nɔp/* in Surin Khmer.

In the contrast, the phonemes of numbers shown the words indicated that 3 words produced in the different sounds of vowels such the number of one hundred, one thousand and one million indicated that the different sounds of Standard Khmer- */mu:yru:y/* and Surin Khmer -*/ma?ru:y/* and sounds of */mu:ypu:n/-/ma?pu:n/* and */mu:yla:n/* and */ma?liən/* respectively produced.

Conclusion and Discussion

Based on the data, it can be concluded that key informants' background, the phoneme pronunciations of Khmer dialect spoken in Surin province and Standard Khmer language describes the conclusion that the Standard Khmer dialect used by the native speaker of language, they are from Cambodia. The respondents indicate that Standard Khmer is language for communication in their life as national language due to the Khmer language as a first language. The Khmer dialect is used and spoken by their children and grandchildren in communication nowadays. The respondents indicate that they express the Khmer dialect inherited to the new generation through learning of language acquisition.

In the contrast, the finding of the background of native speakers who use the Khmer dialect spoken in Surin province presents the results from data analysis that the Khmer dialect used by the native speaker for communication only in the limited areas of study, they live and exist in Surin province of Thailand. The respondents indicate that Khmer dialect and Isaan dialect are the languages for communication in their life as a native language in the areas. So, they used only Khmer dialect as a first language for

communication including Isaan dialect. All think that Khmer dialect is used and spoken by their children and grandchildren in communication nowadays. The respondents indicate that they express the Khmer dialect inherited to the new generation through learning of language acquisition.

In addition, the researcher also stated that the second objective of the study compares the similarity and difference phoneme of Khmer dialect spoken in Surin province and Khmer language in 10 categories of phoneme sound of pronunciation given in previous part. Therefore, the researcher has been summarized this research findings and their relationship to the research questions and how they are related to previous studies.

1. What are the phonemes of the Khmer dialect spoken in Surin province?

The researcher found that the phonemes of the Khmer dialect indicated the basic components of phonological phonemes system, the findings from the questionnaires also discovered that there will have simply phonemes of a Khmer dialect spoken by the native speakers at Tatum district, Surin province consists of 17 consonants, of which all can be initials, clusters exist in /CC-/ and /CCC-/ syllable structures, and only 13 of these consonants can be finals. There were 28 vowel phonemes consisting of 12 short and 12 long monophthongs, 3 short diphthongs and 1 long diphthong. There is no register in this Khmer dialect. Syllables can be separated into major syllables and minor syllables, and the basic structure is CV. Stress in this dialect is non-phonemic; there are primary stress, secondary stress and unstressed syllables. The Khmer words of this dialect were monosyllable and disyllable words, polysyllable words were compound and borrowed words from other languages. This Khmer dialect is not a tonal language, which has pitch in phonetic transcription and has 2 types of intonation: rising and falling.

The findings, therefore, indicated that native speakers of Khmer dialect in Surin province who are used and spoken for communication only in the community and villages, they only live and exist in Surin province of Thailand. The results shown that Khmer dialect and Isaan dialect are the

languages for communication in their life as a native language of the areas. So, they use only Khmer dialect as a first language in family for communication including Isaan dialect. Their children and grandchildren express the inherited Khmer dialect to the new generation through learning of language acquisition.

The results affirm the findings of Yanyong Sikarit (2018) indicated that there will be communication and interaction between each of them in order to boost the resulting in language learning of the other party, leading to language exploration. So, language exploration appears in everywhere else. It has not yet appeared after that base. Is there any language that has developed without contact with another language? Even languages that have been hailed for their purity such as Sanskrit, it also has appeared to original language which is borrowed to many foreign languages. Language has the effect of borrowing; that is, when a group comes into contact with another group, the language form of the other party is adopted in its own language, which is the use of words that do not exist in their native language or may bring other linguistic characteristics such as sounds, word formation, syntax, or the meaning of that language used in their own native language. Similarly, Joom Sunang (2019) found that the study of Khmer words in Thai by scholars in the past found that there are thousands of Khmer words in the Thai language, borrowings from different languages are used, especially from languages that differ in sound system and grammatical structure. This phenomenon also occurs in the case of borrowing words from Khmer to use in the Thai language and borrowing Thai words to be used in the Khmer language as well. That is, most borrowed words have the same lexical form as the original language. But there will be a change in the pronunciation of words.

From the above reason, therefore, the result shown that the key informants preferred using their native language, Khmer and Thai Isaan dialect, because they felt more integrated into the acculturation and society as a whole when using their mother tongue.

2. What are the similarities and differences of Standard Khmer language and the Khmer dialect spoken in Surin province?

As mentioned, the main objectives of the study are to analyse phoneme of Khmer dialect spoken in Surin Province of Thailand and to compare the sounds of the words on the difference of Khmer dialect spoken in Surin province and Standard Khmer language of Cambodia in 10 categories of phoneme sounds. The finding revealed that the testing of phonemes pronunciation of 10 categories namely Numbers , Dates and Natural phenomenon, Persons, Pronouns and Kinship terms, the Human Body Parts and Animal, Verbs, States or Conditions, Trees, Plants, Vegetables, Fruits and Food , Animals and Insects, Personal Care Products and Accessory and the most commonly used in Daily Life pronounced on the similar sounds in both languages and produced sounds differently and indicated the different positions of productivity in position as indicated the details in chapter 4. The finding supported a study carried out by Prang Pingmuanglek (2018) indicated that the structure of the sound to find the sound system in the language, what sound is the most important sound is classified as a phoneme, how each phoneme is pronounced as a sub-voice (allophone), when finding phonemes and allophone, and then studying further to see where each phoneme comes from, such as the beginning of the syllable, the end of the syllable, or both.

Similarly, the thesis already done by Capt. Honglada Klaharn (2018) found that the characteristics of the Khmer language is a system of structures in the Khmer language, consisting of a sound system, a word system, and a sentence system and the grammar of the Khmer language consists of subject-verb-karma. By arranging sentence patterns similar to the Thai language, In addition, the Khmer language has a special peculiarity known as "prank," which has the same root as new words by adding a prefix, middle, and hiding syllables.

Based on these findings, it can be seen that speakers have various sounds differently. The results shown words pronunciation given 10

categories and phonological phoneme productivity that reflected to the similarity and difference. They tended to produce only fragmentary sentences and did not always include their intended ideas. As mentioned earlier, the similarities and differences of Standard Khmer language and the Khmer dialect spoken in Surin province deal with how the difference areas speaker use and communicate each other complying with society and community that influenced by individual conditions seen in various places of Thailand and Cambodia. However, these similar and different phoneme sounds appear to be clear pronunciation if both of speakers are commonly used for understanding and communication applying in linguistic purposes in order to build the relationship for the countries.

New Body of Knowledge

The knowledge obtained from study as the phonological knowledge that we consider is perceptual knowledge. As mentioned, perceptual knowledge includes two types of knowledge: knowledge of the category structure of sounds, as revealed through speech identification and discrimination experiments, and knowledge of variation in speech signals given by two different speakers.

However, the research finding showed different result. After native speakers were getting pronunciation test, and information about phonetics and phonology, the result was beyond expectation. It may be caused by the different native speakers of two languages. Geographic location is a complex variable that entails cultural, educational, social-political, and linguistic differences. Getting the evidence, we were able to gather between the two languages is situated in the complex sociocultural, political and educational environment where both languages are currently being used.

The findings of the study have implications on Khmer language study in Thailand and Cambodia. First, the speakers of Khmer should note that the phonological knowledge of already learned languages is a blessing

in learning of Khmer linguistics in Thailand. There is much that learners could benefit from this prior knowledge; second, while learning, learners should begin from what the learners know before introducing the unknown; third, while learning Khmer phonology, learners should focus first on the similar sound segments, then move on to the dissimilar sound segments. They should then expose the learners to a lot of practice exercises on the dissimilar sound so that they are able to overcome articulation difficulties.

Suggestions of Research

The suggestions based on the phonological phonemes of Khmer language and dialect are now very important. This research aimed to analyse phoneme of Khmer dialect spoken in Surin Province of Thailand by five key informants. So, the study mainly focuses on the phonemes pronunciation and compares the sounds of the words on the difference of Khmer dialect spoken in Surin province and Standard Khmer language of Cambodia. It is hoped that the results of this study will be fruitful for both Thai and international, Khmer native speakers on how to understanding sound systems each other as well. Based on the findings and conclusions of this study, the following suggestions are made for future research:

1. This present study was conducted with only a small number of Thai Khmer speakers; therefore, the results would be more reliable and valid if future studies are conducted with more participants in more areas of study.

2. Due to the limited time, the researcher could only focus on phonological sounds system towards using lexical meanings or others; in fact, there are several language productivities related to various factors in languages learning through culture, confidence, and education. Further studies can undertake more in-depth investigations or expand the scope to include such aspects in order to provide a better understanding and appropriate suggestions on how to pronounce language of the world.

3. To encourage whoever interested to compare the similarity and difference of Thai-Khmer and Standard Khmer language.

4. To arrange more comparative words for whoever interested to compare the similarity and difference of Thai-Khmer and Standard Khmer language.

5. To conduct the research on the similarity and difference of Khmer language related to many languages spoken and used in the regions of Asian countries such Vietnam, Laos, Myanmar etc. Therefore, a comparative study of both languages based on the productivity of phonological sound is interesting for all.

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