Tai Ideograms

The Tai languages also have a variety of ideographs, whose usage I have not been able to fully discern. The most common of these is the "ho hoi," which takes a variety of forms in different regions. Lafont described the "ho hoi" as follows:

Mr. Lafont announces an ideogram employed in the love letters between young people, it indicates the depth of the love. In 'Tay Dam, one names it RAK ROEIX "love eternal", "continual love", and would be simply named ROEIX in 'Tay Deng and 'Tay Neua. This word is found into Siamese and laotien, in transliteration: rïey

Translated from Lafont 1962

A second explanation comes from my personal correspondence with Dr. Ngo Trung Viet, who has told me "by tradition, 'ho hoi' is only used at the beginning of the text."

On the other hand, my untitled Tai Daeng manuscript makes extensive use of the "ho hoi", or similar characters, which appear in many forms throughout the manuscript. See below for a few examples. Up to now I have not met any Tai Daeng readers who can explain to me the significance of the variety of forms.

Samples of "Ho Hoi" like characters from the untitled Tai Daeng manuscript.

- Page 7, line 6:
- Page 7, line 13:
- Page 11, line 6:
- Page 15, line 7: It is not clear to me if these last three images are variations of the same form, or three distinct forms.
- Page 15, line 8:

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