

Minority Orthography Development

An Introduction

An Exercise:

These 3 fine wines came
from the best vines

Problems

- Insufficient Consonants
 - Reappropriate existing shapes ฝ
 - Add new shapes ฦ
 - Mark existing shapes ฦ.
 - Add new sequences ฦฦ
- Applies also to:
 - Vowels
 - Tones

Factors

- Linguistics
 - How do we make the language fit?
 - How do we handle loan words?
- Literacy
 - What is simple to read?
 - One sound per letter
 - Keep It Simple Stupid
 - What do people already know?
 - Thai in school

Factors

- Sociolinguistics
 - Do they want something to make them unique?
 - Will they accept reappropriation of letters?
 - Changing the associated sound of a letter
 - What does the government think?

Approaches Taken for Thai Script

- Reappropriation
 - Mai tai khu as a vowel
 - เติ้ง to spread (Bru)
 - Mai trii as a vowel
 - โจ้ bunch of bamboo (Bru)
 - Nikhahit
 - ญ้อย (Northern Khmer)

Approaches Taken for Thai Script

- Reappropriation (concl)
 - Mai Karan as a tone
 - ลีว already (Mien)
 - Phinthu
 - โทธร So language (So)

Approaches Taken for Thai Script

- New Sequences
 - Tone marks everywhere!
 - ກີ້ວະ country (Mien – has 6 written tones)
- Wild Ideas
 - Underlining (aargh!)
 - ນຸ່ງ snake (Omkoï Pwo Karen)

Non Approaches in Thai

- Extra levels
 - Upper diacritics, still 2 levels
 - Lower diacritics, still 1 level
- Only 2 upper diacritics change
 - Mai tai khu: vowel or tone
 - Mai trii: vowel or tone