



**The Relationships between the Social Factors and the Change
in Pronunciations of the Thai Language**

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ABSTRACT

This research investigates the social factors which have a relationship with the change in pronunciations of the Thai language. The trill sound pronunciation (/r/) and the consonant cluster sound pronunciations (/kl-, p^hr-, k^hr-, k^hl-, tr-, pr-, kr-, pl-, p^hl-, tl-, ^hl-, and ^hr-/), the investigated sounds, are assumed to have a tendency to change. The data are elicited from the pronunciation of 8 males and 8 females who were actors and actresses from 12 scenes of 5 soap operas, which represented natural conversation. The findings showed the significance in gender factor and age factor. Regardless of age, the actresses pronounced the words with the investigated sounds more accurately than the actors did. Regardless of gender, in addition, the senior actors pronounced the words with the investigated sounds more accurately than the young actors did. Therefore, it can be concluded that gender and age play an important role in the change of pronunciation of the Thai language.