

Sisomphone Soukhavongsa. 2008. **The Cultural Adaptation of Tai Daeng Ethnic Groups in Ban Phonthong, Muang Nasaithong, Nakhonluang Vientiane, Lao People's Democratic Republic.** Master of Art Thesis in Development Sociology, Graduate School, Khon Kaen University

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ABSTRACT

The objective of this research was to study background, characteristics and condition regarding the culture adaptation of the Tai Daeng ethnic group in Ban Phonthong, Muang Nasaithong, Nakhonluang Vientiane. It was a qualitative study conducted through field and document studies. Data collection included interviews and both participant and non participant observations. Result of the study was presented as the analytical description.

It was found historical of and the investigation of conditions in the social culture, history was found migration has relationship with other ethnic groups and sometime ha affect from The research result was found that history and social and cultural characteristic of the Tai Daeng ethnic group were analyzed. The history of the Tai Daeng was indicated that most of the groups moved to other places with relation of ethnic groups. Sometime other influential affectation was taken. It made the Tai Daeng ethnic group carried out adaptation process. The Tai Daeng was flexible and accepted in powerful culture, sometimes the Tai Daeng was built statement for refuse the cultural pushing with no conflict. In term of the social and cultural characteristic of the Tai Daeng ethnic group was indicated that in the part, politically the social and culture of the Tai Daeng was in form of faction, group or descendant politics. Male has had more roles than female in the society. Especially, the social and household activities were divided among female and male distinctly.

It was found that there were 3 phases of culture adaptation among the Tai Deang in Ban Phonthong including 1) Migration, Tai Daeng had migrated and settled down in various communities. Some were mixed with other ethnic groups resulting in the cultural adaptation harmoniously with local culture. 2) Village settlement in 1978, Tai Daeng had set up permanent

communities in zone 5 in Muang Nasaithong, It has become Ban Phonthong nowadays. In the beginning, this area was low-lying land suitable for rice farming. However, rice farming at that time was conducted as a commune activity according to the economic policy of Socialism. In addition, some traditions had been banned due to the social policy of state. 3) The changing of economic policy to free trade, communities had adapted by creating more jobs. Communities also adapted their traditions and beliefs in accordance with the social change especially the increasing roles of females in the society.

The investigation of conditions in the adaptation among the Tai Daeng in Ban Phonthong revealed that the adaptation was affected by policy of many governments in the past. Moreover, the location of Tai Daeng communities was surrounded by many ethnic groups including Tai-Lao, Tai-Phuan, Tai-Kao which were all Buddhist. As a result, Tai Daeng children and teenagers were increasingly interested in making merit on special Buddhist occasions at temples in nearby villages. They also presented themselves as Loa people when they were out of the communities. Even though their grandparents still paid respect to ghost, children were not barred from making merit at temples before. Beside, the communities had changed their culture according to the setting context, economic, social and political changes though time. This reflects culture adaptation and the acceptance of different cultures of people in each generation.