

SOUTHEAST ASIAN LANGUAGE READING ASSESSMENT PRELIMINARY WORKSHOP

May 6-7, 2011

This workshop is part of the UH-CSEAS SEA READING ASSESSMENT PROJECT for Fall 2010- Spring 2014.

The workshop is hosted by the Center for Southeast Asian Studies.
All SEA language teachers at UH are invited to attend this workshop.

ABOUT THE WORKSHOP

The main purpose of this 2 day preliminary workshop is to present ideas and solicit comments and suggestions from participants for use in completing the Thai Reading Test Prototype, which is the "pilot" test for this project. This workshop will provide background information about 1) ACTFL/ILR Reading Proficiency Guidelines & characteristics of readers and text types at various levels; 2) basic language testing and proficiency testing, 3) Thai Reading Test Prototype: process and design. The workshop will be led by *Prawet Jantharat & Yuphaphann Hoonchamlong* with *Prof. J. D. Brown* of SLS department as a guest speaker on Language Testing.

ABOUT THE PROJECT

This project aims to develop a prototype for reading proficiency tests, referring to ACTFL (American Council on the Teaching of Foreign Languages) Reading Proficiency Guidelines, for Thai, Tagalog, Khmer, Indonesian, and Vietnamese (TTKIV), for learners whose L1 is English for use at the University of Hawaii.

. In the past, spoken language (speaking) was stressed in language studies. However, reading has become an increasingly needed skill for language learners since this skill is of vital importance in language studies and researches on area studies in tertiary education and thus critical to the national need for advanced proficiency of SEA languages.

Oral Proficiency Interview for SEA languages exists within the framework of ACTFL and certain U.S. government agencies though has not been widely used for the general public. As for reading assessment, no accepted tools exist to measure the mastery-levels of SEA language learners..

This project aims to respond to the need for reading proficiency assessment. Based on the pioneering work of J.D. Brown and T. Hudson of the NFLRC and UH Dept. of Second Language Studies,¹ and advised by P. Jantharat, former head of SEA languages at FSI, CSEAS proposed a four-year project to develop prototypes for reading assessment for Thai, Tagalog, Khmer, Indonesian, and Vietnamese [TTKIV] at UH.

While the initial goal is to develop testing instrument for use at UH, it is hope that the result of this project will be applicable in the wider arena of the SEA language field across the U.S.

The four year plan is scheduled as follows:

Y/1 (AY 2010-11), Need assessment and Thai Reading Test Prototype*

Y/2 (AY 2011-12), Thai Test Development (two pilot sets)

Y/3 (AY 2012-13), and Y/4 (AY 2013-14), Khmer, Indonesian, Tagalog and Vietnamese Test development (details to be specified)

*First presentation at AAS/COTSEAL meeting in Hawaii (March 31-April 3, 2011)

¹ James Dean Brown & Thom Hudson *Criterion-referenced Language Testing*, Cambridge UP, 2002.

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All materials will be open-source, posted online as they are being developed with vetted reader response sections for critique and discussion by interested SEA language teachers nation-wide.

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**THE CENTER FOR
SOUTHEAST ASIAN STUDIES**
UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII AT MĀNOA

Preliminary Workshop—Southeast Asian Languages Reading Assessment

May 6-7, 2011

At Moore 258. University of Hawaii-Manoa

Day One

Friday May 6, 2011

09:15AM- 09:30 AM	Introduction to the Project; Rationale and Background Steve O’Harrow—Director, UH-CSEAS
09:30AM- 12:00 PM	Introduction James Child/ILR Text Mode and Text Selection -ACTFL/ILR Readers’ Characteristics -Text Typology and Text Level Characterization -Child’s Text Modes and Proficiency Levels -Text Types and Proficiency Levels -Passage selection, principles and guidelines -Discussion and questions with samples from languages <i>Prawet Jantharat (Skype teleconference) and Yuphaphann Hoonchamlong</i>
12.00 PM- 01.00 PM	Lunch break
01.00 PM- 04:.00 PM	Introduction to Language Testing: Principles and Practice -Standard and non-standardized tests -Testing and Evaluation: Statistical Concepts (validity, reliability, normal Curve) -Achievement Test and Proficiency Test, an application for language class and language testing -Language Proficiency Testing (Criterion Referenced vs. Norm Referenced, scoring proficiency test) <i>(Prof. J.D. Brown, SLS)</i>

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Day 2

Saturday May 7, 2011

09:30AM- 12:00 PM	Thai Reading Test: Basic Assumption and Design -Functional and non-functional reading (Reading at low and high level) -Time and Tasks (length of passages and length of test) -Test Design and Scoring Scheme <i>Prawet Jantharat (Skype teleconference) and Yuphaphann Hoonchamlong</i>
12.00 PM- 02:00 PM	Reception and Discussion “One Voice and One Power” Future and Practice; Indonesian and Filipino Speaking Test and benefits for the field <i>Erlin Barnard</i> Panel Presentation: SEAL Voice of another LCTL; Professionalism and Cooperation as a Unit <i>Binh Ngo, Channy Sak-Humphry and Uli Kozok</i> Chhany--Role of COTSEAL, how COTSEAL can be the playing leader in the field, VISION Uli--Online, virtual resources and collaboration with the field by UH-IPLL. Binh—GUAVA/VASI and the field