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Title: Language Policy, Linguistic and Cultural Identity in the Ongoing conflict in Southern Thailand

This dissertation is a qualitative ethnographic study which investigates the conflict in Southern Thailand with a focus on how language and culture along with language policy contribute to the ongoing conflict in Southern Thailand, between Thai Buddhist State and Pattani Melayu Muslim communities. The central questions that this research hoped to answer are: to what extent does language policy implementation in Thai public schools contribute to the ongoing armed conflict in Southern Thailand? Specifically, how do Thai public school teachers perceive their Thai language as being connected to the violent ongoing conflict in Southern Thailand?; what are Thai public school teachers’ attitudes to teaching Thai language in Southern Thailand?; do Pattani Melayu Muslim students perceive their Thai language acquisition experience in schools as being connected to the ongoing armed conflict in Southern Thailand?; what are Pattani Melayu Muslim students’ attitudes to learning Thai language in Southern Thailand?; and what are the language and cultural conflicts and tensions between Thai public school teachers and local communities? Addressing these questions was to provide a better understanding of the construction of language policy, language attitudes, linguistic and cultural identity in Southern Thailand, and its relationship to current political and cultural upheavals. It is hoped with deeper knowledge of these interrelationships, a more balanced and realistic approach to addressing Thailand’s current problems may become evident and lead to potential implications for rethinking language policy as a path for conflict resolution in Southern Thailand.