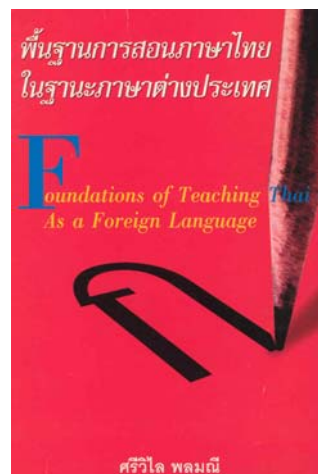


Review of “Foundations of Teaching Thai as a Foreign Language”

Title: Foundations of Teaching Thai as a Foreign Language

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1 Description

As indicated in the title *Foundations of Teaching Thai as a Foreign Language*, this monograph gives a broad theoretical overview of the subject. In addition to this, the author provides the reader with valuable insights from her teaching practice. The book starts with a general review of the history of foreign language teaching followed by an investigation into learners' motivation for learning Thai as a foreign language. A chapter dealing with the linguistic characteristics of Thai is then followed by exemplary discussions of the positive and negative impact the learner's first language can have on learning Thai. The author points out that awareness of first language interference can facilitate language teaching and learning. In the next chapters, she advocates taking a closer look at learners' needs, interests, attitudes, motivation, and also their problems while planning the course structure and the course curriculum. At the same time, important decisions regarding the teaching methodology and approach as well as the teaching materials, media and tools have to be carefully considered on the basis of a needs analysis. After this, the focus lies on the teaching practice. Based on the author's extensive experience in curriculum planning, materials development and classroom practice, she introduces selected examples of materials in order to demonstrate how these can be implemented in class. This is followed by a chapter dedicated to effective communication in the classroom as well as effective student-student and student-teacher conversation in the target language. The book closes with a critical look at a number of problems generally encountered in the Thai as a Foreign Language classroom.

2 Evaluation

Foundations of Teaching Thai as a Foreign Language is an informative and resourceful book targeting teachers of Thai as a foreign language in Thailand and elsewhere as well as those studying to become a teacher of Thai.

Although the author does not explicitly mention the paradigm-shift from a teacher-centred to a learner-centred classroom, this and the promotion of more independent learning behavior is clearly at the core of her message. She gives practical tips and encourages teachers to take their learners' needs, individual backgrounds and interests into account. She also encourages them to critically reflect on the method used, the materials developed, and the media and tools applied to teaching and learning Thai as a foreign language.

The book is written in an accessible and readable language. After each chapter, a reference list is provided for further reading. In addition to this, a number of practical suggestions for the development of teaching materials are given.