

Abstract

This study on the meaning and usage of *~ta* and *~te shimau* aims to investigate the meanings and usages, and criteria including the factors effecting the meaning, of both patterns.

The data analyzed in this study have been collected from Japanese novels and short stories. The results are discussed according to the study of the meanings, the criteria including the factors effecting the meaning, the choices of the usage, and the expressions in Thai of both patterns.

The findings show that the meaning distinctions of pattern *~ta* concern the criteria of relation between event and the present state, which divides the meaning into having and not having a relation with the present state, while the meaning distinctions of pattern *~te shimau* concern the criteria of potential of activity or event control by speaker, which divides the meaning into being able to control and not being able to control the activity or event. However, the choice of meaning interpretation of both patterns, *~ta* and *~te shimau*, is also determined by other factors, such as the characteristics of verb, verb phrase, and context.

~ta and *~te shimau*, both equally indicate the meaning of completion of an event. But the difference of the meaning expression of both patterns puts much emphasis on the subjective views on the succession stage after the end of an event. In case of *~ta*, if the result of an activity continues up to the speaking time, it will be interpreted as the perfect. But in case of *~te shimau*, if the speaker feels that the result of an activity or event cannot be changed to become better, it will be viewed as mood or modality.

Concerning expressions in Thai, in case of *~ta* expressing the meaning of not having a relation with the present state, the data shows that 80% of analyzed expressions use verbs alone without any aspect markers, whereas in the case of expressing the meaning of having a relation with the present state, 45% of analyzed expressions occur together with the aspect marker "laew". As for the pattern

~te shimau, in the case of using the past form, *~te shimatta*, such expressions in Thai can occur in two cases ; use of verb alone and or use together with aspect markers. But in the case of using the dictionary form, *~te shimau*, expressing the meaning of not to be able to control an activity or event, the data shows that the expressions in Thai are very different from *~te shimatta* form.