

## Thai Reader Project Contributors

A team of individuals created this text; we have worked together numerous times in the past as teachers of Thai language classes and as teachers in Thai teacher-training programs. This is our first collaboration in materials development and we hope that our effort has produced something useful for all with interest in studying and teaching Thai.



**Prof. Robert J. Bickner**

Prof. Robert J. Bickner created and directs the Thai language program at the University of Wisconsin-Madison where Thai is offered at beginning, intermediate, and advanced levels, currently by Ms. Kannikar Elbow. Bickner teaches on a rotational basis: a course in Thai linguistics; three courses in Thai vernacular literature, covering the short story, the novel, and poetry, respectively; and a course focusing on strategies for reading academic prose. He has been Language Director for the Southeast Asian Studies Summer Institute (SEASSI) since its return to Madison in 2000. Working with SEASSI teachers has given him an extensive practical knowledge of the teaching of the languages of Southeast Asia, to accompany the theoretical view of language teaching that he has been working to develop within all languages taught at SEASSI.



**Dr. Patcharin Peyasantiwong**

Both Bickner and Dr. Patcharin Peyasantiwong have many years of experience in teaching Thai and in administering language programs both in the US and in Thailand. Bickner and Peyasantiwong jointly founded the Consortium for Advanced Study of Thai (CAST) and for five years Bickner was the director of the consortium and of the Advanced Study of Thai (AST) program at Chiang Mai University, before that responsibility was taken over by Prof. Thomas Gething, then of the University of Hawaii, and now at the University of Washington. Bickner and Peyasantiwong remain active members of the administrative committee of CAST. Peyasantiwong has frequently served as in-country director of the AST program; she conducts oral proficiency interviews for AST applicants, and she has worked as both a teacher and as a teacher-trainer for US Peace Corps in Thailand, helping to prepare teachers of Thai. She has served as coordinator for Thai language offerings at SEASSI since 2000. Bickner and Peyasantiwong also collaborated on the founding of the College Year in Thailand program in 1982 and Bickner has served as Faculty Director of the program ever since. Both received their initial training in proficiency measurement from Dr. David Hipple in a workshop he conducted for the



American Council on the Teaching of Foreign Languages (ACTFL), and have been certified as oral proficiency testers by ACTFL.



**Dr. Janpanit Surasin**

Dr. Janpanit Surasin has many years of experience in teaching Thai as a foreign language in the US, Singapore and Thailand, working with students in a variety of programs. She has been a teacher, a teacher trainer, a cross-cultural coordinator and a program director for Peace Corps, Thailand, and has taught in both academic year and intensive summer sessions in the US. She has been trained in oral proficiency measurement, language achievement assessment and in materials development for language classes. She recently took early retirement from her position at Chulalongkorn University Language Institute, in Bangkok, where she taught both General English and English for Specific Purposes at all levels for over 25 years, and served for six years as the Deputy Director for Academic Affairs and Research.



**Ms. Kannikar Elbow**

Ms. Kannikar Elbow has been a Thai language instructor in a variety of settings, including both academic year and SEASSI sessions in Seattle and Madison, where she now offers three levels of Thai. She has both taught in, and coordinated Thai language programs for Peace Corps, Thailand, and she has been trained in oral proficiency measurement both in Thailand, by Peace Corps, and in the United States by the ACTFL.



**Ms. Sidhorn Sangdhanoo**

Ms. Sidhorn Sangdhanoo has been a Thai language teacher for more than 40 years, many of them spent teaching intensive courses for the US Peace Corps. She also served the Peace Corps as Assistant Director of Education supervising volunteer ESL instructors in Thai schools. She has taught Thai at the AUA Language Center in Chiang Mai, Thailand, and for SEASSI at the University of Oregon and at Arizona State University, and she has taught academic year courses and SEASSI courses at the University of Wisconsin.



**Dr. Erin Barnard**

Dr. Erlin Barnard, who served as primary pedagogy consultant for the project, has a PhD in Second Language Acquisition and is pedagogy specialist for the less commonly taught languages at UW-Madison, where she supervises lecturers and TAs who teach a variety of languages, helping them to develop appropriate teaching approaches and materials. She has extensive experience in foreign language teaching, in teacher training and supervision, in materials development, and in program administration.



**Dr. David Hiple**

Dr. David Hiple of the National Foreign Language Resource Center, University of Hawaii, also conducted a pedagogy consultation for the project, helping the team to conceptualize the design to be used in structuring the lessons, and in executing the specifics of that design.



**Ms. Suleeporn Sapprasert**

Ms. Suleeporn Sapprasert used her extensive skills in web design and development to create the visual format for these lessons, and to include in each lesson all the images and texts designed by the development staff. She is now pursuing graduate training in Art Education at the University of Wisconsin.



**Ms. Mary Jo Wilson**

Ms. Mary Jo Wilson provided administrative support from the inception of the project through to its end, facilitating all aspects of the work including but not limited to the original funding application and all reports, visa arrangements, and every aspect of the budget of the project. For her unflagging enthusiasm and optimism we are all more grateful than we can say.

*Robert J. Bickner*  
Madison, Wisconsin  
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