

**Youth Engagement in Linguistic and Cultural Reclamation:
A Case Study of Black Tai Community, Thailand.**

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In this age of rapid and sweeping globalization that is linked to capitalism, minority communities and their traditional knowledge and values are being severely marginalized, resulting in a loss of social and cultural vitality in the minority communities. Like many other countries, the loss of traditional language and cultural wisdom is rapidly progressing in a number of marginalized communities in Thailand. All of these communities share the critical concern of having no successor to inherit their invaluable local heritage, which affects the well-being of the environment and communities as a whole. Although this situation is certainly a significant problem for these minority people, it is not their worry alone. The serious social and economic disparity in society is a major source of instability and insecurity. The loss of traditional knowledge and cultures directly diminishes the diversity, vitality and ability of society to deal with the issues and challenges that we face in this rapidly changing world. This study discusses the main findings and challenges identified in a participatory action research conducted in a Black Tai community in Thailand. Youth participation and engagement is crucial to the sustainability of the reclamation efforts. Engaging youth in community work not only helps to promote ownership and resilience to interventions, but also strengthens young people's positive attributes and skills, enhancing their leadership abilities. More importantly, engaging youth in reclamation activities creates space and time for different generations to work together towards the common goal of continuing local heritage. Such engagement helps to restore weakened or even lost community ties between generations. Different beliefs and ego, social hierarchy, parental concerns are some of the challenges identified in the study.