

International Training Program (ITP)

On-site Education of Practical Languages for Area Studies Report in 2010

-Lao language, National University of Laos, Lao PDR, 1 Aug. 2010– 10 Nov. 2010–

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Graduate School of Asian and African Areas Studies

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On My Language Training

My language training was held at Department of Lao language and mass communication, Faculty of Letters. This department has a Lao language-training course for foreigners and I used the textbook that is used in this course. I had a lesson five days a week, and studied three hours a day at first, but after 14th Oct I studied two hours a day. There were two teachers who taught me and each teacher taught me every other day. One teacher was from Vientiane and the other was from Huaphan, a city located in north part of Laos. In Lao PDR there are lots of dialect and there are different each other. Vientiane is the capital of Lao PDR and the language used there is considered as the common Lao language, so I studied pronunciation and tone from teacher from Vientiane.

There were textbooks used for foreigners so in my study I used those one. This textbook is composed by four books. The First is for beginners and the others are primary, middle, advance level. I could study the basic part for example how to pronounce Lao alphabets, easy greeting words and finally I studied long sentence about culture or politics. Each chapter was composed by long sentence, conversation, grammar and practice, so I could study in a good balance.

During the training, before the lesson I used Lao-English dictionary and studied about the unknown words. In the lesson for training pronunciation first I listened my teacher reading sentences, after that pronounced after teacher and finally pronounced only by myself. If the pronunciation was not correct, my teacher pointed out me. In the lesson for grammar, my teacher taught me and had homework. Doing homework by myself enabled to understand grammar of Lao language and become used to write Lao language.

At the end of my language training I read newspaper written in Lao language in the class. There was lots of difficult sentence but my teacher explained me and I could understand. My research is about agriculture so I read article about agriculture.

The grammar of Lao language is not so difficult. Teacher pointed out my mistakes in the order of sentence and just 2 or 3 words that how to use is difficult to understand. On the other hand tone and pronunciation of Lao language is very difficult. Still now I cannot distinguish the tone and my pronunciation is not correct. I have to speak with Lao people more and more and become used to Lao language.