

**Paper title :** A comparison of the subcategorization of the ‘put on’  
verbs in Thai and Japanese

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## A comparison of the subcategorization of the 'put on' verbs in Thai and Japanese

It has been observed that there is a great deal of discrepancy between the subcategorization of verbs in Thai and that in Japanese. One of the most interesting groups of verbs is the 'put on' verbs. The event of putting clothes on a human body is expressed by different lexical verbs in the two languages. There seem to be many more words used to express the actions of 'put on' in Japanese than in Thai. Very few studies have been found to discuss 'put on' verbs in Japanese and none in Thai.

The purpose of the study is thus to compare and contrast the use of 'put on' verbs including their subcategorization and to infer about Thai and Japanese worldviews.

The data was collected from dictionaries, Chulalongkorn University Corpus Base and informants from both languages. Experiments were conducted so as to find out whether the informants would categorize things to put on in the same way as the subcategorization in their grammars.

The findings show that Thai and Japanese subcategorize 'put on' verbs differently. Japanese 'put on' verbs are expressed by different lexical verbs depending on which body part is involved. On the other hand, the choice of 'put on' verbs in Thai does not depend on the body part, but on the characteristics of the clothing and adornments. Moreover, Thai 'put on' verbs overlap a lot, but Japanese 'put on' verbs do not. This can be inferred that Thai and Japanese speakers have different worldviews corresponding to the patterns in the languages they speak. Based on this inference, I end the paper by discussing the findings in the light of the Whorfian Hypothesis.

