



Code-Mixing between Thai and English in the Thai Podcast “Crew Pod”

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Abstract

English–Thai code-mixing is considered a regular aspect of bilingual communication in Thailand and is increasingly evident in digital media. While previous studies have primarily examined code-mixing in scripted audiovisual media, including television shows and films, less attention has been paid to unscripted spoken platforms, particularly podcasts. The present study investigates the characteristics of code-mixing between Thai and English in *Crew Pod*, a Thai podcast produced by the YouTube channel *Crew Wings* ที่บินสอดแนม. This study employed qualitative content analysis, supplemented by quantitative frequency analysis. Data were drawn from four selected podcast episodes featuring informal conversations among hosts and guest speakers and analyzed to identify intrasentential code-mixing. The transcribed discourse was then analyzed to locate intrasentential code-mixing, excluding proper nouns and repeated lexical items. English lexical items were classified using the Kannaovakun and Gunther (2003) classification scheme, and their frequencies were calculated. A total of 125 English code-mixed items were identified, of which 28 items showed nativized features. The results indicated that English–Thai code-mixing occurred regularly in podcast discourse, with single English words appearing more frequently than phrases. Nouns were the most common grammatical category, and hybridization emerged as the dominant nativized feature, followed by truncation and conversion. These findings suggest that speakers adapt English lexical items to Thai linguistic structures to enhance clarity and efficiency in spontaneous interaction. The study highlights the role of media format in shaping code-mixing patterns and contributes to a broader understanding of English–Thai language contact in contemporary Thai digital communication.

Keywords: Code-Mixing, Thai Podcast, Nativization, English–Thai Contact, Digital Discourse

1. Introduction

Language is recognized as a fundamental means of human communication and interaction. Beyond sharing information, language also allows speakers to express their attitudes, negotiate meaning, and build identity within specific social and cultural settings. Speakers in bilingual and multilingual societies frequently employ multiple languages in a single interaction, resulting in linguistic phenomena such as code-mixing.

Wardhaugh (1992) explains that a code is a language or language variety used by both the sender and receiver in communication. In communicative contexts, individuals may employ signs, symbols, gestures, and shared conventions. When people can use more than one language, they may choose among codes based on the context. This results in code-mixing, a common linguistic practice in which multiple languages are used within a single sentence or phrase during interaction (Prasithrathsint, 1997). As described by Muysken (2000), code-mixing occurs when words and standard structures from two languages are utilized together within a single sentence, a phenomenon known as intra-sentential code-switching. In addition, code-mixing does not follow fixed rules but changes depending on social context, speakers’ language abilities, and communicative situations, reflecting natural and dynamic language practices rather than a linguistic deficiency (McLaughlin, 1987; Bokamba, 1989; Crystal, 1997; Thomason, 2001; Kannaovakun & Gunther, 2003; Wardhaugh, 2006; Ho, 2007).

"In Thai linguistic studies, Kannaovakun and Gunther (2003) introduced a robust analytical framework for the systematic analysis of code-mixing, which classifies English lexical items incorporated into Thai discourse based on processes of nativization. Based on approximately 100 hours of Thai television data, their study demonstrated that English components are often adjusted to Thai phonological,



morphological, and syntactic patterns. These adaptations are grouped into six types: truncation, hybridization, semantic shift, conversion, reduplication, and word order shift. Truncation refers to the shortening an English word by omitting syllables; for example, internet is truncated to เน็ต (net). Hybridization refers to a Thai prefix or noun that is integrated with an English lexical item, such as “รุ่นลิมิเต็ด” for “limited version.” Semantic shift can be observed when English words are reinterpreted in Thai contexts, resulting in meanings that differ from their original English usage, as in the case of “pass,” which in English means “to move past something” but in Thai is commonly used to mean “to succeed” or “to be acceptable.” Conversion is a process in which a word changes its grammatical category (part of speech) when used in another language without any change in form. For example, “active,” which functions as an adjective in English, is employed as a verb in Thai, as in “แอดมินแอ็กทีฟตลอด”. Reduplication is defined as the repetition of an English word within Thai discourse to emphasize or convey intensity. Word order shift refers to the reordering of English lexical items to fit Thai syntactic patterns, as can be seen in “ทีมมาร์เก็ตติ้ง” (team marketing) in place of the standard English form “marketing team.”

Research on English-Thai code-mixing has demonstrated that this phenomenon is widespread in Thai mass media, reflecting both linguistic adaptation and sociocultural change. One of the most influential studies in this area was conducted by Kanaovakun and Gunther (2003), who explored English-Thai code-mixing in Thai television programs and also introduced a nativization-based framework, as aforementioned. This framework serves as a foundation for subsequent studies of Thai television series, in which code-mixing appears frequently in scripted dialogue. Research by Papijit (2013), Tanabut and Tipayasuparat (2018), Yuthayothin and Tipayasuparat (2018), Kuptanaroaj et al. (2020), Somsin and Suksakhon (2022), Thangjit and Srinoparut (2023), and Thangjit and Somsin (2025) consistently demonstrates that English words, particularly nouns and short phrases, are commonly embedded in Thai speech. These studies suggest that code-mixing in television series helps represent modern lifestyles, professional identities, and contemporary social relationships. Similar patterns have also been observed in Thai films, as reported by Kuptanaroaj et al. (2024), indicating that English-Thai code-mixing extends beyond television into cinematic narratives. Similar patterns have also been observed in Thai print media, including youth and health magazines (Sayamon, 2010; Janhom, 2011), as well as in Thai daily entertainment news (Nareerat, 2002). More recently, studies have begun to explore digital and spoken online media, reflecting shifts in contemporary communication. Kongkerd (2015) investigated Thai-English code-mixing in online interactions, highlighting its occurrence in informal digital contexts. Importantly, podcasts have emerged as a new area of interest, with Pilanun (2021) examining English-Thai code-mixing among guest speakers on a Thai podcast. This study reveals that code-mixing in podcasts often arises spontaneously and is shaped by conversational flow and pragmatic needs, rather than scripted dialogue. Overall, existing studies show that English-Thai code-mixing is widespread across Thai mass media, from television and print to newer platforms such as podcasts, and reflects linguistic adaptation, social identity, and changing communication practices in Thai society.

The Crew Pod Thai podcast offers a valuable resource for studying English-Thai code-mixing in modern digital media. Produced by the YouTube channel *Crew Wings* ที่มีนาสอนแอร์, it features informal conversations among hosts and guest speakers on topics such as aviation, professional life, and daily experiences. Since the discussions are unscripted, English words and expressions naturally appear in Thai speech during everyday interactions. This pattern reflects both the speakers’ professional backgrounds and their familiarity with English as a working language. Instead of being used for stylistic purposes, code-mixing in *Crew Pod* serves as a practical communication tool shaped by the flow of conversation and shared understanding. Analyzing code-mixing in this podcast, therefore, offers valuable insights into how language use, professional identity, and digital communication are connected in contemporary Thai society.

While podcasts are becoming increasingly popular as a digital communication platform in Thailand, few studies have explored how English-Thai code-mixing functions in unscripted spoken conversations. Most prior research has focused on scripted television shows and films, which resulting in a limited



understanding of how spontaneous interactions in digital media influence code-mixing patterns. This study thus, aims to investigate code-mixing in Thai podcasts and extends current research beyond traditional mass media formats.

2. Objectives

This research focuses on English–Thai code-mixing in the Thai podcast *Crew Pod*, guided by recognized frameworks of code-mixing and nativization developed by Kannaovakun and Gunther (2003). Specifically, the study aims to 1) identify the types and frequency of English–Thai code-mixing units occurring in the selected podcast episodes, and 2) analyze the nativized features of English lexical items.

3. Materials and Methods

This study employed qualitative content analysis combined with quantitative frequency analysis to examine English–Thai code-mixing patterns.

3.1 Data Collection

This study utilized data from the Thai podcast *Crew Pod*, produced by the YouTube channel *Crew Wings* ที่มีนาสอนแอร์. The selected episodes feature informal conversations among hosts and guest speakers, focusing on shared personal experiences, including haunting, surprising, exciting, and shocking events, as well as topics related to aviation, professional communication, and everyday life. Since the podcast is unscripted, it offers natural spoken discourse suitable for examining English–Thai code-mixing in a digital media setting. The analysis focused on transcribed podcast conversations. A total of four podcast episodes were analyzed in this study. To maintain consistency, proper nouns such as personal names, place names, brand names, applications, and organizational titles were excluded from the dataset. Repeated lexical items within the same category were counted only once.

The selected episodes were chosen through purposive sampling based on their conversational format and relevance to everyday spoken interaction. A total of 125 English code-mixed units were identified in the transcripts analyzed.

3.2 Data Analysis

The analysis focused on identifying English–Thai code-mixing within the selected podcast episodes. All transcribed discourse was carefully reviewed to identify intrasentential code-mixing and English words exhibiting nativized English lexical features. The identified English lexical items were studied using the nativization structure proposed by Kannaovakun and Gunther (2003). Each instance was manually coded, and frequency data were calculated and converted into percentages to illustrate overall distribution trends. All coding was conducted systematically to ensure consistency in classification.

4. Results and Discussion

4.1 Results

The data collection of this study was based on conversational exchanges between the hosts and the guests of the selected episodes from the *Crew Pod* podcast program by *Crew Wings* ที่มีนาสอนแอร์ YouTube channel. Thai utterances containing English code-mixed units were recorded and Nativization by Kannaovakun and Gunther (2003) was employed as the guiding framework for the analysis. Nativized features were divided into six types including hybridization, truncation, semantic shift, conversion, word order, and reduplication.

The following tables categorize English code-mix units into words and phrases, types of lexical items, and code-mixed forms that display nativized features. They also provide examples of each feature, including hybridization, truncation, conversion, semantic shift, word-order variation, and reduplication.

**Table 1** English lexical and phrase items

Types of English items	Number of occurrences	Percentage
Word	116	92.8
Phrase	9	7.2
Total	125	100

As shown in Table 1, the analysis includes 125 English items in total. Words occur most frequently, with 116 instances, accounting for 92.8% of the data, while phrases appear only 9 times, representing 7.2%.

Table 2 Types of English lexical items

Types of English units	Number of occurrences	Percentage
Noun	76	60.80
Verb	28	22.40
Noun Phrase	5	4.00
Adjective	13	10.40
Verb phrase	2	1.60
Interjection	1	0.80
Adverb	0	0
Total	125	100

Table 2 presents the number of occurrences of English lexical items in the collected data. Nouns were the most frequent, with 76 occurrences (60.80%), followed by verbs, which appeared 28 times (22.40%). Adjectives occurred 13 times (10.40%), while noun phrases were recorded 5 times (4.00%). Verb phrases appeared only twice (1.60%). Interjections were the least frequent, occurring only once (0.80%), whereas adverbs were not found at all in the data.

Table 3 Types of Nativized Features

Types of Nativized Features	Number of occurrences	Percentage
Hybridization	11	39.29
Truncation	5	17.85
Conversion	5	17.85
Semantic Shift	3	10.71
Word Order	3	10.71
Reduplication	1	3.57
Total	28	100

Table 3 provides an overview of 28 items, which were classified into six types of nativized features. Hybridization emerged as the most frequent feature, with 11 occurrences (39.29%), followed by Truncation and Conversion, which shared the same frequency with 5 occurrences each (17.85%). Semantic shift and Word order shift were equally frequent, occurring in 3 cases (10.71%), and Reduplication was the least common feature, appearing only once (3.57%).

Table 4 Instances of Hybridization

Hybridization	English items	The occurrences of code-mixing in conversation
1) Retention of the Thai initial syllable		
ฝั่งคอมเมสตติ	Domestic terminal	พี่ข้างที่ฝั่งคอมเมสตติ



พี่ซีเนียร์	Senior staff	จริงๆเราจะไปแจ้งพี่ซีเนียร์ก็ได้
2) Retention of the final syllable of a Thai word		
คลาสเรียน	Classroom	มีการเล่าเรื่องผีในคลาสเรียนด้วยหรือ
ไฟลท์เช้า	Morning flight	มันเป็นไฟลท์เช้า
3) Retention of the initial two syllables of a Thai word		
ห้องนอนวีลแชร์	A wheelchair-accessible bedroom	ห้องที่พักเป็นห้องนอนวีลแชร์
คิดวนลูป	Thought Loops	ถ้าเรามัวแต่คิดวนลูปนั้นอะ ก็ไม่ได้อะไร

Table 4 provides illustrations of Thai–English hybridization in code-mixing, which are classified into three categories according to syllable retention. The first category is characterized by the preservation of the initial Thai syllable, which is then combined with an English lexical item. This pattern can be seen in expressions such as “ฝั่งdomestic” (domestic terminal), as used in the phrase “พี่ช่างที่ฝั่งคอมสติก” (The technician at the domestic side). Another example is “พี่ซีเนียร์” (Senior staff), occurring in the utterance “จริงๆเราจะไปแจ้งพี่ซีเนียร์ก็ได้” (We can report this to the senior staffs.).

The second type displays the pattern that involves the retention of only the final syllable of a Thai word, which is then attached to a preceding English expression. This form is illustrated by examples such as “Classเรียน” (classroom), found in the utterance “มีการเล่าเรื่องผีในคลาสเรียนด้วยหรือ” (Is there storytelling about ghosts in the classroom as well?), as well as “Flightเช้า” (morning flight), used in “มันเป็นไฟลท์เช้า” (It was a morning flight). In contrast, the third pattern preserves the initial two elements of a Thai word and combines them with an English concept. Examples of this structure are “ห้องนอนวีลแชร์” (a wheelchair-accessible bedroom), which appears in the sentence “ห้องที่พักเป็นห้องนอนวีลแชร์” (The room was a wheelchair-accessible bedroom.), as well as “คิดวนลูป” (Thought loops), used in “ถ้าเรามัวแต่คิดวนลูปนั้นอะ ก็ไม่ได้อะไร” (If we get stuck in those thought loops, we are going nowhere.)

Table 5 Instances of Truncation

Truncation	Complete items	The occurrences of code-mixing in conversation
1) Retention of the Thai initial syllable		
Air	Air hostess	พวกแอร์เวลาได้ห้อง
Fol	Followers	เหมือนจะเป็นคนดังด้วยแหละ ยอดฟอลเยอะ
2) Retention of the final syllable of a Thai word		
Ber	Number	จำเบอร์ห้องได้ด้วย
3) Retention of the initial word of a compound noun		
Ground	Ground staff	บอกที่สาวว่าอยู่ตรงนี้แหละเดี๋ยวให้กราวไปคุย
Business	Business class	ตอนนั้นนะนั่งชั้นบิสสิเนส

Table 5 presents three types of truncation commonly found in Thai–English code-mixing in everyday conversation. The most prevalent pattern involves preserving only the initial element of the original English items. Examples include “แอร์” (Air), derived from *Airhostess*, as used in “พวกแอร์เวลาได้ห้อง” (Once the air hostesses get their accommodation), and “ฟอล” (fol), shortened from *followers*, as illustrated in “เหมือนจะเป็นคนดังด้วยแหละ ยอดฟอลเยอะ” (She appears to be quite well-known, with a large number of followers.)

The second type retains the final element of the original word. This is reflected in “เบอร์” (ber) from *number*, as in “จำเบอร์ห้องได้ด้วย” (Make sure you remember your room number). The last truncation pattern



involves retaining the first word of compound nouns, including “กราวดี” (ground) from *ground staff*, used in “บอกพี่สาวว่าอยู่ตรงนี้แหละเดี๋ยวให้กราวดีไปคุย” (Tell your sister I’m here. I’ll have the ground staff come talk to her), and “บิสสิเนส” (business), shortened from *business class*, as in “ตอนนั้นนั่งชั้นบิสสิเนส” (At that time, I was flying in business class)

Table 6 Instances of conversion

Conversion	Form (Original from to code-mixing)	The occurrences of code-mixing in conversation
Headcount	Noun to verb	ช่วงระหว่างเสดเค๊าท์หรือนับผู้โดยสาร
CPR	Noun to verb	อย่างเพื่อนไอซีทีอาร์พ่อตัวเองไปจนถึงโรงพยาบาล
Happy ending	Noun phrase to verb phrase	เขาก็แฮปปี้เอนด์มีความสุขหลังจากนั้น

Table 6 summarizes English code-mixed items undergoing shifts in their parts of speech when used in Thai conversational discourse. For example, in the sentence “ช่วงระหว่างเสดเค๊าท์หรือนับผู้โดยสาร” (while passengers were being counted), the English noun *headcount*, which conventionally functions to represent the number of counting items or individuals, is converted into a verb referring to the action of counting the number of passengers on board. In a similar manner, the term *CPR* or cardiopulmonary resuscitation, as a noun, originally denoting a practice used to help a person breathe and restore heart function, functions as a verb in the sentence “อย่างเพื่อนไอซีทีอาร์พ่อตัวเองไปจนถึงโรงพยาบาล” (For example, my friend performed CPR on his father until they reached the hospital). Likewise, *Happy ending*, which typically serves as a noun phrase describing the conclusion of a story, event, or situation in which problems are resolved positively and the individuals involved experience satisfaction, relief, or happiness, is employed as a verb phrase in the expression “เขาก็แฮปปี้เอนด์มีความสุขหลังจากนั้น” (It was a happy ending, and he was happy afterward.), emphasizing a good or pleasant ending of a story.

Table 7 Instances of semantic shift

Semantic shift	Original English Units	The occurrences of code-mixing in conversation
Mouth	To gossip	อะแล้วมานั่งเมาท์กันอย่างนี้จะทำอะไร
Alcohol	Alcoholic drinks	เขาก็ลองกินไอ้โหมแอลกอฮอล์อะไรทุกอย่างมีหมดเลย
Comment	To share opinion or idea	ถ้าคนดูเจอคำถามนี้จะตอบว่าอะไร คอมเมนต์มาบอกหน่อย

Table 7 provides instances of semantic shifts in code-mixing units, demonstrating examples of three English lexical items that take on new meanings when used in Thai conversational discourse. The word *mouth*, which in English commonly denotes a physical body part, undergoes semantic reinterpretation in Thai, where it refers to a person associated with gossiping or spreading information.

Similarly, *Alcohol* in English commonly refers to ethanol-based substances, particularly in contexts related to medicine or chemistry, and undergoes a semantic change in Thai, where it is used to indicate alcoholic beverages. Lastly, *comment*, which conventionally refers to a remark or statement made to provide evaluation, clarification, or feedback regarding a specific matter or discourse, is semantically extended in Thai conversational usage to convey the idea of sharing feedback and ideas or responding to the host of a show in the comment section on the social media platform.

Table 8 Instances of word order

Word order	Original English Units	The occurrences of code-mixing in conversation
เซอร์ไพรส์ เบิร์ดเดย์	Birthday surprise	กันเคยเซอร์ไพรส์เบิร์ดเดย์คนนี้ด้วยนะ
ซาวด์ก็๊กก็๊ก	Haunting sound	ต้องมีซาวด์ก็๊กก็๊กเข้ามานะ



Table 8 demonstrates examples of word order shifts that occur in Thai–English code-mixing. It demonstrates the reorganization of English modifier–noun patterns to align with Thai syntax, in which the head noun precedes the modifier. For instance, the English expression *birthday surprise* is rendered as “*surprise birthday*” in Thai, as illustrated in the conversational utterance “ฉันเคยเซอร์ไพรส์เบิร์ดเดย์คนนี้ด้วยนะ” (I’ve actually given this person a birthday surprise before.). In a similar manner, the phrase *haunting sound* is restructured as “ชาวคึกกัก,” as seen in “นี่ต้องมีชาวคึกกักเข้านะ” (This scene should be accompanied by a haunting sound effect.). These patterns reflect changes in English word order when integrated into Thai grammatical structures.

Table 9 Instances of reduplication

Reduplication	English lexical item	The occurrence of code-mixing in conversation
Rude Rude	Rude	บางครั้งเราโดนผู้โดยสารรู้ด่า อะเราก็ปล่อยๆไป

Table 9 illustrates an instance of a reduplicative pattern in Thai–English language mixing. In this case, English lexical items are repeated to intensify and add emphasis to meaning in spoken interaction. For example, the reduplicated form *rude rude* is used to emphasize an especially impolite attitude or disrespectful behavior of some passengers, as demonstrated in the utterance “บางครั้งเราโดนผู้โดยสารรู้ด่า อะเราก็ปล่อยๆไป” (Sometimes we get rude passengers, and we just let it slide.)

4.2 Discussion

The script analysis of selected episodes of the Thai podcast *Crew Pod* by the YouTube channel *Crew Wings* ที่มีนาสอนอร์ found 125 instances of code-mixing between Thai and English, indicating that code-mixing is a regular feature of communication in Thai podcast discourse. This finding supports previous studies showing that English–Thai code-mixing is widely used across Thai mass media, including both traditional and digital platforms (Kannaovakun & Gunther, 2003; Snodin, 2014).

When it comes to structural units, English words appeared much more often than English phrases. This suggests that speakers tend to insert individual English words rather than longer expressions, thereby maintaining conversational flow without disrupting the overall structure of Thai sentences. Similar patterns have been reported in studies of Thai television series, with single-word insertions are the most dominant usage of code-mixing (Papijit, 2013; Tanabut & Tipayasuparat, 2018; Yuthayothin & Tipayasuparat, 2018).

When considering grammatical categories, nouns clearly led the data, followed by verbs and adjectives. This aligns with previous studies, which have shown that nouns are particularly easy to incorporate into Thai discourse because they convey clear meanings and do not require complex grammatical adjustments (Kannaovakun & Gunther, 2003; Kuptanaraj et al., 2020; Thangjit & Srinoparut, 2023). The relatively low use of adverbs and interjections suggests that code-mixing in podcasts is primarily used to refer to objects, activities, and concepts rather than to express emotion or stance.

A closer examination of English words exhibiting nativized features reveals that hybridization occurs most frequently, subsequently followed by truncation, conversion, semantic shift, word order change, and reduplication. The dominance of hybridization indicates that podcast speakers often blend English words with Thai elements to clarify meanings and enhance understanding in conversations. This pattern aligns with findings from Thai print media studies, where hybridization also plays a central role in English–Thai code-mixing (Thongsombat et al., 2021).

The conversational style of podcasts likely explains why hybridization occurs more often than truncation in this study. Unlike scripted TV shows, podcasts involve spontaneous exchanges between speakers who may rely on hybrid forms to ensure mutual understanding as they share experiences in real time. On the other hand, truncation, though still common, has been more closely linked to scripted media like TV dramas and films, where shortened English forms are often used to convey modernity and make



pronunciation easier (Kannaovakun & Gunther, 2003; Papijit, 2013; Tanabut & Tipayasuparat, 2018; Kuptanaroaj et al., 2024).

Other nativized features, including conversion and semantic shift, further demonstrate the flexibility of English words in Thai discourse. These features indicate that English items are not simply inserted but may change their grammatical roles or meanings to suit Thai communicative needs (Ho, 2007; Bokamba, 1989). Although word-order changes were less common, they still highlight how English expressions are adjusted to follow Thai syntactic patterns. Reduplication occurred only rarely, suggesting that repeating English words for emphasis might not be a common strategy in podcast interaction.

Moreover, it is important to note that, although truncation is the most common nativized feature in studies of Thai television series and other scripted media, previous research on Thai podcasts has not identified truncation as the main pattern. Most podcast studies focus on identifying types of code-mixing rather than comparing how often nativized features occur. By demonstrating that hybridization plays a key role in podcast discourse, this study helps fill this gap and shows how different media formats influence English–Thai code-mixing patterns.

These findings also underscore that English–Thai code-mixing in podcasts reflects both established linguistic patterns and the unique features of spontaneous spoken interaction. They enhance our understanding of how English is adapted in modern Thai digital communication.

Beyond linguistic analysis, these findings have wider implications for understanding language use in digital media. The results offer insights for linguists, media researchers, and educators interested in language contact, bilingual communication, and modern Thai discourse. Additionally, examining spontaneous conversations in podcasts shows how speakers' professional backgrounds and the need to communicate efficiently shape the adaptation of English words in everyday contexts.

5. Conclusion

This study examined English–Thai code-mixing in the Thai podcast *Crew Pod* and found that code-mixing is a regular and meaningful feature of spontaneous spoken interaction in digital media. The results show that English words, especially nouns, are frequently integrated into Thai conversation, with hybridization being the most common native feature, followed by truncation and other adaptation methods. These findings suggest that podcast speakers use hybrid forms to communicate clearly and efficiently in real-time conversations, reflecting their professional backgrounds and shared communication contexts. Unlike previous research on Thai television series, which often finds truncation to be the dominant pattern, this study emphasizes how media format influences code-mixing practices. By analyzing an unscripted podcast, the study broadens existing research on Thai mass media and offers new insights into how English is adapted in modern Thai digital communication. Importantly, the study highlights how media format influences linguistic adaptation patterns, demonstrating that spontaneous spoken discourse may favor hybridization more than scripted media.

6. Acknowledgements

The researcher gratefully acknowledges the contributions of all individuals who supported the completion of this study. In particular, heartfelt gratitude is extended to Asst. Dr. Piyasuda Mawai, Dean of the College of Liberal Arts at Rangsit University, for her continuous guidance and encouragement throughout the research process. The researcher also wishes to thank the staff of the English Language Department for their cooperation and assistance, which were essential to the successful completion of this study.

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