

Tai Ideograms
















The Tai languages also have a variety of ideographs, whose useage I have not been able to fully discern. The most common of these is the "ho hoi," which takes a variety of forms in different regions. Lafont described the "ho hoi" as follows:

Mr. Lafont announces an ideogram employed in the love letters between young people, it indicates the depth of the love, In ' Tay Dam, one names it RAK ROEIX "love eternal", "continual love", and would be simply named ROEIX in ' Tay Deng and ' Tay Neua. This word is found into Siamese and laotien, is in transliteration: r̄iey

Translated from Lafont 1962

A second explanation comes from my personal correspondence whith Dr. Ngo Trung Viet, who has told me "by tradition, 'ho hoi' is only used at the beginning of the text."

On the other hand, my untitled Tai Daeng manuscript makes extensive use of the "ho hoi", or similar characters, which appear in many forms throughout the manuscript. See below for a few examples. Up to now I have not met any Tai Daeng readers who can explain to me the significance of the variety of forms.

source →	Workshop 2005	Everson	Lo Văn 'Mưoi	Minot 1940	'Lo Văn 'Mưoi	Journal S.H.C.T.	Lafont 1962	Tai Daeng Primer
region →	Unified Alphabet		Mường Lay	Tai Don	Cau Chau			
Est. Date of data	2005		1966		1966			1974
							'Tay Dam      	
							'Tay Deng  	
							'Tay Neua 	

Samples of "Ho Hoi"-like characters from the untitled Tai Daeng manuscript.

page 7
line 6:



page 7
line 13:



page 11
line 6:



page 15
line 7



page 15
line 8



It is not clear to me if these last three images are variations of the same form, or three distinct forms.