

PREFACE



This special issue of *Manusya, Journal of Humanities* is dedicated to our founder, Professor Pranee Kullavanijaya on the occasion of her 72nd birthday and the 15th anniversary of this journal. Professor Pranee Kullavanijaya is an outstanding scholar and administrator, an excellent colleague, mentor, and teacher and a friend of many academicians. The contributions from her colleagues and students to this festschrift in her honor are various, but most of them concern historical linguistics, which is her specialization.

Professor Pranee Kullavanijaya graduated from Chulalongkorn University with a B.A (Hons.) and an M.A in English in 1964 and 1966, respectively. After that she was awarded an East-West Center grant to study at the University of Hawaii, where she took her Ph.D in Linguistics in 1974. During her career, not only was she a good teacher full of knowledge, who taught her students to

think and solve problems by themselves, but also a very successful administrator widely accepted for her integrity, impartiality and efficiency, as evidenced by the large number of important administrative posts she has taken; for example, chair of the Department of Linguistics, Chulalongkorn University (1981-1985), Deputy Dean of Research Affairs of the Faculty of Arts, Chulalongkorn University (1985-1988), Dean of the Faculty of Arts, Chulalongkorn University (1988-1992), Vice President of Academic Affairs, Chulalongkorn University (1993-2000), Director of The Sirindhorn Thai Language Institute (2002-2010), member of Chulalongkorn University Council 2003-present), Chair of Chulalongkorn University Academic Promotion Committee (2006-present), Chair of the Humanities National Research Council Committee (2012-present). As an eminent linguist and administrator, Professor Pranee Kullavanijaya has pioneered new projects for the real advancement of the

academic community. Her contributions span the areas of linguistic research, organizational development, and academic promotion.

Professor Pranee Kullavanijaya's contributions to the linguistics field in Thailand can be seen in her publications which cover the areas of her specialization; namely, historical linguistics, syntax and semantics. That she is the first scholar to recognize the genetic relationship between Zhuang languages and Thai and the first linguist to conduct adventurous field study on those languages in Guangxi, Southern China about 30 years ago is well acknowledged. Indeed, her publications on the Zhuang languages that followed have inspired and encouraged many scholars in various institutes to conduct a large number of studies of Tai-Kadai languages and cultures in China and Vietnam. She is widely recognized as one of the most reliable authorities in comparative Tai linguistics.

With reference to organizational development, Professor Pranee Kullavanijaya has contributed significantly to the advancement of Chulalongkorn University. While she was Dean of the Faculty of Arts, she established the Translation Center, which has grown steadily and now offers an M.A program in Translation and Interpretation, as well as a translation service. During her terms as Vice President for Academic Affairs, she managed to standardize the evaluation system of Chulalongkorn University. The standardized forms for instructor evaluation and the eight-level grading system endorsed by her have been used since then. Another important achievement instigated by Professor Pranee

Kullavanijaya as Vice President was the establishment of a Thai language center, which was later granted the name "Siridhorn Thai Language Institute" by Princess Maha Chakri Sirindhorn. Due to Professor Pranee Kullavanijaya's hard work and dedication, the proficiency tests of Standard Thai created by this institute are now accepted not only in Thailand but in other countries, such as People's Republic of China, as well.

Concerning academic promotion, her contributions are greatly acknowledged. She is the creator and first chief editor of *MANUSYA, Journal of Humanities*, which has served the dissemination of research findings in humanities for 15 years. In addition to spreading knowledge, the journal has benefited a lot of scholars who have used their publications in this journal for their academic promotion. Professor Pranee Kullavanijaya was appointed the first chairperson of the Chulalongkorn University Academic Promotion Committee. She has succeeded in setting criteria and procedures for appointing and promoting academic staff into positions of assistant professor, associate professor and professor. Her sacrifice in the duty has been recognized and is greatly appreciated by the academic community.

It is a great honor for me to be counted amongst friends, colleagues, and collaborators of Professor Pranee Kullavanijaya. Her enthusiasm and perseverance have inspired and enriched many people's lives. It is with great pleasure that I dedicate this special issue of *MANUSYA, Journal of Humanities* to Professor Pranee Kullavanijaya on the occasion of her sixth cycle birthday.

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