

Bouyei word formation

Attasith Boonsawasd

Abstract: Bouyei language is divided into three vernaculars, the southern vernacular, the central vernacular and the southwestern vernacular. This paper aims to describe the lexicology of the southern vernacular of Bouyei language focusing on word formation process. Bouyei words are formed by affixing, compounding and reduplicating. Affixation consists of prefixing and suffixing. Infixing is not found in this language. Compounds are divided into semantic and syntactic compounds. Reduplication is divided into simple and complex reduplication. Simple reduplication is normally used to emphasize the meaning of the root or to indicate plurality.

Key words: Bouyei grammar, Bouyei word formation, Bouyei word structure, Bouyei language, affixation