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Community-based language revitalization in Thailand

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23 April 2021

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Resource Center for Documentation and Revitalization of Endangered Languages and Cultures

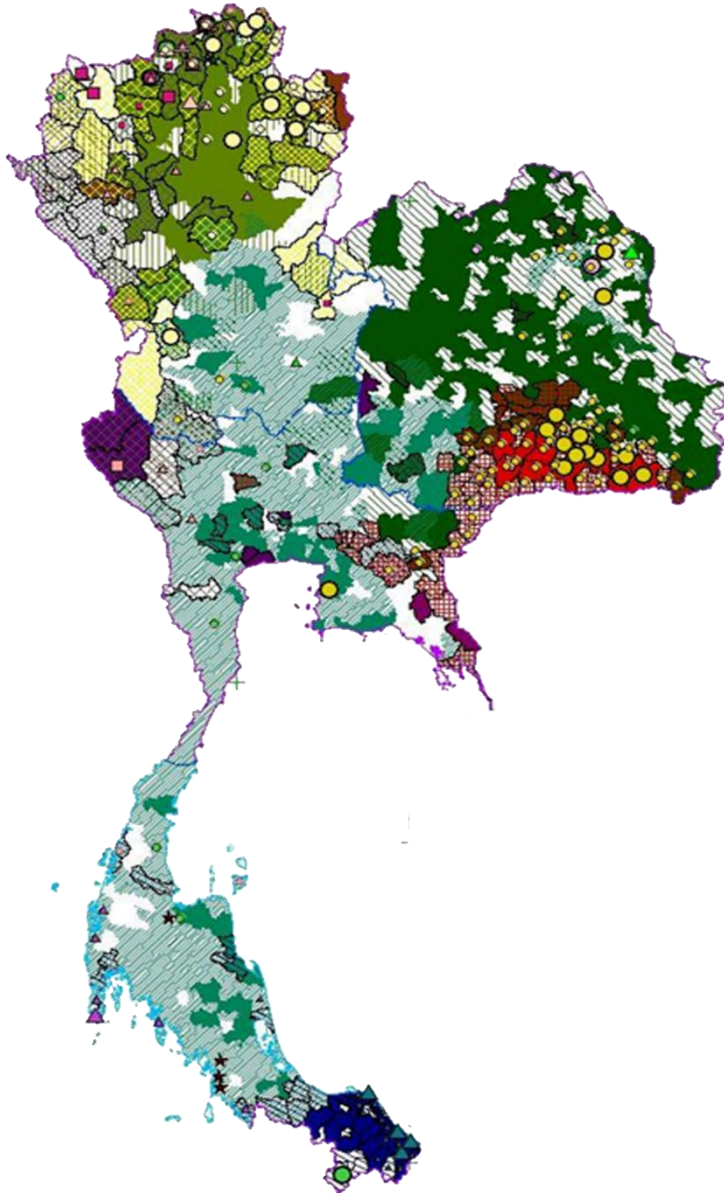
Mission: To preserve and revive language in crisis by *Linguists and Community activists.*

Focus: To put community members at the heart of revitalization efforts through involvement at all steps of the revitalization process.

It is essential to reverse the role of the language speakers from being informants to project owners / researchers of their language revitalization project, and linguists act as facilitators.



Language Diversity in Thailand



65 million population

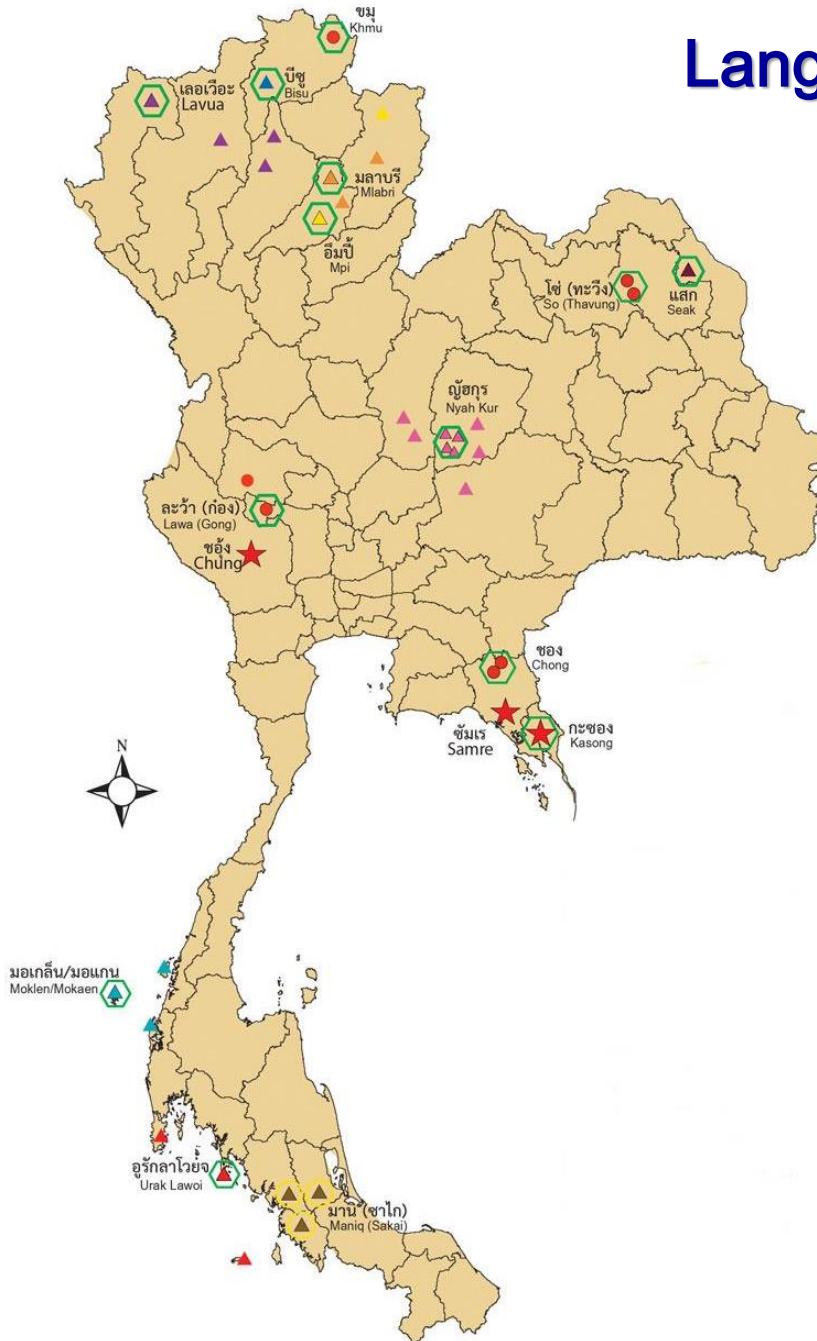
Speak 70+ living Languages,

Belonging to 5 Language Families

- Tai (24)
- Austroasiatic (22)
- Austronesian (3)
- Hmong-Mien (2)
- Sino-Tibeton (20)

Language Endangerment Situation

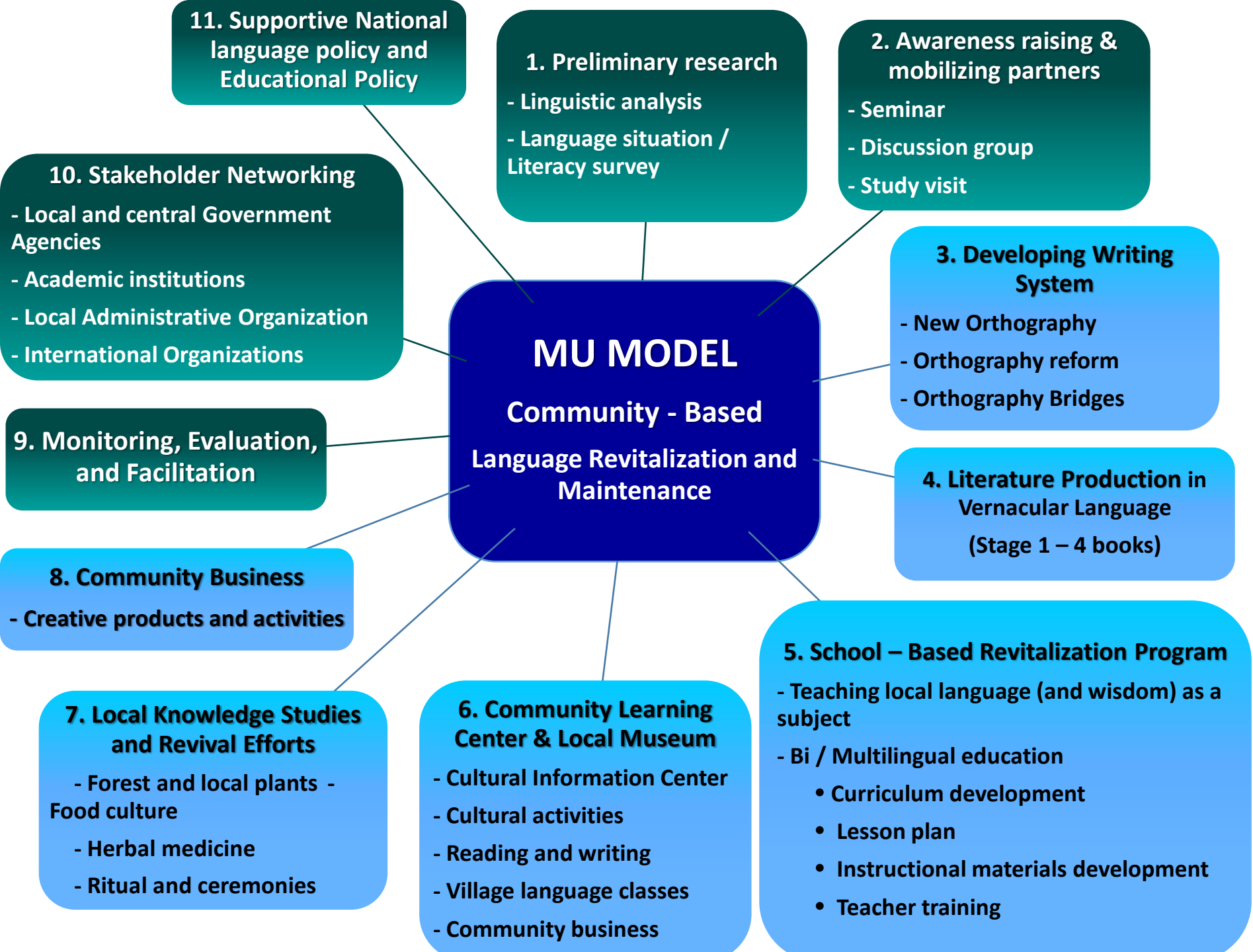
- Ethnic minority languages are declining.
- Younger generation becomes monolingual in Thai (National language).
- **16 languages are seriously endangered.**
- All major non-dominant languages, are potentially endangered and show signs of contraction, especially in vocabulary and grammar
- Oral traditions and music are disappearing very fast.



อาคารภาษาและวัฒนธรรมสยามบรมราชกุมารี
สถาบันวิจัยภาษาและวัฒนธรรมเพื่อพัฒนาชนบท มหาวิทยาลัยมหิดล



Ethnolinguistic communities gathering at RILCA



Mahidol Model for Language Preservation

On-going Language

Revitalization Programs

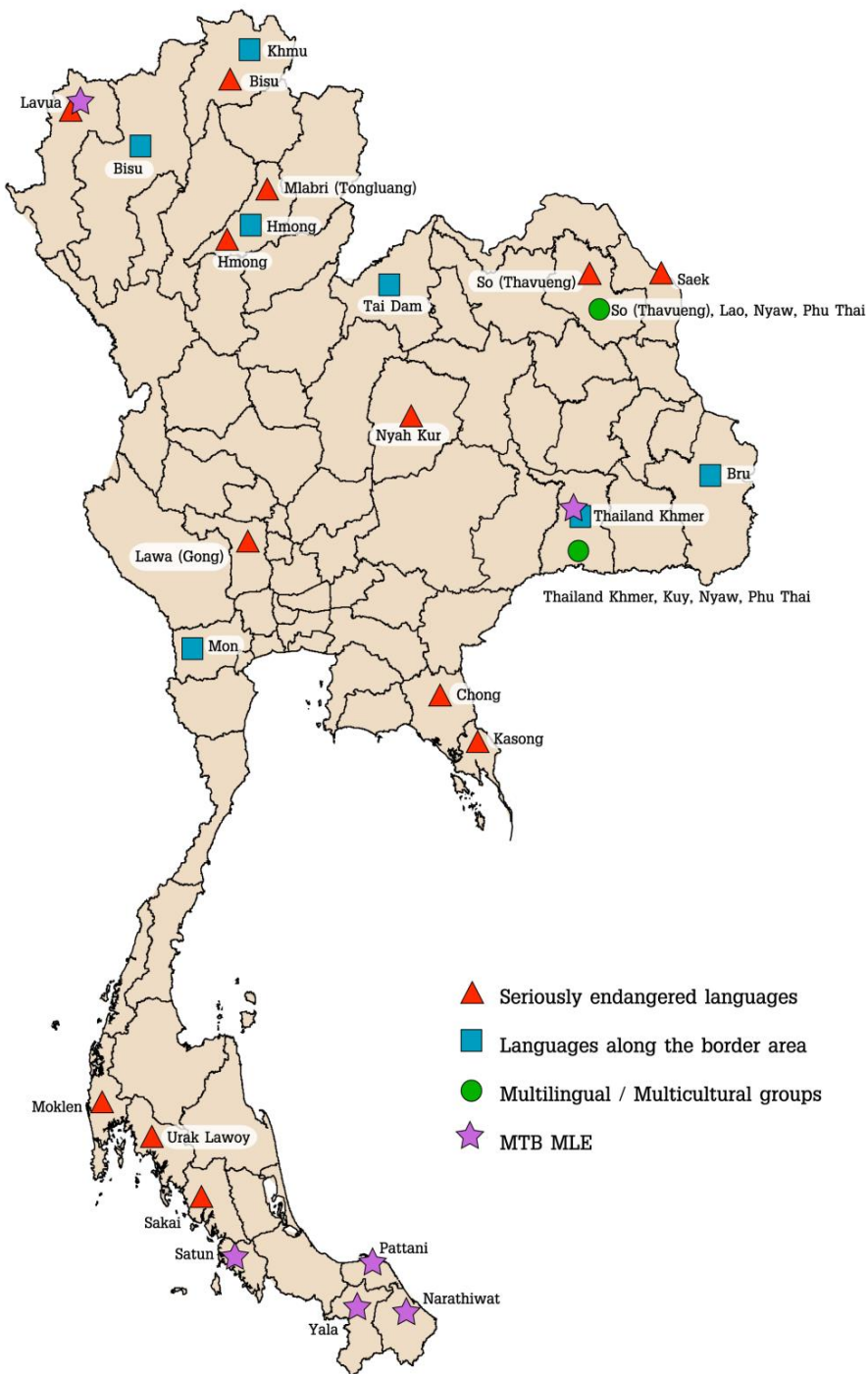
(involving 26 ethnolinguistic groups)

Cooperative work

Local Community & Academic institution

**Training of local volunteers /
community research team**

(To work WITH not to work FOR)



Working WITH community





The Nyah Kur study folk botany



Local Knowledge Studies and Revival Efforts: *herbal plants and food culture.*



Indigenous Food of the Bisu

Lavua (Lawa) traditional poetry recital





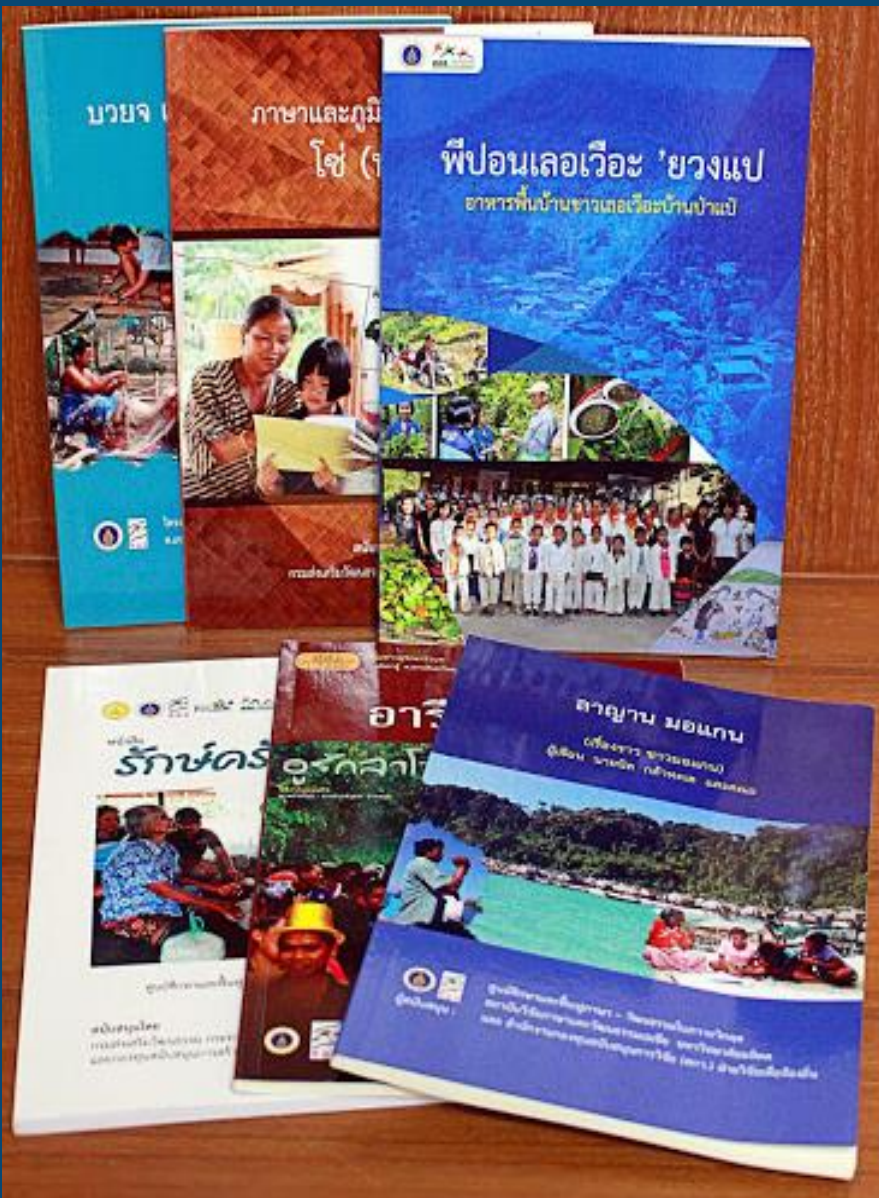
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A Saek-Thai dictionary made by
the local speech community



พจนานุกรม
ภาษาแสก

จัดทำพจนานุกรมภาษาแสกฉบับชาวบ้านเพื่อการอนุรักษ์
ภาษาแสกบ้านชะหว้า ต.ท่าเรือ อ.นาหว้า จ.นครพนม”



The endangered languages of ethnic groups in Thailand have been documented by native speakers.

*Lavua Food at Ban Pa-Pae
Survey and mapping of local food resources, gathering information and knowledge about each kind of food, and making a seasonal food calendar*

*Young Chong Love Chong Cuisine
Reflection/Review of food situation
Revision of Chong orthography
Documenting Chong Recipes
Keeping records of Chong cooks*



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Premsrirat, S. and Hirsh, D. (Eds.). 2018. *Language Revitalization: Insights from Thailand*. Bern, Switzerland: Peter Lang.

Lang Revival Team / Research Facilitators.





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😊 Thank you very much 😊

