

Table of Contents

Abstract	i
Declaration	ii
Certificate	Iii
Acknowledgements	Iv
Table of Contents	V
List of Tables	Ix
List of Maps	X
List of Figures	Xi
List of Abbreviations	Xiii
Chapter One: Introduction.....	1
1.1 Introduction	1
1.2 Who are the Tais?	2
1.3 Literature reviews	7
1.3.1 The ethno-history of Tai Aitons and Tai Yais	7
1.3.2 The academic writing on ethnicity and ethnic Identity	10
1.4 Theoretical Perspectives.....	12
1.4.1 Ethnicity	12
1.4.2 Ethnic Identity	13
1.4.3 The Migration Theory	14
1.5 Statement of the problem	15
1.6 Aims and objectives of the study	16
1.7 Background of the study.....	17
1.7.1 Tai Aiton community at Ban Lung Mantai	17
1.7.2 Tai Yai community in Maehongson	18
1.8 Research methodology	19
1.8.1 Primary data collection: Field Area	19
1.8.2 Research Methods: Fieldworks and Ethnographic Description	22

1.9	Relevance of the study	26
1.10	Limitation of the study	28
Chapter Two: Historical Continuity and Cultural Connectivity on Tai Aiton and Tai Yai		33
2.1	Tai Historiography and Technology of Printing on Tai Aiton and Tai Yai	34
2.1.1	Tai historiography in the context of Assam	36
2.1.2	Tai historiography in the context of Thailand	45
2.2	Tai: the great race and the origin of Tai Aitons and Tai Yais	50
2.2.1	The meaning of ‘Tai’ and the origin of Tai.....	50
2.2.2	Origins of Tai Aitons: The History of Migration and Ethno-History.....	52
2.2.3	Origins of Tai Yais and the history of migration and ethno-history.....	55
Chapter Three: Ethnographic Description on Tai Aiton		64
3.1	The background of Banlung Mantai village, Karbi Anglong, Assam, India.....	64
3.1.1	History of Migration of Tai Aitons at Banlung Mantai	64
3.1.2	The migration of Tai Aitons	65
3.1.3	The extension of the village	66
3.1.4	Geographic data of the village.....	66
3.2	Social Structure of Tai Aitons, Economic and Agricultural Life	67
3.2.1	The social structure of Tai Aiton	67
3.2.2	Economic Cooperation.....	68
3.3	Family and Clan System	69
3.3.1	Kinship and clan system.....	69
3.3.2	Status and role of men and women	70
3.4	Beliefs, Religion and practices	71
3.4.1	Life cycle ceremony of Tai Aiton.....	72
3.4.2	Rituals of Tai Aitons in a year.....	77
3.5	Tai Aiton House, Dress and Food.....	80
3.6	Language and literature	81
3.7	Identity movement and Political issues and revival of Tai-ness	81
Chapter Four: Ethnographic Description on Tai Yai		83
4.1	The background of Maehongsonand and Ban Pangmoo village	83
4.1.1	Tai Yais of Maehongson	85
4.1.2	Ban Pangmoo village and historical outline	89
4.2	Social Structure of Tai Yai, Economic and Agricultural Lif.....	92

4.2.1	The social structure of Tai Yai	92
4.2.2	Economic Cooperation.....	93
4.3	Family and Clan System.....	95
4.3.1	Kinship and clan system.....	96
4.3.2	Status and role of men and women	96
4.4	Beliefs, Religion and practices	97
4.4.1	Life cycle ceremony of Tai Yai	98
4.4.2	Rituals of Tai Yai in a year.....	100
4.5	TaiYai House, Dress and Food.....	102
4.6	Language and Folklores	105
4.7	Identity movement and Political issues	106
Chapter Five: Ethnic-Identity through “Poi” And Wet Rice Cultivation and Language		109
5.1	‘Poi’: The Celebration of Ethnic-Identity	110
5.1.1	<i>Poi Sanglong</i> of Tai Yai of BanPangmoo community, Maehongson, Thailand: A Case Study.....	110
5.1.2	The Ritual and the Process.....	110
5.1.3	Origin Myth of Poi Sanglong	111
5.1.4	The process of Poi Sanglong Celebration (4 days celebration from 31 st March-3 rd April 2016)	117
5.1.5	Transformation of Sanglong in Poi Sanglong festival	120
5.1.6	Poi Sang Long in Tai-Aiton of Ban Lung Mantai Village, Assam.....	124
5.1.7	Poi Sanglong/Poi Khamsang celebration of Tai Yais and Tai Aiton identity	128
5.2	Poi Sangken in BanglungMantai Village, KarbiAnglong, Assam, India (collected data on Poi Sangken in April, 2016-19): A Case Study on Spring Festival	131
5.2.1	Preparations of Poi Sangken.....	132
5.2.2	The first ritual ‘ <i>Khan To Fra</i> ’	132
5.2.3	The second ritual ‘ <i>Fra Nung Din worshipping</i> ’	134
5.2.4	Observance of the Third Ritual ‘ <i>Kong Wu and Zu Tong Pae worshipping</i> ’	136
5.2.5	The fourth ritual ‘the time for celebrating the new year’	137
5.2.6	‘Cleaning day and <i>Khan To Sala</i> ’	139
5.2.7	Tai Yais and <i>Songkran</i> festival: A Case Study on Spring Festival	140

5.3	Wet-rice farming and the ethnic identity maintaining: wet-rice cultivation among Tai Aitons and Tai Yais.....	142
5.4	Language	145
5.5	Convergence of Tai culture	147
	Chapter Six: Conclusion.....	149
	Bibliography	163
	Annexure I: Glossary	169
	Annexure II: Photographs.....	171
	List of Publications	176