

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

Padaung is a subgroup of Red Karen hilltribe. They are called the long-neck, giraffe-neck or the giraffe women because most of Padaung women wear brass coils around their necks which seem to make their necks longer than normal. The first brass neck-coils are placed around their necks since they are between 5-9 years old. The weight of coils is about 2.5 kg. with an average of 9 loops. The neck-coils will be changed every 4 years, the length and/or the size of the neck-coils will be increasing. It is repeated about nine times in their lives. The last age of neck-coils changed is about 45 years old. These brass neck-coils can make the tension between the head and the shoulders during their growth period, the tension might influence on mandibular growth and might affect the relationships between the maxilla and the mandible, also the related structures such as occlusion, facial proportion, facial profile etc.

This study was carried out to find whether these brass neck-coils affect the facial and dental characteristics of Padaung women wearing brass neck-coils. The hypothesis was

: The facial and dental characteristics of Padaung women wearing brass neck-coils are significantly different from that of Red Karen women not wearing brass neck-coils.

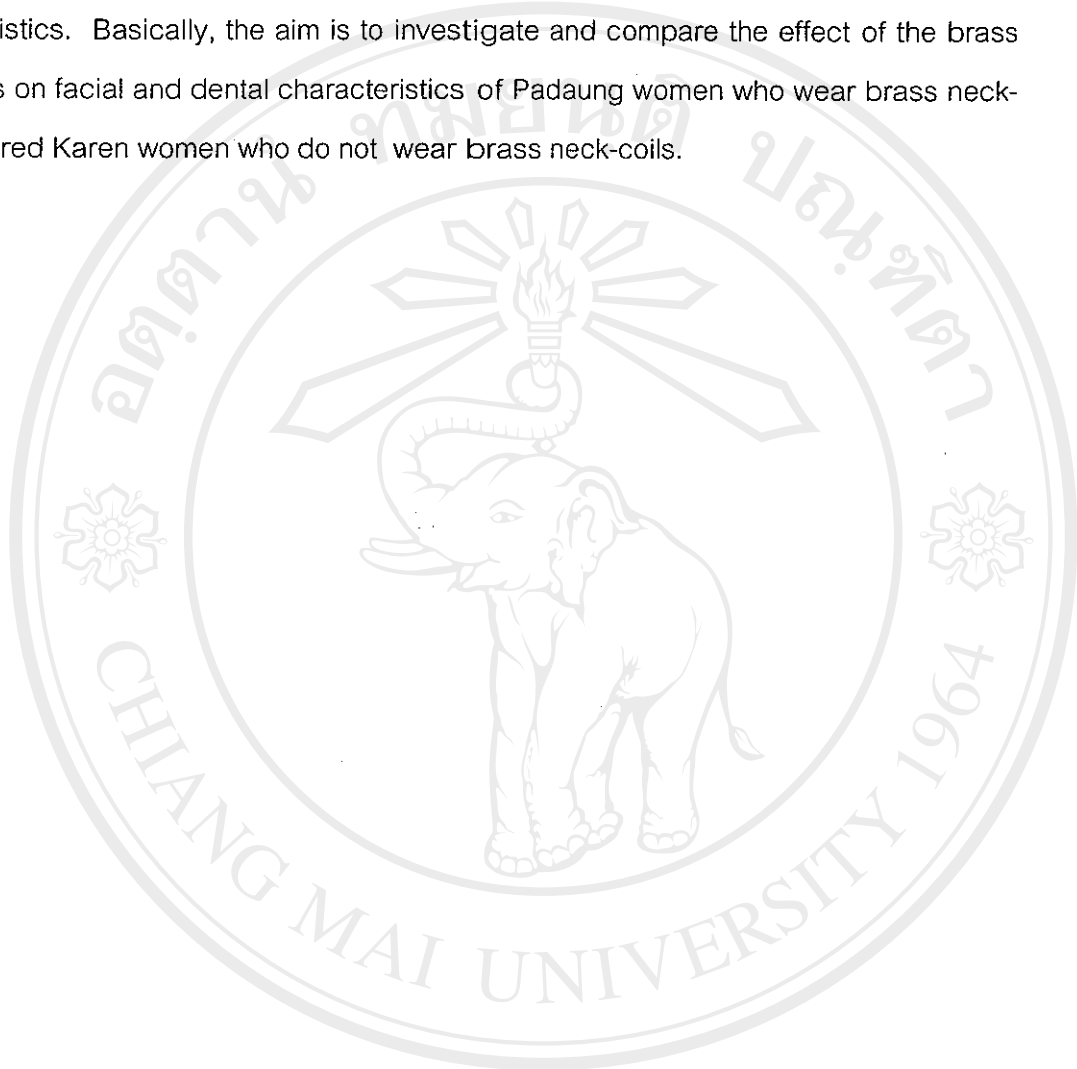
1.1 Purposes of the study

1. To investigate the values of the facial and dental variables in Padaung women wearing brass neck-coils.

2. To compare the values of the facial and dental variables in Padaung women who wear brass neck-coils with Red Karen women who do not wear brass neck-coils.

1.2 Scope of the study

The effect of the brass neck-coils has been questioned. Consequently, we would like to emphasize that whether the neck-coils influence the facial and dental characteristics. Basically, the aim is to investigate and compare the effect of the brass neck-coils on facial and dental characteristics of Padaung women who wear brass neck-coils with red Karen women who do not wear brass neck-coils.



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