













I then would thankfully say that a half and more of my completion on this Ph.D. work is thanks to the people from Vietnam. There are many people having helped me to transform myself to be a true anthropologist throughout my research. Ông Tín is who has put much effort to teach me not only language but also history and culture, give me some ancient documents, Ông Tiên, Ông Bướng, Ông Nhâm, and Pù Tien, who give me the translated White Tai ancient document, and present me lots of joyful discussion. The time I stayed at Mai Châu, my research site, I was so lucky to be good friend with Chị Xuân, Chị Thương, Ê Thảo Lệ, and people in my homestay of Linh's family, Khut's family, and Yên's family; they are constantly taking care of me, enjoy talking to me, sharing time with me, and supporting me that I should need anything. I would truly want to take this space to express my deep gratitude to all of them for all loving things they have provided.

In Hanoi, I have been so lucky to be knowing the Hoàng family from White Thai ethnic whose Assoc. Prof. Hoàng Lương, Dr. Hoàng Cẩm and Mr. Hoàng Quỳnh. I am so grateful to their helping in different ways: Dr. Cẩm to introduce me the field site, Mr. Quỳnh to help me contact the Vietnamese friends at my first time of doing fieldwork in 2007, and Assoc. Prof. Lương to provide me valuable advices and related documents. The time I stayed in Hanoi was comfortable thanks to nice facilitation from Em Hà's family, Chị Thoa's family and Cô Hải's family. And I could not be able to speak Vietnamese as good as at the moment if there were not diligent and passionate contribution into my Vietnamese learning at the University of Social Sciences and Humanities (USSH) from Cô Quỳnh, Cô Mai, Cô Nguyệt, Cô Thục, Cô Liên, Thầy Tân, Cô Thủy, and Cô Châu. Besides my time in Hanoi was fun and fruitful thanks to lots of support and sharing from Vietnamese friends including Thầy Giang, Mr. Thanh, Ms. Trinh, Ms. Thu Thủy, Mr. Trung, Mr. Tuyền, Ms. Lan Anh, Ms. Phuong, Mr. Alex Giang, Ms. Hồng Tú, Ms. Thu Phong, Mr. Quyết, Em Hào and especially Ms. Huyền and Em Yên for their providing of accommodation and transportation sometimes. I thank all of you very much for taking me over all of difficult time up to this last.

Last but not least, everything seems to run hard if I did not have important support from different funding agencies. I must express my gratitude to Faculty of Social Sciences, Naresuan University for endowing me Ph.D. scholarship including granting for two times doing field work; Institute of Cultural Studies (Vietnamese Academy of Social Sciences), Hanoi, Vietnam for being my sponsor organization during my main fieldwork, South East Asian Studies Regional Exchange Program (SEASREP) for granting me a language fund to study Vietnamese language for 4 months; Ministry of Education of Thailand for sponsoring me a Ph.D. candidate fellowship to work on my thesis productively in Laval University, Quebec, Canada in 2011; Asia Research Institute (ARI), National University of Singapore (NUS) for providing me a 3-month graduate student fellowship in 2009; the South-South Exchange Programme for Research on the History of Development (SEPHIS) for accepting me to the 2-week workshop on “Alternative Research Methodologies” in Manila, Philippines in October 2008.

I would like to express my heartfelt thanks and also my acknowledgements for the attention and support of all these people and bodies; however, the arguments presented in this thesis are my own, and I am solely responsible for any mistakes or inadequacies that the readers may find within.

Thank you, Merci, Cám ơn, Cha ón lai, and Krob Khun Kha!

Achariya Choowonglert