

**European Masters
in Intercultural Communication (EMICC)**

**Semiotics of cultures
Chat rooms: the case of Thai Klupi ry**

Karin Jarva, University of Jyväskylä

Università della Svizzera Italiana, Lugano 2007

Table of Contents

1 Introduction

2 Definitions of culture

3 Internet and chatting

3.1 Finns and Internet

4 Main characteristics of the social actor

4.1 Thai Klupi ry

5 Intercultural dimensions of chat rooms

6 Conclusions

References

Appendices

Appendix A Thai Klupi ry, front page

1 Introduction

The world is becoming ever more global. The use of Internet and growing interaction in virtual reality - a social reality for many - has gained popularity in increasing pace among people from all walks of life. People with their busy work and social lives have turned to computers and virtual reality to create social relationships and environments and to relate with people with similar interests. Online chatting is one of the features of communication technology reaching vast number of people and helping them to connect with others.

Chat rooms are popular among many people and provide a vast array of topics and fields for people to discuss, giving them a chance to interact with people with similar interest. Finns are also avid users of computers and the Internet and have found the chat rooms as well.

The purpose of this research report is to give the reader a brief insight to the notion of chat rooms. This report focuses on the online chatting service provided by Thai Klupi ry, an online club with a chat room created in 2003 for people to discuss matters related to Thailand.

In this report the terms social actor, social reality, life world and agent are used, among others. Social actor, according to Stockinger (2007:8) "...is any agent such as a group of persons, an individual, on organization group..., who: possess a common cognitive reference frame...[,] requires the possession or acquisition of a specific competence for understanding, accepting and dealing with this common cognitive reference frame." Social actor has a social environment, life world, in which the different components of its reality interact. These components or entities in a life world are for example the language the agents share or the symbols and artifacts that are common to them. The terms 'chat room' and 'foorumi' are also used to describe the social actor and the environment in which the agents interact.

The agents of the social actor in this research report are the chatters in the chat room provided by Thai Klupi ry online on their website. The notion of culture in an interactive, virtual environment, the chat room is analyzed as well as the notion of culture in light of different theories.

For further insight to the topic of Internet use and chatting, a short description of the use of Internet and chatting is given along with information on Internet use and chatting in Finland. Chatting can be described as an activity that enables Internet users to exchange information, text,

pictures etc., with groups of people and different individuals in real time around the globe. (Haynal 2007) Online chatting here is referred to any kind of communication online over the Internet. Chatting usually refers to direct, real time one-to-one chat, but in this case I will focus on the group chat, formally also known as the synchronous conferencing. (Wikipedia 2007)

In order to collect information on the website and the chat room in question, the author joined the group subscribing access to the chat room, thus becoming a part of the social actor. By monitoring the discussions, information on the social actor and the social reality was collected.

This research report was generated for the course 'Semiotics of culture and communications' by Peter Stockinger organized during the 2007 Eurocampus in Lugano, Switzerland. The author of this report is a Finnish student enrolled in the Master's Degree Programme in Intercultural Communication in University of Jyväskylä, Finland, studying currently in the four month 2007 Eurocampus programme in Lugano. The author is a first year student of the Intercultural Communication master's programme.

2 Definitions of culture

The term culture is widely used in everyday life and in literature. As Stephan Dahl (2004: 1) wrote, "the [term] 'culture' is often used loosely in everyday language to describe a number of quite distinct concepts for example; the word is often used to describe concepts such as 'organizational culture' as well as 'arts and culture'." He continues by describing the term culture as composing of collective and shared values and behavior that as a whole make up a culture. Culture has also been used to describe a way a group of people work and act. Chatting culture and Internet culture as well as a culture a people using a certain chat room can be linked to this definition. The people in the particular chat room share the same values and interests and the group as a whole has a certain way of operating, they follow their own norms. For example, Thai Klupi ry has, on its web site, a note for code of conduct (netiketti) that they inform people is in place when using their chat room (Thai Klupi ry 2007).

According to Keesing (1974, cited by Gudykunst 1998) culture gives people tools and knowledge of how to act in certain situations and how to perceive and interpret other peoples' behavior. The chat room gives its members a certain boundaries within to act and the code of conduct imposed upon the members gives them guidelines and rules according to which they are to act. The chat room creates a closed environment in which these members act according to rules and guidelines identified mostly by them and view the 'others' as the outsiders lacking the

knowledge they have. As Chen and Starosta (1998: 242) put it “...different cultures generate distinctive value systems and perceptions of meaning”. This ‘uniqueness’ gives them a sense of belonging and thus, in part, keeps the community together.

Kroeber and Kluckhohn (1952:181, cited by Dahl 2004: 2) define culture as being a whole of patterns and behavior that a group of people transmit to next generation by using symbols and artifacts, to name a few. They state (p. 181) that the core of culture is consisted of “traditional...ideas and especially their attached values...”. The members of ‘foorum’ take the knowledge collected from various sources and from many experienced travelers to Thailand and pass this information to the next users via this chat room. These bits of knowledge and this certain way of acting gives the term ‘culture’ its meaning. Culture is, to put in yet in a different way “...the rich complex of meanings, beliefs, practices, symbols, norms, and values prevalent among people in a society” (Schwartz 2003: 2).

As the term culture is used so extensively in everyday language, it can easily describe the culture, that the social actor, in this cases the chat room members, share. Hofstede (1994: 5, cited in Dahl 2004: 3) gives a very to-the-point definition of culture and this can be applied to very many ‘cultures’. He says that culture is “the collective programming of the mind which distinguishes the member of one group or category of people from another”. This very broad definition is very much true and very well applicable in comparing cultures, performing a cross-cultural comparison of different culture groups.

The definitions of culture are as many as there are researchers focused on this field. It is, it seems, a difficult task to give culture a very profound definition that would take into account all the various aspects associated with it. One could, therefore, ask “what is culture nowadays? How is it constructed? ...Do I as an individual, have my own culture or am I [merely] a member of a larger group that represents a culture?” It can be argued that it is the culture itself, be it individual or group, that actively creates the meanings, values, and beliefs that we share with others going through same life situations and share the same kind of interests. (Electronic Frontier Foundation no date)

3 Internet and chatting

The world is connected today via computers and the Internet, and chatting online has become available to the wider public. As technology develops ever further it gives base for more human encounters with different values and world views. The world has become smaller due to globalization and multiculturalism. This raises peoples’ awareness of differences between

cultures and therefore calls for different reactions to these differences as well. (Salo-Lee 2003). However, even though globalization, technology and virtual encounters do give people a better chance to interact, get knowledgeable about existing differences between cultures and way to connect, this poses also a problem. Some authors give us a word of warning when it comes to these virtual encounters since it can, in some cases hinder peoples' ability to interact face-to-face. Annu Kekäläinen (Helsingin Sanomat 23.4.2007) notes that Internet connections and computers are ruining genuine interaction between human beings.

Nevertheless, Internet provides people of all social classes a fast and free way to share information and to interact and communicate with one another (Burton no date). Chat rooms are gaining popularity and there are almost as many chat rooms as there are topics. In best cases these chat rooms can be a valuable source of information and a great way of connecting people, however one must be skeptical, at least to a certain degree, when browsing the internet and finding information through these chat rooms, since not all the information offered is valid or even useful.

The start of Internet can be seen as the year 1957 when the space satellite Sputnik was launched (Living Internet 2007). Since the Internet was invented and implemented radical changes have occurred in the society. Internet has changed the way we talk and interact with each other. "Instant message programs have become available for the wider public allowing interactive live text or voice chatting". (Burton no date)

Chat rooms tend to create their own language, however some commonalities between different chat rooms in terms of language can be found. This has brought forward the need for dictionaries with translation for the special terms, names and symbols used in online chatting. (E.g. Pulp Chat). Usually these dictionaries are found in English as English is so widely used as lingua franca in chatting communities. However, in this case I will focus on Finnish as the language used, since Thai Klupi chat room (foorumi) gathers together Finns interested in Thailand and the language used when chatting is mostly Finnish. (Thai Klupi ry) People interacting in this social reality share the same language and share their experiences in this unusual, but yet ever more common, platform without physical boundaries, without a physical body. Significant sector of online communications is the leisure time related social interaction between individuals and groups. People use Internet chat rooms to realize their social needs; they discuss, voice their opinions, and create communities or groups and various kinds of social relationships. A major part of the online chatting is related to sexuality and looking for a partner. (Seppälä 2000)

3.1 Finns and Internet

Today more and more Finns from all age groups use Internet in their daily life, be it pleasure, work or other related matters. During the past ten years majority of Finns have become accustomed to using new communications technology thus making it a part of their everyday lives. Today two thirds of the population in Finland has a computer and according to 2005 statistics 58 percent of the population was connected to the Internet. Majority of Finns also use computers in their work and studies and the use of computers becomes familiar for children from a very young age. (Tilastokeskus 2006)

Over 2.7 million or 70 percent of Finns aged between 15 and 74 have used or use Internet according to statistics. The number is growing especially among those who use Internet regularly or semi-regularly. Finns prefer to use the Internet for example paying their bills using online banking. Games, downloading (i.e. music and movies, games) and chatting are popular especially among young men. (Tilastokeskus 2006). Especially the youth have adopted the chatting culture.

3.2 Thai Klupi ry

Thai Klupi was created for people interested in travelling and especially in Thailand to share their knowledge and experience as well as to promote the awareness of Thais, Thai culture and customs among Finns. Thai Klupi also organizes meetings for their members and hosts an active chat room (foorumi) on their website. (Thai Klupi no date)

The principle role of the chat room is to be a conversation site for all Finns regardless of their age or gender. The chat room was created in 2003 and the number of active chatters online has increased yearly. The use of the chat room is free. (Thai Klupi no date)

Thailand has gained popularity among Finns as the far distant travel destination during the past few years. Lot of people have fallen in love with the people, nature, climate and food of Thailand. (Thai Klupi ry no date) In the year 2006 5.2 million of the 30.2 million leisure time travel was to abroad. Thailand was by far the most popular of the distant destinations with 90 000 trips. (Tilastokeskus 2007)

4 Main characteristics of the social actor

The formation of the culture of a social actor is a complex process influenced with various aspects. The chat room users identify themselves according to their interests, in this case their interest towards Thailand and share this interest among the other members of the group. They use their own language, Finnish, and use somewhat specialized vocabulary to identify certain aspects of their topics of interest. They can be set apart from other chat rooms and their members by these features they share. The members share some values, but also bring in to the social actor and the life world their own values and beliefs changing and moulding the environment constantly.

The social actor, the Internet community or the chat room (foorumi) gives the members of the culture a chance to share knowledge and ideas with others with similar interests. It is a safe place to exchange views of topics close to the members' hearts. The agents, the chat room members, make up the culture of the social actor as they interact in the life world, its social reality.

The members of the social actor interacting in the social reality they have created share the same language. In this case Finnish is used as a language of communication, since the members are Finnish and the site is in Finnish as well. They, as it is the main purpose of this site, share experiences and tips to fellow members on regular basis. In the absence of a physical body or territory, as in all cases of virtual interaction, a unique podium to share knowledge has been created. As they go along, the members of this culture mold the environment in which they act.

'Foorumi' has many functions, including chatting. It provides its members with a calendar giving them information of group activities to be arranged. It also gives members information on the activities of other members and their trips to Thailand. They share their photographs, their travel tips and information concerning nightlife. When registering, the members receive a user ID, thus enabling them to act anonymously. However, there are some meetings arranged, giving the members a chance to meet face-to-face in a different territory and environment outside the usual life world. If so wanted, the members can also give out their email addresses via this chat room. The chat room gives the members instructions on using the chat room effectively. The discussions in the chat room are divided in categories enabling the members even more effectively to find people with specifically sharing the same interests.

Picture 1. Foorumi, example of discussion topic page.



THAIMAA - aiheinen keskustelupalsta

THAI-klupi ry:n foorumi - kaikkien Thaimaan ystävien kohtaamispaikka.

Omat tietosi
 Käyttäjät
 Ryhmät
 Ohje

Ei uusia viestejä
 Kirjautu ulos [kassu1]

Haku
 Albumi
 Kalenteri

Yleinen

Moderaattorit: Koo, P.K, Flassi, Modet

Käyttäjiä selaamassa tätä foorumia: harrikka, Hezzu, katoi, Kimble, laruman, Nereus, reijopal, Snacks, stone, torpedo, uuze, webziz, winnie84

Siirry sivulle 1, 2, 3 ... 84, 85, 86 Seuraava

uusi aihe

THAIMAA - aiheinen keskustelupalsta Foorumin päävalikko ->

Yleinen

Merkitse kaikki aiheet luetuiksi

Aiheet	Vastaukset	Kirjoittaja	Luettu	Viimeinen viesti
Tiedote: Uutissähkeitä Thaimaasta [Siirry sivulle: 1 ... 11, 12, 13]	302	BlackMike	35471	28.11.2007 23:02 texi
Tiedote: Kalenteri vuodelle 2008	1	Tossu-nalle	524	8.11.2007 15:22 Tossu-nalle
Tiedote: Ohjeita haku-toiminnon käyttöön - *Kaikille luettavaksi*	0	dynamite28	995	9.11.2006 12:50 dynamite28
Talon rakentaminen Thaimaassa [Siirry sivulle: 1, 2, 3]	72	KBH5050	4507	29.11.2007 12:04 Huppe
Madventures [Siirry sivulle: 1 ... 11, 12, 13]	319	Selkäreppu	16822	29.11.2007 7:43 marko74
Ilmainen karttasovellus Nokian älypuhelimiin [Siirry sivulle: 1, 2, 3, 4]	83	Dkr	3401	29.11.2007 6:26 vlahti

Näytä edelliset aiheet:

Kaikki aiheet

Siirry

uusi aihe

THAIMAA - aiheinen keskustelupalsta Foorumin päävalikko ->

Yleinen

Kaikki ajat ovat GMT + 2 tuntia

Siirry sivulle 1, 2, 3 ... 84, 85, 86 Seuraava

Sivu 1 Yht. 86

Siirry:

Valitse foorumi

Siirry

Powered by phpBB © 2001, 2005 phpBB Group
Hosted by Isoveli Hotel

Even though the language used is same for all, in this case Finnish, and no apparent slang is noticeable, it should be noted, however, that the group does use specific words, terms, sometimes in Thai to describe things. These terms are in many cases only known to the people sharing the same interest and knowledge. These are for example place names, information to be assumed to be common knowledge among the members such as way of life in Thailand, terms for certain things such as “leidari” (Ladyboy, meaning a transsexual). As well as names of local holidays and celebrations (i.e. Loi Kratong), to name a few. The members also place a great deal of trust to the fellow members. For example they discuss their private matters, such as search for a wife, with their fellow group members (picture 3). Some slang words are used, sometimes followed by an explanation or a link to an explanation (picture 3).

Picture 2. Excerpt from a discussion.

<p>apasra</p> <p>Liittynyt: 24 Hel 2004 Viestejä: 789 Paikkakunta : Tampere</p>	<p>Lähetetty: 7.7.2007 15:21 Viestin aihe:</p> <p>Ja jos etsii 180 cm pitkää ja 80 kg saa tyytyä kaljamahaiseen leidariin. 😊</p> <p>- som nam naa -</p>	<p> lainaa</p>
<p>Takaisin alkuun käyttäjätiedot yvä</p>		

Picture 3. Excerpt from a discussion.



<p>tukataa hetero</p>  <p>Liittynyt: 28 Hel 2004 Viestejä: 5102 Paikkakunta: Helsinki</p>	<p>Lähetetty: 7.7.2007 11:51 Viestin aihe: Re: Thai-vaimo</p> <p>haapa kirjoitti:</p> <p>olen kuullut vain positiivista thai-naisista. He ovat kuulemma kauniita, avuliaita, työteliäitä ja tekevät lähes kaikkensa, jotta heidän miehensä pysyisivät onnellisina avioliitossa. Täten haluaisin tutustua thai-naisiin luotettavien kanavien kautta. Täten onko täällä tietoa, mistä löytäisin tällaisia luotettavia tahoja. Jos tämän lukee joku, jolla on jo thai-vaimo, jolla olisi sisko tai tuttu Thaimaassa odottamassa miestä, olisin kiinnostunut myös tästä vaihtoehdosta.</p> <p>Sitten mitä odotan häneltä. Ennen kaikkea hänen tulee olla rehellinen ja valmis tekemään töitä myös työelämässä, koska en ole rikas, enkä voi elättää häntä. Hän ei saisi tupakoida, eikä pitää kotieläimiä, eikä laittaa kalaruokia, koska olen allerginen näille. Hänen tulisi pitää lapsista, mutta ei vauvakuumeessa, vaan vasta noin 5 avioliittovuoden jälkeen harkita lapsen hankintaa. Hänen pitää olla myös testattu, ettei hänellä ole HIV:tä. Ulkonäön puolesta hänen tulisi olla 150-180 cm, koska itse olen noin 180 cm, ja paino pitäisi olla enintään mitta-100 eli esim. 180 cm ja enintään 80 kg. Lisäksi tykkäisin, jos pukeutuisi naisellisen näyttävästi esim. korkokenkiin ja buutseihin ja</p>	<p> lainaa</p>
---	---	--------------------------------

nahkavaatteisiin. Lisäksi hänen pitää olla valmis noin vuoden kestävään kaukosuhteeseen, koska voisin vieraillla hänen luonaan vasta jouluna ja uutena vuotena ja jälleen ensi kesällä, jolloin ajattelin tuoda hänet Suomeen. Lopuksi toivoisin, että hän olisi kiinnostunut kristinuskosta ja voisi harkita liittymistä kirkkoon.

Tämän on pakko olla trolli? 😊
<http://fi.wikipedia.org/wiki/Trolli>

Olet saanut väärää informaatiota.
 Tuollaisia naisia ei ksinkertaisesti löydy, tai jos löytyy niin ilmoita myös minulle mistä niitä löytyy. 🌐

Voisit myös itse hiukan kelailla että mitä sinulla on tarjota koska latelet paljon vaatimuksia naisesi suhteen, jos et trollaillut?

Takaisin alkuun  

5 Intercultural dimensions of chat rooms

The very base of chatting and chat rooms is the use of computers and Internet by people from groups from different parts of the globe. The fact that computers and Internet are more readily available to the wider public has made it possible for these chat rooms to grow in popularity. Globalization brings people closer together and gives them an opportunity to explore distant parts of the world both virtually and in real life. 'Foorumi' makes it possible for people from different parts of Finland as well as abroad to connect.

The theory of cultural translation, used especially by ethnographers and anthropologists when studying cultures, can be used to analyze the chat room culture. When looking at the 'other', when trying to understand and describe it it is necessary to translate their language, norms, values and behaviour to a form understood easily. The language, for example, might need to be translated into the researchers language in order to be analysed more easily. The language used in chat rooms has its own norms and structures and sometimes it is necessary to try to see it in different light. The chat room 'foorumi' uses Finnish, mainly, but in case of some specific words and terms, it is necessary to translate them in order to understand the meaning of the whole chain of conversation.

The relationship between growing number of Finns travelling to Thailand and the interested they have towards the country can be examined partly through this connection. It might give insights to the peoples' minds who are sharing this interest. Increasing number of people are using online chatting and computers as a part of everyday life, thus it is

interesting to examine some aspects of this chatting culture and to see what forms it takes in real life.

In order to get a more profound picture of this phenomenon of chatting and chat rooms and the culture they have and the culture individual chat rooms have, would require a more thorough research done on the culture of these chat room. Researchers would have to translate the cultural meanings the members of chat rooms' share in order to get a clear picture of the movement. In this particular case it would also give more insight to take a look at the various reasons for the growing interest towards Thailand.

A researcher has to be careful not to create or emphasize any stereotypes when conveying results to the reader. This is where the importance of cultural translation comes in to play. For example, it can be noted that my personal interest and knowledge about the topic might influence the way the information in this report is translated and transmitted to the reader. (Stockinger 2007) Cultural translation gives us the tools to initiate a dialogue between the researcher/audience and the specific culture. It helps us, the 'others', to understand the culture better. (Longinovic 2002)

6 Conclusions

The developments in the field of high technology have made the world smaller and brought about the phenomenon very familiar to us all, globalization. High technology has made it possible for people to connect online via virtual reality.

People are busy with their everyday lives and find social contacts by new means, such as online chat rooms. Chat rooms give people a good, easy access to information and a way to share knowledge.

Chat rooms have their own, specific kind of culture and each is different. This particular chat room gives some insight to the minds of avid lovers of Thailand. They share their own language, use special terms to refer to things known well only to the members but perhaps not to the 'others' and provide information and further contact to the members of this 'small world' people from different parts of the world share. They meet and feel secure in their own life world.

The growing popularity of chat rooms online is a fascinating phenomenon. In my case my interest towards taking a look at the chat room in question arises from the fact that I have, myself, been living in Thailand for four years and thus have a personal interest towards the country. Unfortunately I was only able to scratch the surface here. The interest of online

interacting and interest towards global level issues is a worldwide fact with many levels. The interest of Finns going to Thailand and the growing number of people in Finland showing interest towards the country and its people also has many levels. It is impossible to examine them all here.

But is the world really getting smaller? What do we mean by 'culture' and who defines it? As virtual reality and online interaction is still fairly new phenomenon, can we trust it is a development to the right direction? A lot of people are asking the same questions. But the truth remains that the social reality of all social actors is a constantly changing environment interacting with its surroundings developing as we do.

References

Written publications

Chen, G. M. and Starosta, W. J. (1998). *Foundations of intercultural Communication*. Allyn & Bacon: Boston, MA

Dahl, S. (2004). *Intercultural Research : The Current State of Knowledge*. Middlesex University Business School: London

Gudykunst, W.B. (1998). *Individualistic and Collectivistic Perspectives on Communication: an introduction*. Pergamon: UK

Hofstede, G. (1994). *Management Scientists are Human, Management Science*. In: Dahl , S. (2004). *Intercultural Research The Currents State of Knowledge*. Middlesex University Business School: London

Keesing, R. (1974). *Theories of Culture*. Annual review of Anthropology. In: Gudykunst, W. B. (1998). *Individualistic and Collectivistic Perspectives on Communication: An Introduction*. Pergamon: UK

Kekäläinen, A. (23.4.2007). *Mielipide*. Helsingin Sanomat.

Kroeber, A. and Kluckhohn, C. (1952). *Culture*. Meridian Books: NY. In: Dahl, S. (2004). *Intercultural Research: The Current State of Knowledge*. Middlesex University Business School: London

Salo-Lee, L. (2003). *Intercultural Competence in Research and Practice*. University of Jyväskylä: Jyväskylä.

Schwartz, S. H. (2003). *Mapping and Interpreting Cultural Differences around the World*. The Hebrew University of Jerusalem: Jerusalem

Web sites

Burton, A. (no date). English Composition. Cause & Effect. The Effect of Internet on Society. <http://barney.gonzaga.edu/~aburton/hw/11.30.00.txt>. [Accessed 28.11.2007]

Electronic Frontier Foundation (no date). *To Define Culture in a Virtual World*. http://w2.eff.org/Net_culture/Virtual_community/virtual_culture.article. [Accessed 28.11.2007]

Haynal, R.(no date). Online Chatting (Details). Information Navigators. http://navigators.com/chat_details.html. [Accessed 28.11.2007]

Living Internet (2007). *Internet history*. <http://www.livinginternet.com/i/ii.htm>. [Accessed 28.11.2007]

Longinovic, T. Z. (2002). Fearful Asymmetries: A Manifesto of Cultural Translation. The Journal of the Midwest Modern Language Association.

<http://www.jstor.org/view/07425562/ap040039/04a00030/0>. [Accessed 29.11.2007]

Pulp Chat (2007). *What does all this chat room slang mean?*

<http://www.pulpchat.com/faq/faq215.php>. [Accessed 28.11.2007]

Seppälä, P. (2000) *Internet sosiaalisena tilana: vaikutukset parisuhteeseen, seksuaalisuuteen ja sukupuoliseen identiteettiin*. Helsingin yliopisto. Valtiotieteellinen tiedekunta.

<http://www.valt.helsinki.fi/staff/harmo/pausepp.thm>. [Accessed 28.11.2007]

Stockinger, P. (2007). *Semiotics of culture and communication. Signs, culture and communication*. http://semioweb.msh-paris.fr/escom/fr/enseignement/annees/07_08/07_08_Lugano/dcours08.htm. [Accessed

22.11.2007]

Stockinger, P. (2007). *Semiotics of Culture and intercultural communication*.

<http://www.chass.utoronto.ca/epc/srb/cyber/stockinger4.pdf>. [Accessed 29.11.2007]

Thai Klupi ry (no date). *Foorumi*. <http://www.thaiklupi.fi/?53>. [Accessed 29.11.2007]

Thai Klupi ry (no date). *Suomalainen Thaimaan ystävien seura*. <http://www.thaiklupi.fi/?11>. [Accessed 28.11.2007]

Thai Klupi ry (no date). *Thaimaa – aiheinen keskustelupalsta. Thai-klupi ry:n foorumi – kaikkien Thaimaan ystävien kohtaamispaikka*. <http://www.thaiklupi.fi/foorumi/index.php>. [Accessed 28.11.2007]

Tilastokeskus (2006). Tiedote 8.3.2006. *Tietotekniikasta tullut osa suomalaisten arkipäivää*.

http://www.stat.fi/ajk/tiedotteet/v2006/tiedote_017_2006-03-08.html. [Accessed 28.11.2007]

Tilastokeskus (2007). *Suomalaiset tekivät yli 30 miljoonaa vapaa-ajan matkaa vuonna 2006*.

http://www.stat.fi/til/smat/2006/smat_2006_2007-07-27_tie_001.html. [Accessed 28.11.2007]


Wikipedia (2007). *Online chat*. http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Online_chat. [Accessed

28.11.2007]

Appendix A

Foorumi, front page.

Thai Klupi ry. Thaimaa – aiheinen keskustelupalsta. Thai klupi ry:n foorumi – kaikkien Thaimaan ystävien kohtaamispaikka. Etusivu. (Thai Klupi ry no date)



THAIMAA - aiheinen keskustelupalsta







THAI-klupi ry:n foorumi - kaikkien Thaimaan ystävien kohtaamispaikka.















[Omat tietosi](#)
[Käyttäjät](#)
[Ryhmät](#)
[Ohje](#)




[Ei uusia viestejä](#)
[Kirjautu ulos \[kassu1 \]](#)

[Haku](#)
[Albumi](#)
[Kalenteri](#)

Edellinen käyntisi oli 29.11.2007 12:38 Katso viime käyntisi jälkeen tulleet uudet viestit
 Kellonaika on nyt 29.11.2007 12:39 Katso omat viestisi
THAIMAA - aiheinen keskustelupalsta Foorumin päävalikko Katso viestit joihin ei ole vastattu

Foorumi	Aiheet	Viestejä	Viimeinen viesti
Yhdistyksen tiedotteet --- LUE ENSIN ---			
 Tiedotteet ja ohjeet --- LUE ENSIN --- Yhdistyksen tiedotteita sekä ohjeita. Lue ohjeet foorumin käytöstä ensitöiksesi! Moderaattorit BlackMike, Modet	12	12	13.11.2007 17:17 Tilac ➔🗨️
 Terveisiä ylläpidolle Valitukset, kiitokset, parannusehdotukset ja uudet ideat. Moderaattorit tri_Hoto, BlackMike, Modet	254	2597	28.11.2007 11:30 terox ➔🗨️
 Kokeilukenttä Harjoittele foorumin käyttöä täällä! Moderaattori Modet	47	380	25.11.2007 20:04 freebird ➔🗨️
Thaimaa - keskustelu			
 Yleinen Aihe vapaa. Keskustelua, kysymyksiä ja vastauksia. Moderaattorit Koo, P.K, Flassi, Modet	4282	65363	29.11.2007 12:04 Huppe ➔🗨️
 Täältä tullaan Thaimaa! Kuinka selviytyä ensimmäisestä retkestä Thaimaahan ja myös sen jälkeisestä elämästä Suomessa? Vastauksia kysymyksiin, vinkkejä, tapaetikettiä sekä mukavaa jutustelua. Tätä aluetta voivat lukea kaikki, kirjoittaminen vaatii rekisteröitymisen. Moderaattorit Tilac, lauri, Flassi, Modet	783	11570	28.11.2007 18:47 babar ➔🗨️
 Matkailu Thaimaassa Kaikki Thaimaan matkailuun liittyvä. Moderaattorit Timis, Modet	869	9961	29.11.2007 10:03 joko thai ➔🗨️
 Perhematkailu Tenavat ja taaperot mukana matkalla. Vinkkejä ja keskusteluja perheellisten näkökulmasta. Moderaattorit Antero, MrTravkin, Modet	373	3748	28.11.2007 10:51 winnie84 ➔🗨️

	Kauneus, terveys ja shoppailu Shoppailu, kampaamot, manikyirit, hieronta, kasvohoidot, kengät ja niin päin pois. Parhaat vinkit luksuksesta halpahalleihin. Moderaattorit BangkokBoy , Modet	236	2495	29.11.2007 12:21 Aki ➔🗨️
	Hyppysellinen chiliä THAI-keittiön salaisuudet. Keskustelua thairuoista ja juomista. Moderaattorit tri_Hoto , Antero , Modet	524	6760	25.11.2007 18:57 Sifu ➔🗨️
	Kielikurssi (แบบเรียนภาษา) Linkkejä ja apua omatoimiseen thain kielen opiskeluun. Kysy, vastaa, ihmettele Moderaattorit Tilac , BangkokBoy , Modet	280	3471	29.11.2007 3:36 Huppe ➔🗨️
	Matkakalenteri Milloin matkustat Thaimaahan, kerro se täällä! Online-kuulumiset ja uutiset Thaimaasta silminnäköjien kokemina Moderaattorit P.K. , Modet	429	11609	29.11.2007 12:34 Tremet ➔🗨️
	Matkakertomukset, kuvat ja videot Matkakertomuksia, linkkejä kuviin ja videoihin ja muihin sivustoihin. Moderaattorit MrTravkin , Modet	359	5310	29.11.2007 9:23 Markki ➔🗨️
	Suomi thaimaalaisen silmin Kuinka rakas isänmaamme ottaa vastaan muualta tulleet asukkaansa. Kokemuksia, kimmelluksia kuulopuheita ja tilanteita sekä miten niistä on selvitty. Moderaattorit Tilac , P.K. , Modet	98	2325	29.11.2007 11:37 DelArco ➔🗨️
	ไทย & English Conversation about Thailand, Thais and Finns, in English or Thai. Sana on vapaa, miksei myös ruotsiksi! Moderaattorit Tilac , Koo , BangkokBoy , Modet	23	124	15.11.2007 14:14 Keng ➔🗨️
	Ilmoituksia, tiedotteita ja tapahtumia Klupin ja muitten tahojen järjestämiä tapahtumia, tärkeitä tiedotteita ja ilmoituksia. Moderaattori Modet	67	2458	24.11.2007 5:27 krabyy ➔🗨️
Thaimaa alueittain				
	Pohjoinen Thaimaa Onko Thaimaassa oma Lappi? Chiang Rai, Chiang Mai, Sukothai, Lampang, Mae Hong Son ja niin edelleen. Moderaattorit Lasse , Modet	317	3309	28.11.2007 15:43 S & T Bar ➔🗨️
	Isaan Tuo suuri tuntematon. Nong Khai, Udorn Thani, Khon Kaen, Ubon Ratchathani, Buriram ja niin edelleen. Moderaattorit Lasse , Modet	245	4478	29.11.2007 12:29 benetol ➔🗨️
	Keskinen Thaimaa Pattaya, Rayong, Ayuthaya, Chantaburi, Saraburi, Kanchanaburi, Ratchaburi, Cha Am, Hua Hin ja muut keskimaan kohteet. Moderaattorit Timis , KooBee , Modet	1220	10734	29.11.2007 11:47 Ilkka ➔🗨️
	Eteläinen Thaimaa Etelän auringon alla. Phuket, Krabi, Koh Samui, Had Yai, Trang ja niin edelleen. Moderaattorit vlahti , MrTravkin , Modet	1348	10459	29.11.2007 12:21 Art2 ➔🗨️
	Bangkok Bangkok! Miljoonakaupungin monet kasvat! Moderaattorit Tilac , BangkokBoy , Modet	819	10392	29.11.2007 12:00 kimi1 ➔🗨️
	Golf, sukeltaminen ja muu liikunta sekä urheilu Thaimaan monipuoliset liikuntamahdollisuudet antavat upeita elämyksiä aktiivilomailijalle. Keskustelua liikunnasta Thaimaassa pinnan alla, pinnalla, maalla sekä ilmassa Moderaattorit vlahti , BangkokBoy , Rhino , Modet	393	2610	29.11.2007 12:36 Lasse ➔🗨️

	Muu Aasia Rakkaat naapurit Laos, Kambodza, Myanmar ja muut Aasian maat. Vinkit Rangoonista Kiinaan! Moderaattorit lauri, Antero, Modet	550	4482	28.11.2007 20:43 Missu ➔🔒
	Muu maailma - matkailu toissijaisissa kohteissa Kävitkö Ranualla? Tai vaikkapa Lontoossa? Kerro siitä meille kaikille! Moderaattorit Koo, Antero, Modet	65	753	27.11.2007 18:42 Santeri45 ➔🔒
	Katastrofialue UUTISET TSUNAMISTA JA SIIHEN LIITTYVÄT KESKUSTELUT TÄÄLLÄ. Lukeminen mahdollista ilman rekisteröitymistä. Moderaattori Modet	603	3083	25.10.2007 6:13 ILEBAR ➔🔒
Tunnistautuneet käyttäjät				
	Matkailu ja lentohinnat Viimehetken lentohintoja, vinkkejä ja asiaa matkailun saralta. Vaatii tunnistautumisen, katso ohje "Yhdistyksen tiedotteet"- palstalta. Moderaattorit Koo, KooBee, Kalevatravel, Modet	1493	26587	29.11.2007 11:42 dynamite28 ➔🔒
	Viranomaisvinkit Keskustelua viisumeista, oleskeluluvista ja kaikesta muusta, missä joudut kosketuksiin viranomaisten kanssa Moderaattorit tri_Hoto, Tilac, Modet	574	9044	28.11.2007 8:48 vuosaari ➔🔒
	Majoitusmuistio Keskustelua majoitusvaihtoehdoista. Hotellivinkit ja -arvostelut. Otsikoi viestisi seuraavasti: PAIKKAKUNTA: HOTELLIN NIMI. Moderaattorit BangkokBoy, MrTravkin, Modet	392	2093	29.11.2007 10:56 Sarpa ➔🔒
	Muut käyttäjäedut Tietoa eduista ja alennuksista. Vaatii tunnistautumisen, katso ohje "Yhdistyksen tiedotteet"- palstalta. Moderaattorit Koo, Kalevatravel, SongNetworks, Klupituote, Modet	109	1679	28.11.2007 22:34 Hannus79 ➔🔒
K - 18				
	Up to you! Alue vitseille, murheille, kiukuttelulle, riemulle, jännitykselle, seikkailuille ja tosi villoille jutuille! Jos kuulit jostain hyvän jutun, mikset kertoisi sitä muille? Up to you! Moderaattorit tri_Hoto, Lasse, lauri, Rhino, Modet	1994	67926	29.11.2007 12:28 Matkaaja25 ➔🔒
	Nightlife for Great Lovers Isojen poikien ja tyttöjen raisut keskustelut. Jos et pidä keskusteluissa, joissa välillä lipsutaan navan alle, sivuuta alue suosiolla. Kielletty alle 18-vuotiailta. Oikeuksia saa Lasselta etu- ja sukunimeä vastaan. Moderaattorit tri_Hoto, Lasse, KooBee, Rhino, Modet	776	25037	29.11.2007 12:06 Miki67 ➔🔒
	Thai-Style N.Y.T Thaimaa today, Mekkanahuuruisten Sankareiden N.Y.T fiilikset, Reissussa N.Y.T, Thai-, Fin-, Britti or Whatever-Style N.Y.T. Moderaattorit Lasse, Rhino, Modet	175	8674	28.11.2007 19:41 suppakello ➔🔒

Merkitse kaikki foorumit luetuiksi

Kaikki ajat ovat GMT + 2 tuntia

Tiedot perustuvat viimeisen tunnin tilanteeseen



Uusia viestejä



Ei uusia viestejä



Foorumi on lukittu