IN MEMORIAM: THOMAS M. TEHAN (1949-2019)

Tom Tehan (Ph.D., SIL MSEA) passed away in Chiangmai, Thailand on 3 January 2019. Tom worked with SIL MSEA at the Department of Linguistics, Payap University, Chiang Mai, Thailand, since 1992. He was an Assistant Professor conducting research in Discourse Analysis, Syntax and Sociolinguistics. In his 26 years as a Payap University faculty member, he assisted numerous students as their thesis advisor. He also was a member of the Linguistics Department’s “academic committee,” (responsible for the curriculum), and served on the Editorial Advisory Board of the Journal of the Southeast Asian Linguistics Society (JSEALS).

Tom assisted on minority language literature development projects in the mainland Southeast Asia region and was an SIL linguistics, translation and computational consultant. He also served as an Adjunct Professor in Linguistics at Wheaton College, Illinois, USA. Tom graduated from Wright State University (Dayton, Ohio), with a B.A. in History (minors in Languages and Anthropology). In 1980, he received an M.A. in Applied Linguistics from the University of Kansas and then in 1987 completed the Ph.D. in History and Philosophy (Foundations) of Education (minor in Linguistics) from the University of Kansas.

Tom was active with his scholarly research. He produced numerous reviews of books, primarily of Asian linguistics, and his publications included contributions to Southeast Asian minority languages. His last publication was Kriang Stative/Non-Dynamic Clauses and Standard negation (Proceedings of the Payap University Research Symposium 2018, Chiang Mai: Payap University: Research and Academic Service Affairs, 633-642). His most highly cited article (Google Scholar Citations) was How do you write Lisu, cowritten with David Morse in 2000 (Journal – Endangered Languages and Literacy. Proceedings of the Fourth FEL Conference. University of North Carolina, Charlotte. Bath, England: Foundation for Endangered Languages. Pages 53-62). Below is a listing of some of his many publications, conference presentations, and other works.

Thomas M. Tehan, Ph.D. – publications, conference presentations, and other works

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