

(1) Bias

4 Levels of Hate

BIAS

Hate speech comes in many forms of expressions that can promote, incite or justify hatred, discrimination, and violence against a person or group. The reason for the hate may vary, but in the Southern Thailand conflict, there are ethno-religious reasons. Hate speech can present a grave threat to human rights, law, and the cohesion of society. If left unaddressed, it can lead to acts of violence and conflict escalation. In this sense, hate speech is an extreme form of intolerance which can contribute to hate crimes. As hate speech intensifies, so do the effects.

This Lexicon categorizes the intensity of hate speech into 4 levels of hate. The first level of hate is BIAS. BIAS is when negative words are used to divide groups in society by them and us. It usually shows a disagreement with ideas, beliefs, or action that create the framework “Us vs. them” where in most cases, leads to an oversimplification and stereotyping of “Them” or the out-group. The disagreement that exposes stereotypes often results in a belief to take actions in opposing the outgroup.

EXAMPLE OF BIAS IN THE SOUTHERN THAILAND CONFLICT

1. CHON TAI

General Definition : Chon Tai is a Thai word that means a Southern terrorist. This word is generally used by the media to refer to a person or group of insurgents operating in the southern part of Thailand.

Why it's offensive and inflammatory: This word has been used generally in Thai mass media, referring to the conflict. However, the word used in this context has two negative connotations. Firstly, this word has been used to mock or show bias toward Southern Thai inhabitants and people who have an obvious appearance of being Muslim, such as wearing a hijab or having a long beard. The bias against Muslims and Islam comes from stereotypes of this major population in the South and the association between the insurgents with Islam and the Malay population. Thus, Chon Tai has been used to generalize and

stereotype all southern inhabitants as insurgents. Secondly, using the word Chon Tai can contribute to further distrust between the Thai Government and insurgents during peace talks that aim to create an understanding between the two parties.

Sample Post:



The caption of this news tweet and headline used Chon Tai. Even though there is no evidence to prove that this bombing at Narathiwat province on September 19, 2022, was perpetrated by the insurgents. Importantly, this Twitter account is owned by a governmental agency.

Alternative word(s) that could be used: Insurgent

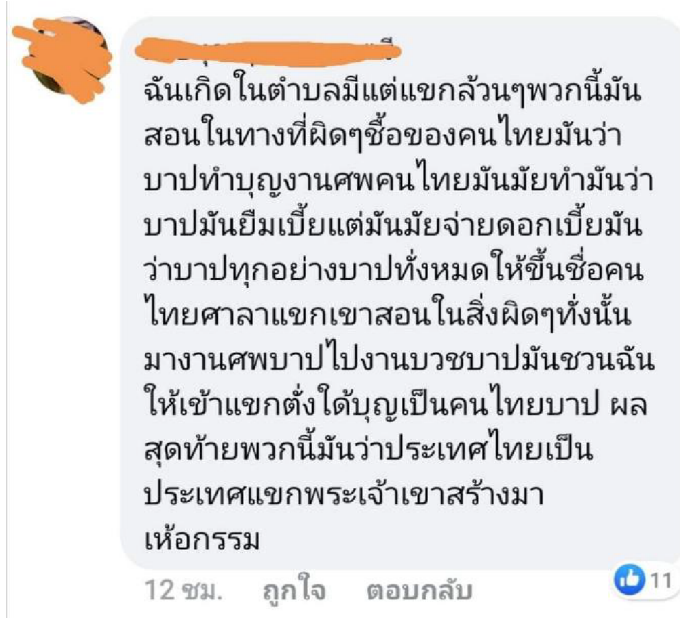
2. KHAEK

General definition: Khaek has a double meaning in Thai. The first is a guest, visitor, or customer, while the second is a person from South Asia, the Middle East, Africa, and the Malay Peninsular region.

Why it's offensive and inflammatory: Khaek in this context is related to people in the region that belong to a majority Muslim population. Thus, using this word in Thai society means referring to Muslims. This word is also related to specific ethnicities such as Indian (Khaek India), Pathan Muslim (Khaek Pathan), and Indo-European Muslim (Khaek Kwao). However, Indian people with ancestors who immigrated from South Asia might not all be Muslim but could be Brahmanist-Hinduist and Sikhist.

Nowadays, calling Muslims in Thailand a Khaek does not cause any dissatisfaction among Muslim people because of their habituation. However, this could reproduce misunderstandings around the separation of ethnicity from religion. However, in some contexts, referring to Muslim populations as Muslims Khaek can cause offense to the person such a phrase is aimed at. For example, the Malay Muslims in the southern region of Thailand.

Thus, the use of Khaek when referring to Muslims from the deep South of Thailand, shows a misunderstanding on part of the speaker and would cause offense.. For Malay Muslims, Khaek has been used to refer to Pathan Muslim or Orang Kabo, while they define themselves as Malayu.

Sample post:**Translated comment:**

"I was born in a sub-district where most of the population here is Khaek. They have been taught the wrong way, such as buying stuff from Thai (Buddhists) is a sin. Making funeral merit to Thai (Buddhists) is a sin. They borrow money but don't pay interest because it's a sin. Everything is a sin. They were taught all the wrong way. Attending a funeral and conducting a ceremony are sins. But convincing others to be Khaek is a merit. Being Thai (Buddhist) is a sin. As a result, they believe Thailand was created by their god. Damn it".

Alternative word(s) that could be used: Muslim (for people you know that are Muslims.), Malayu (for people you know that are from the Southern region of Thailand).