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Development of Process for Generating Thai Audio Image Description

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ABSTRACT

The motivation for this research began with the requirement to develop a tool for visually impaired and blind people to improve their quality of life by allowing them to access visual information and travel safely. The process for generating Thai audio image descriptions was developed. The research has developed an image detection system that classifies objects in detected images and generates Thai language descriptions without translation from English. The DEtection TRansformer (DETR) is accurately and quickly applied to detect the objects in the image; after that, the Thai sentences or phrases are composed using the Thai Text Generator with the Thai model of WangchanBERTa datasets. The important features of the image description in this research are the ability to indicate the number of objects of the same kind and to select appropriate noun classifiers. In this developed image detection system, objects within the detected image are automatically divided into different images with classification, and then the number of images in each category is counted. The suitable noun classifier is chosen using the Masked Token Prediction. This system can reclassify using zero-shot learning when more different images are added. This allows for more flexibility in use and saves a significant amount of time in creating an image database. The Thai image description consists of the details, including the type of object, number, and Thai noun classifier of objects in the images; the generated sentence to describe the image; and the predicted photo shoot location. After that, the Thai sentences or phases of captured image description are transformed to be the voice in the Thai language using the

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VAJA Text-to-Speech Engine integrated image detection system to enable visually impaired and blind people to recognize the details of the image in front. The results showed a good performance of the developed process for generating Thai audio image descriptions. The input image file can be transformed into the image descriptions and the Thai audio descriptions.

Keywords: Image detection; Thai audio image description; Zero-shot learning

Introduction

The quality of life for visually impaired and blind (VIB) people, who face problems in daily life as they lack the ability to recognize visual information, has developed with many applications in smart phones to know objects [1]. For example, TapTapSee [2] and Aipoly Vision [3] are applications that allow VIB people to recognize objects by using the mobile phone camera to take a photo and hearing the description of the object read back to the user. Many real-time apps are in English or other languages; there are a limited number of applications that support Thai. Opportunely, the Digital Service for Disability has promoted a few applications supporting Thai, including TAB2Read for audio books [4], Smart Eye for transforming original document images into audio, such as receipts, notice boards, lottery tickets, and banknotes [5], and Navilens for scanning the QR code at a distance of up to 12 meters and detecting multiple tags at the same time [6]. However, there was no development of Thai audio image descriptions consisting of the type of object, number, and Thai noun classifier of objects generated from the image via the smartphone camera. This research has developed the Thai audio image description of the image detection system to support Thai VIB people in recognizing the details of the image on the book and the environment around them. The previous research developed the object position detection for VIB people to locate the position of the finding object using a vision-language pre-training model as CLIP (Contrastive Language-Image Pre-training) with a voice command in the Thai language [7]. Moreover, Nimmolrat et al. [8] developed a mobile pharmaceutical application with functions that are appropriate for visually impaired users and a voice command function.

Numerous approaches for generating image descriptions to specify the details and characteristics of images in the English language have been continuously developed, for example, D´ej`a Image-Captions: the naturally existing image descriptions that are repeated almost verbatim [9], a distributed representation based query expansion approach [10], Collective Generation of Natural Image Descriptions using ILP and HMM formulation [11], Webscale N-grams [12], Corpus-Guided predictions [13], visual dependency representation (VDR) [14-

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15], Kernel Canonical Correlation Analysis (KCCA) -based baseline systems [16], linear phrase-based model [17], and semantic hierarchies and zero-shot recognition [18].

In recent years, image descriptions in the Thai language were also introduced [19, 20]; however, the detected image model to generate image descriptions in the Thai language is mostly translated via English. Khuphiran et al. [19] developed a scene graph generator tool from a single image in 3 steps: image captioning, scene graph parser, and machine translation from English to Thai by a neural machine translator. Mookdarsanit et al. [20] proposed the model to generate the Thai image caption with Convolutional Neural Network (CNN) for the encoding stage and Recurrent Neural Network (RNN) for the decoding stage, and introduced the English captions directly translated into Thai texts by VISTEC thai2nmt in which this machine translation based on Transformer reduces the time for manual captioning. For Thai descriptions, there was no research emphasizing Thai noun classifiers and the exact quantity of objects in an image, whereas various researches [21-23] presented the generated image descriptions in English consisting of the number of objects in images. Nevertheless, the sentence structure of the Thai language, especially the noun classifiers, is different from the English language; the Thai language has noun classifiers used when the noun is being counted; that is, it appears with a numeral [24].

As mentioned above, the research concerned with the generation of the Thai image description was limited, especially the Thai audio image description. Consequently, the main objective of this research was to develop a process to generate the image descriptions in Thai without translation from English to Thai and combine the text-to-speech engine for creating Thai audio descriptions. In this research, the Thai datasets of WangchanBERTa were used [25], and Masked Token Prediction was used to predict a suitable noun classifier [26]. The integrated system between DEtection TRansformer or DETR [27] for detecting objects in the images and the Thai datasets of WangchanBERTa was developed to generate the Thai texts and further compose the Thai sentences by using Thai Text Generator, an open-source tool for composing Thai sentences [28], in order to decrease a training step and obtain the Thai language description of the image in a short time. In addition, zero-shot learning, which is a new conceptual learning technique without accessing any exemplars of the unseen categories during training and can construct recognition models with the assistance of transferring knowledge from previously seen categories and auxiliary information [29], was also utilized to predict the photoshoot location of the detected image. The generated image description was immediately demonstrated without converting from English to Thai, and after that, Thai language audio descriptions were generated to describe details of the captured image.

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Process Design

This research developed a process for converting images into Thai-language descriptions without translating via the English language, and Thai descriptions generated as text were converted to Thai audio using a text-to-speech engine. The Python programming in Colab Pro was used, and the results were generated by using a GPU (Graphics Processing Unit) hardware accelerator. There were five steps in the developed process for generating Thai audio image description, as demonstrated in Figure 1.

In the first step, the image file with .JPG extensions (including .jpg and .jpeg) was loaded into the developed process. After that, the system started to preprocess the image to a suitable size (enlarge the image size eight times) for sending it to the process of image detection.

In the second step, objects in the image were detected using DEtection TRansformer (DETR) which immediately transfers to Thai text and demonstrates the number of objects by counting the repeated words of the same type of objects in the image detected by DERT as shown in Figure 2. It can predict up to 80 different objects (since the data trains are from MS-COCO with 80 Classes) and reveal the open-source code that can be used to train it to know more objects as needed. In this step, the names of objects in the image and the numbers of objects were obtained.

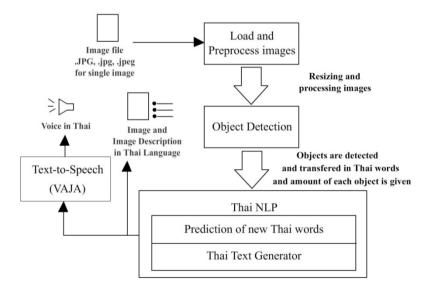


Figure 1 Developed Process for generating Thai audio image description

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In the next step, the Thai Natural Language Processing (Thai NLP) was used to predict new related Thai words with similar meanings using WangchanBERTa datasets. The WangchanBERTa pre-trained language model on Thai datasets obtained from sources such as news, Wikipedia, social media messages, and information obtained from crawling websites on the Internet with a total data size of 78.5 GB is developed by Thailand Artificial Intelligence Research Institute [25]. The model Wangchanberta-base-att-spm-uncased trained on the 78.5 GB dataset outperforms strong baselines (NBSVM, CRF, and ULMFit) and multi-lingual models (XLMR and mBERT) on both sequence classification and token classification tasks in humanannotated, mono-lingual contexts [26]. In each group of similar words, only one word was chosen from the highest score, and the noun classifier of the chosen word was predicted using the Masked Token Prediction that a suitable noun classifier was chosen from the maximum probability score in the Thai text as illustrated in Figure 2. The Thai text of an object's name, a related word and a chosen noun classifier will be presented in 'the detail of the image'. The developed process can be used to segment words into sentences (word tokenization). The Masked Language Model was used to predict the missing words in the masked position to complete sentences.

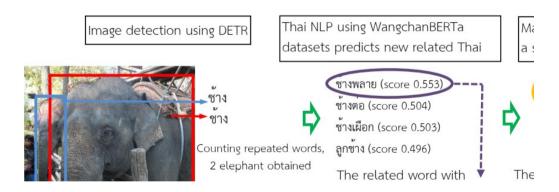


Figure 2 Image detection using DERT and the prediction of the related word and the suitable noun classifier

Then, the Thai Text Generator system was utilized to compose phrases or sentences [30]. Using the Markov chains [31-32], all the words are transferred to the system to create sentences of 2-10 words, as shown in 'the creating text caption'. Figure 3 shows an example of the word of 'ช้าง'elephant for phase or sentence generation using the Thai text generator. In addition, 'the prediction of the photoshoot location' of the detected image was presented

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using zero-shot learning for text classification [33-34], which can reclassify words and sentences into new types without requiring any additional training. Figure 4 shows the highest score of the word of 'สวนสัตว์' zoo when using zero-shot learning to predict the photoshoot location.

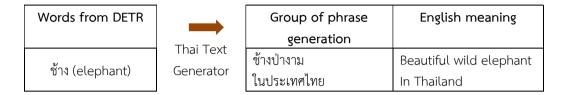


Figure 3 Group of phrase generation using Thai text generator

Words from		location	English meaning
DETR			
ช้าง (elephant) คน (human) ชาม (bowl)	Zero-shot for	สวนสัตว์ (score: 0.470)	Zoo
	text	ท้องถนน (score: 0.294)	Road
	classification	สี่แยกไฟแดง (score: 0.149)	Traffic light intersection
		ห้างสรรพสินค้า (score: 0.086)	Shopping mall

Figure 4 The prediction of the photoshoot location using zero-shot learning

After the generation process of Thai image description was completed, the image description was composed of the details of the image, including the type of object, amount of object, Thai noun classifier of an object in the images, the creating text caption, and the prediction of the photoshoot location. The Thai language image description was shown above the picture.

In the final step, this process added the VAJA Text-to-Speech Engine [35] to transform Thai text descriptions into the voice in Thai so that VIB people can access Thai image descriptions. Using the developed process as proposed in Figure 1, when the input image file was loaded, the output of this process was the image description and the Thai audio description.

Results and Discussion

The developed process to generate the Thai audio image description was performed within about a minute operating on the Google Colab. This research used three images to test the developed process, including two close-up photos as shown in Figures 5 and 6 and one

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distant photo as shown in Figure 7. An example of results for an image in Figure 5 was discussed. In the step of image detection, five Thai words were generated as 'ช้าง'elephant, 'ช้าง'elephant, 'ชาม'bowl, 'ชาม'bowl, and 'คน'human. The repeated words were counted to create the number of things in the image. The results showed that the detection step can identify the type and number of objects exactly, including 2 elephants, 2 bowls, and 1 human, as demonstrated in Figure 5.

The next step was the generation of similar words for each group, and the suitable noun classifier was created as shown in Table 1. In the third step, the groups of similar words generated in the second step of image detection were predicted, and their scores were shown. Each group chose one similar word with the highest score to present in the Thai language description. For example, the word of 'ช้าง' (elephant) was generated in the second step as mentioned above; a group of words for elephant consists of 'ช้างพลาย' (male elephant), 'ช้างต่อ' (decoy elephant), 'ช้างเผือก' (white elephant), and 'ลูกซ้าง' (calf), in which the highest score of the male elephant was presented and chosen.

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ในภาพมี ช้าง(หรือ ช้างพลาย) 2 ตัว
คน(หรือ กลุ่มคน) 1 คน และชาม(หรือ จาน) 2 ใบ
การสร้างข้อความอธิบายภาพ:
คนมีความสัมพันธ์กับ ช้างป่างาม ในประเทศไทย
การทำนายสถานที่ถ่ายภาพ:สวนสัตว์



0:03 / 0:15 **—**

Figure 5 Thai language description with Thai audio of the image shooting at the zoo as meaning:

'The detail of the image: The picture consists of 2 elephants (or male elephants),

1 human (or group of humans) and 2 bowls (or dishes)

The creating of text caption: Human has relationship with beautiful wild elephant in Thailand.

The prediction of the photoshoot location: Zoo'

Moreover, in the Thai language, there was a noun classifier of different things, for example, a phrase of '2 elephants' in English is often required to be expressed as 'ซ้าง 2 ตัว' (Cĥāng 2 Tạw), that 'Tạw' is the noun classifier of the wild elephant, with a higher score than 'ซ้าง 2 เชือก' (Cĥāng 2 Cheuxk), that 'Cheuxk' is the noun classifier of the domestic elephant. Therefore, the detail of the image in the Thai language presented 'ซ้าง (หรือซ้างพลาย) 2 ตัว' representing '2 elephants (or male elephants)' in the English language.

As shown in Figure 5, all noun classifiers for objects were correctly chosen. The Thai sentence to describe the image was composed, and the photoshoot location of the zoo was

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predicted using zero-shot learning. After Thai image descriptions were generated, the Thai audio description was then automatically generated and appeared under the picture.

Table 1 Words and noun classifiers of objects in image descriptions of Figure 5

Groups of similar words and their scores	Classifiers and Scores	Chosen classifiers
Group of elephant ช้างพลาย score: 0.553 ช้างต่อ score: 0.504 ช้างเผือก score: 0.503 ลูกช้าง score: 0.496	- <u>ช้าง 2 ตัว (Taw) score: 0.751</u> / ช้าง 2 เชือก (Cheuฺxk) score: 0.043	ตัว (Tạw)
Group of human กลุ่มคน score: 0.556 ผู้หญิง score: 0.510 คนไทย score: 0.477 ผู้ชาย score: 0.477	- <u>คน 1 คน (khn) score: 0.131</u> / คน 1 ค่ะ (Kha) score: 0.051	คน (khn)
Group of bowl จาน score: 0.685 กะละมัง score: 0.650 ถ้วย score: 0.619 หม้อ score: 0.613	- <u>ชาม 2 ใบ (Bi) score: 0.061</u> / ชาม 2 คน (khn) score: 0.035	ใบ (Bı)

In Figure 6, Although the image shows only part of a train, this system can detect the image and create the word correctly. Only one train in the image was detected and generated one word of 'รถไฟ'train and a similar word of 'ขบวนรถไฟ'railroad train. A correct noun classification was chosen. In addition, the train station was predicted as the photoshoot location.

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การทำนายสถานที่ถ่ายภาพ: สถานีรถไฟ



Figure 6 Thai language description with Thai audio for the image shooting atthe train stationas meaning

'Detail of image: The picture consists of 1 train (or railroad train)

Creating of text caption: Train links intercity

Prediction of photoshoot location: Train station'

In the case of a remote photo, this system can detect the image to generate the Thai language description as illustrated in Figure 7. Moreover, small objects such as people can be detected and generated the words in detail of image. However, the different color of a trailer in the left hand side of image was detected as two trucks. However, other objects of airplane, human, and bus were precisely counted. The results showed that all noun classifiers of objects were correctly selected, and the location of the photo shooting of the airport was appropriately predicted.

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คน(หรือ กลุ่มคน) 2 คน
รถโดยสาร(หรือ รถโดยสารประจำทาง) 1 คัน
และรถบรรทุก(หรือ รถสิบล้อ) 3 คัน
การสร้างข้อความอธิบายภาพ:
เครื่องบินที่มีอากาศบริสุทธิ์ รถโดยสาร ขนส่ง รถบ



Figure 7 Thai language description with Thai audio for the image shooting at the airport as meaning

'Detail of image: The picture consists of 1 airplane (or helicopter), 2 humans (or group of human), 1 bus (or coach), and 3 trucks (or ten-wheeled trucks)

Creating of text caption: Airplane contains fresh air, bus, transport, trucks

Prediction of photoshoot location: Airport'

The results showed that the developed process can generate the Thai image descriptions and Thai audio descriptions. In this study, the developed process was the first step in progressing an application for the Thai VIB people, who are limited in using existing English language applications. Nowadays, there are mobile applications to recognize objects and colors for supporting VIB people, such as Aipoly Vision [3], which supports many languages but does not support Thai [3]. TapTapSee [2] is a mobile camera application designed specifically for VIB users, powered by the Cloud Sight Image Recognition API; the processing is available in Thai using Voice Over function for Thai audio. The results of processing Figures 5, 6, and 7 using TapTapSee were

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illustrated in Figure 8 (a), (b), and (c), respectively when it can analyze and identify objects within seconds. Comparing the results of image processing using the process developed in this study with that of the TapTapSee application, it was found that the processing time in the developed process was slower than in the applicationdue to many steps for selecting of noun classifier, counting, composing and arranging sentences, and predicting the location. Highlights of this development are able to describe the number and noun classifier of objects correctly, and to predict the location properly, even images taken from a distance. However, the limitations of this developed process cannot describe the object colors.

Picture 1 is ช้างบนรั้วไม้สีน้ำตาลในตอนกลางวัน

(a) TapTapSee result of Figure 5 with the meaning 'elephant on brown wooden fence during daytime'

Picture 2 is รถไฟสีขาวและสีน้ำเงินในสถานีรถไฟ

(b) TapTapSee result of Figure 6 with the meaning 'white and blue train in a train station'

Picture 3 is รถตู้สีขาวและดำในลานจอดรถ

(c) TapTapSee result of Figure 7 with the meaning 'white and black van in the parking lot'

Figure 8 Thai audio image description using the TabTabSee mobile application

Conclusion

This research needs to develop the process for generating Thai audio image description. In this study, the developed process can generate the image details, which have the highlights of being able to accurately identify the number and Thai noun classifier of the objects. Moreover, the image detection step to generate the Thai language description without

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translating it from the English language was designed. The image can be detected using DETR, and Thai sentences are generated using the Thai Text Generator and WangchanBERTa dataset. The Thai language description consists of the details of the image, including the type of object, number, and Thai noun classifier of objects in the images, the creating text caption, and the prediction of the photoshoot location. The developed process showed satisfactory performance and can specify the correct type and amount of objects and the noun classifiers (in Thai) of objects. Furthermore, the zero-shot text classification system can be used effectively for predicting the location of images. In the main idea for developing the process to generate the Thai audio description for supporting the VIB people, the Thai descriptions were transformed into the Thai audio by using VAJA Text-to-Speech. However, there are many steps in processing, thus causing the processing time to slow down, so faster processing will be improved in the future.

To be able to develop this process to make it easier to use for the blind in addition to using it on a computer, a mobile application will be developed in the future. Satisfaction surveys and feedback from VIB users will also be conducted.

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