

DESIGN AND DEVELOPMENT OF E-CHAM APPLICATION
INDIGENOUS LANGUAGES IN VIETNAM

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UNIVERSITI TEKNOLOGI MALAYSIA

DESIGN AND DEVELOPMENT OF E- CHAM APPLICATION
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DEDICATION

The results of this study are truly dedicated to the loving memory of my mother

Nguyen Thi Kham

And to my beloved father

Van Ngoc Anh

You have successfully made me the person I am becoming

You will always be remembered.

To my brother and sister, and my best friends for all there support,
encouragement, sacrifice, and especially for there love.

Thank you all and this work is for YOU

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ABSTRACT

Cham is the language of Cham people in Vietnam and the traditional Cham script is no longer taught in schools. Efforts to preserve the language has to be done, thus, the main purpose of this research is to explore the most preferable Cham script, and Cham Latin scripts to be preserved. The research was conducted to develop applications to preserve Cham script which will include Cham fonts, Cham font conversion tool and Cham electronic dictionary based on the preferred Cham script and Cham Latin. Besind the application produced for ease of use, convenience, and quality was evaluated by different respondent including religious group, university student, working people, and others. Two types of survey were implemented whereby religious group filled the questionnaire personally, and university students, working people and others did the online survey. A quantitative research method was employed to collect and analyse the research data. The findings revealed that almost all the respondents selected the traditional Cham script (Cham Akhar Thrah) and EFEO Cham Latin to be preserved. All of them stated that they agreed or strongly agreed that there is a need for application products to provide a Cham font, Cham font conversion and a Cham electronic dictionary. FontCreator software was used to develop Cham font, Visual Basic.NET was used to develop Cham electronic dictionary and JavaScript was used to develop Cham font conversion application. All of the application products were developed using the ADDIE model. In conclusion, these research results have shown that there is a need for the Cham community to conserve, preserve and promote the value of traditional Cham script in practice. Simultaneously, the application products will serve as useful tools that will contribute to the heritage and conservation of the Cham language and is the first application product for this purpose.

ABSTRAK

Cam merupakan bahasa bagi masyarakat Cam di Vietnam dan skrip tradisional Cam tidak lagi digunakan di sekolah-sekolah. Usaha pemeliharaan Bahasa ini perlu dilakukan, oleh itu tujuan utama kajian ini adalah untuk meneroka skrip Cam dan Latin Cam yang menjadi pilihan untuk dipelihara. Kajian dilakukan bagi membangunkan aplikasi bagi memelihara skrip Cam seperti jenis fon Cam, penukaran jenis tulisan Cam, dan kamus elektronik Cam berdasarkan skrip Cam dan Latin Cam yang dipilih. Selain itu kajian bagi menilai aplikasi produk dari aspek mudah untuk digunakan, memudahkan dan kualiti dilakukan dikalangan berbagai responden termasuk kumpulan ugama, pelajar universiti, kumpulan pekerja dan lain-lain. Dua jenis kaji selidik dilakukan iaitu kumpulan ugama melalui kajian bersemuka, manakala pelajar universiti, kumpulan pekerja, dan lain-lain secara atas talian. Kaedah kajian kuantitatif digunakan dalam pengumpulan dan menganalisis data kajian. Dapatan menunjukkan bahawa hampir semua responden memilih skrip Cam tradisional (Cam Akhar Thrah) dan EFEO Latin Cam untuk dipelihara. Kesemua mereka menyatakan persetujuan pada skala setuju dan sangat setuju untuk aplikasi produk bagi jenis tulisan Cam, penukaran jenis tulisan Cam dan kamus elektronik Cam. Perisian FontCreator digunakan untuk membangunkan fon Cam, Visual Basic.NET digunakan untuk membangunkan kamus elektronik Cam dan JavaScript bagi membangunkan aplikasi penukaran jenis tulisan Cam. Kesemua produk aplikasi di atas dibangunkan berpandukan model ADDIE. Kesimpulannya, dapatan kajian menunjukkan terdapat keperluan masyarakat Cam dalam memelihara, mengekalkan dan menggalakkan nilai tradisional skrip Cam dipraktikkan. Pada masa yang sama, aplikasi produk akan menjadi alat yang menyumbang kepada warisan dan pemeliharaan bahasa Cam dan menjadi produk pertama yang dihasilkan bagi tujuan ini.

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LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS

ACS	-	Ancient Cham Script
TCS	-	Traditional Cham Script
MCS	-	Modified Cham Script
CTCC	-	Cham Textbook Compiling Committee
EFEO	-	École française d'Extrême-Orient

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CHAPTER 1

INTRODUCTION

1.1 Introduction

Indigenous heritage, especially language, has provided the most important tool for human progress, and as such, it may well be man's greatest invention. Language is necessary for thinking and communicating with others, and distinguishes humans from all other creatures. The language of indigenous people has been the major carrier of traditional beliefs, customs and history for many centuries. The indigenous languages are a powerful way to communicate and are the key to open the doors of civilization, as well as being important tools to enhance awareness in order to develop community; Language is at the root of the culture of each ethnic background and contributes to the diversity of culture in the world. However, humanity today is facing a massive extinction: languages are disappearing at an unprecedented speed. When happens language is lost, a unique vision of the world is lost with it (Lynch 2012). An enormous cultural heritage will be lost when a language dies in a community, such as scientific, medical and botanical knowledge; in particular, we also lose the expression of communities' humour, love and life. Indigenous languages help people to understand the intricate knowledge of their community, acquired over generations.

Information technologies (IT) and digital technologies are omnipresent in the global information society. With the digitalization of knowledge, IT is offering

alternative perspectives of knowledge (Seepe 2001). Information technology is also a means to introduce the knowledge and culture of a community to others and a powerful means of education for everyone. Some of the enormous benefits of IT include its ability to deliver the fastest and most extensive information to others, as well as to save data safely and the fact that it is easy to search quickly, accurately and efficiently. Therefore, people are currently making widespread and effective use of information technology to preserve indigenous culture in general and indigenous language in particular.

About Cham language, the Cham people are ethnic groups of the Champa kingdom, which was established in the second century in central Vietnam and disappeared from the world map in the 19th century as a result of the war with the Dai Viet in the North. However, Champa had a consistent culture influenced by Hindu civilization, and Cham script is typical evidence of this (Lafont 2011). Ancient Cham script first appeared on the inscription on the Vo Canh stone stele (NhaTrang, Vietnam) in the second century (Filliozat 1969). In the 17th century, Po Rome, a King of the Champa kingdom, unified Cham script, called traditional Cham script, which was widely used in Royal documents and to exchange experiences or knowledge of many aspects of life. It is still circulating in villages, among elders, intellectuals, students and Cham community.

However, the big problem is that traditional Cham script (TCS) has become an endangered language, as the Cham young generation are studying modified Cham script (MCS), which was developed by a Cham organization in 1978 but is not based on TCS. The conflicts between Cham groups appeared when they recognized that Cham young generations were unable to read the old documents, which were written in TCS (Han 2006).

It is therefore necessary to find solutions to preserve the TCS, as most of the valuable documents of Champa kingdom and materials of Cham script in villages must be studied before they are lost due to the age of the paper on which they are written. To preserve the TCS, this research has a few choices such as:

- i) The Government need to make the subject related to the TCS is compulsory to all students in Vietnam.
- ii) The Government encourage people to translate foreign books to TCS books.
- iii) Using information technology to create a number of applications to support and promote the research for teaching and learning the traditional Cham easier.

1.2 Background of the Problem

Every ethnic group's indigenous language is formed and developed over many centuries. Language is a unique symbol of the nation, and is also a key part of its cultural identity and cultural heritage, and its purpose transfers the experience and knowledge from old generations to the next generation. The conservation of indigenous languages has become a critical issue, about 2,500 languages of approximately 6,900 languages are being used around in the world, and the others are in danger of disappearing (UNESCO 2010). India is top of the list of countries with endangered languages, as most of the 196 endangered languages are counted in this country. In Vietnam, there are 54 different ethnic languages that have been formed and developed during the ups and downs of the historical process (Cuong 2013). Some of these languages are well developed and have become popular. Others have been used only in more local communities and have become minority languages.

The Cham script is considered an endangered language in Vietnam (Han 2006). The crucial problem with the Cham language is that the Cham Textbook Compiling Committee (CTCC) has not yet supported the preservation of the TCS; moreover, they have created a new Cham script, known as modified Cham script (MCS), for teaching and learning in primary schools (Dharma 2006; Han 2006). This has become an emergent phenomenon and the cause of the biggest conflict in the Cham community. Most Cham elders, students, intellectuals and Cham people

strongly desire to conserve the TCS (Dharma 2006; Phan 2006) because they not only value their heritage from the ancient sources but also because they see TCS as the main key to open the door to understand Cham Royal documents or old text materials, which are written in TCS. If the young generation continues to use MCS, then TCS will face extinction. This valuable linguistic heritage will soon be lost and conditions will be created for the rapid occurrence of the phenomenon of acculturation. Cham ethnic minority groups will not remain as a unique culture but will turn their backs on the traditions and values that the older generations have left for Cham society. This will also lead to other enormous and harmful repercussions, as valuable documents will be destroyed because no one can read them (Phan, 2015). The Cham culture in general and the TCS will be forgotten, and it will be hard to conserve them again when people eventually recognize the great worth of this language heritage.

Although several workshops have been organized with a focus on the Cham language, most of the studies conducted to date have discussed the origins, historical development and challenges in the preservation of the Cham language. None of them have discussed how we can use information technology to conserve and develop the Cham language. However, an international workshop was organized in Kuala Lumpur in 2006 with the topic of “History of Language and Cham Script”. This workshop presented many scientific findings pertaining to Cham languages and declared that the TCS should be preserved in the Cham community (Bienban, 2006).

Furthermore, the 2011 book “Cham languages in real situation and solutions”, with contributions from thirteen authors who are Cham intellectuals, clearly describes the mistakes of CTCC, such as its use of the wrong approach when using the Vietnamese language grammar in applying the Cham language and re-adding and cutting some TCS characters without the right rules and writing incorrectly, as they argue that writing needs to be based phonetically, as people from different areas speak using different sounds (Nhieu_tac_gia 2011). Moreover, Cham people live in large areas: in Vietnam, they are found in Binh Thuan, Ninh Thuan and An Giang, and outside Vietnam, in Cambodia, Malaysia, Thailand, America, etc. Therefore, the MCS of CTCC only serves the Cham in Ninh Thuan province, and those in other provinces in Vietnam and in other parts of the world cannot read or understand it. Another

problem caused by the CTCC's mistakes, as pointed out by author, is that many lessons contain differences between the content and the illustrated textbooks, and thus have a negative influence on the conservation of the Cham culture. All of the authors who contributed to this book also raised the big question of preserving the TCS as a matter of urgency.

For many reasons as mentioned above, the CTCC does not implement the policy of Cham indigenous language preservation as expected, meaning that it does not teach the traditional Cham script, a script are using by the Cham community. On the contrary, the CTCC has been teaching the Cham language under the modified Cham script at primary level, which has caused conflict and controversy among the Cham community. From that, the study try to give some solutions to bring the favorable conditions for the Cham children in leaning Cham language based on the role of Education to understand the conflict, finding the caused and give solutions as follows: The Vietnamese Educational Ministry should have a study to assess again of the modify Cham Akhar Thrah which is used in present schools, look deeply on opinions from other side group; Organization of public dialogue or scientific workshops with participants presented by the Ministry of Education, Department of Heritage, CTCC, the Cham elders, Imam, intellectuals and students to unify the curriculum and Cham textbooks for Cham children learning; Expanding and improving the programs to lower secondary school and high school. Implementation and experimental teaching continues to gradually revised annually complete; Except that, teachers and students should be encouraged to participate in researches to develop and preserve the purity of Cham akhar Thrah inside and outside the school.

Based on the scientific materials from the above mentioned workshops and book, as well as the general opinions of the Cham people, this study will develop and build new technological products such as Cham font for typing Cham script, Cham font conversion for converts Cham Latin to Cham script and Cham electronic dictionary to serve the Cham community and contribute useful equipment to preserve TCS.

The use of technology to preserve indigenous language is not a new topic; as IT can provide useful and effective tools for convey information to everyone. (Delgado 2003) described the introduction of technology within native American communities as a double-edged sword, explaining the effects of machines that are consuming, complex, powerful, and socially accepted without consideration of the consequences. Many native people have considered the dark side of technology: the invasion of privacy, the use of the digital public domain for personal gain, the misuse of control, and manipulation. Research has further revealed that ever since the establishment of audio-lingual and audiovisual methods, communication technologies have influenced the process of education. TV, radio, books, newspapers, computers, the internet etc. have transformed teaching methods and techniques. Among several teaching aids, tape recorders or video tapes are the most common aids used in the classroom, especially in foreign language classes. ‘Educational technologies have great promise and can change learning, but only if those involved give themselves the means to do so’ according to the UNESCO Education Report (2010).

In order to preserve the Cham script, information technology is one of the solutions to create application products like Cham font, Cham font conversion, Cham electronic dictionary and many other applications to support Cham people for reading, studying the Cham script contributes to preserve the Cham language and script.

1.3 Statement of the Problem

The crucial problem that this study seeks to address is that the Cham language in Vietnam is facing serious risk of extinction and needs to be preserved immediately, but there are no technology products to support the widespread use of the Cham language. The causes of this phenomenon might have originated from the following problems.

Firstly, there are several conflicts in Cham community about the conservation of the Cham language. Which kind of Cham script should be chosen for teaching and learning in schools when there are two different kinds, namely TCS and MCS (Mon 2006). The MCS, created by the CTCC, is supported by the local authorities. The biggest mistake made by the Akhar Thrah CTCC is that they have added some new characters to the modified Cham writing system, which makes it different from a lot of TCS (Han 2011). Therefore, the Cham young generation learning this form will not be able to read documents written in TCS by their fathers' generation, containing a lot of valuable material on culture and history. In contrast, the older generation of Cham people cannot understand what the young generation writes. As a result, most scientists suggest that the Cham people should be using the TCS unified by Royal decree in the 17th century for communication and teaching in schools for the young generation.

According to Han (2011), the TCS system is a popular language in writing. It is very stable and follows a rule-based system, handed down from generation to generation from the 16th to the 21st century. When the CTCC developed the MCS, it became a "hybrid" script, and not based on any rules. This leads to the result that Cham children learning the Cham script from CTCC become "illiterate". It means that they cannot read traditional Cham documents and that in a few generations, the valuable treasures they contain in terms of literature, history, religion, and etc. will be buried in the past because nobody will be able to read them. This has also created serious splits in Cham communities, causing conflicts between generations, especially among opposing ranks: priests, elders and intellectuals always use the TCS, while the Cham young people today must learn Cham script from CTCC's textbooks.

In short, the researcher strongly advocates the common opinion that the TCS needs to be preserved and used in the Cham community today. To avoid harmful phenomena in the conservation of TCS as a result of the CTCC's intervention, the Chams are encouraged to use the TCS in everyday life and it needs to be reintroduced in schools to replace the CTCC's teaching materials, which are currently used in primary schools. Moreover, it is necessary to invest in preserving the TCS in other

ways to support people's learning and studying, for which information technology is one useful solution.

A second key point is that in order to facilitate the use of the current written TCS, the Cham people use more Latin characters instead of Cham script characters. However, the reality is that there are many different Latin encoders, and to date, there is no unified Cham Latin. This leads to difficulties in publishing Cham documents and in some workshops. A research team at the EFEO (l'École française d'Extrême-Orient) has recently introduced a transcoding Latin character system for the Cham language based on Latin in the Malay system. This new system has resolved the shortcomings of the old system in domestic and its use is now widely agreed.

It is therefore necessary to investigate the use of information technology for transferring this approach to the community. Information technological applications in the form of Cham fonts, Cham font online application conversion and a Cham electronic dictionary will encourage and facilitate people's learning and use of the Cham language. Some of the utility's applications are presented as follows:

Cham fonts: The use of a font to type Cham script on the computer has become an essential issue to help compiling in textbooks, data storage, Champa research, teaching and learning of the Cham script.

Cham font conversion application: Font conversion is the process of converting a font from one format to another. There are several Cham fonts to type the Cham Akhar Thrah. However, identification of the typeface of Cham script characters is more difficult than reading Latin typeface and typing Cham script is very complex. Hence, the researcher has proposed a solution to convert from EFEO Cham Latin to Cham script (Cham Akhar Thrah).

Cham electronic dictionary: Language is a special signal system, the basic means of communication and the most important element of the community. In life, not everyone can understand the concept or the meaning of a particular word, so to make it easier to look up the word's concept; its terminology and linguistics must be codified words in the form of a dictionary. Hence, in facilitating searching for entries in Cham language and contributing effectively to the preservation and promotion of Cham traditional culture, the building of a Cham-Vietnamese electronic dictionary has practical significance. In addition, the application is also a tool for individuals, agencies, departments compiling documents, curriculum planners and bilingual education programs, and will serve as a basis for research on language, culture and Cham society.

The Cham language and Cham script will be preserved better if information technology applications are used in the Cham community. The Cham younger generation has the opportunity to learn their forefathers' script, engage in self-study and better contribute to the preservation of the Cham script.

1.4 Aims of the study

The aim of this study is to develop some information technology applications, such as a Cham font, a Cham font conversion tool and a Cham electronic dictionary, for the preservation of the Cham language.

1.5 Objectives of the study

In order to achieve this aim, the objectives of the research are as follows:

- (i) To explore the most preferable script of Cham Thrah, Cham Latin and keyboard platform.

- (ii) To develop applications for Cham script preservation based on the preferred Cham Thrah, Cham Latin and keyboard platform.
- (iii) To evaluate the Cham fonts, Cham font conversion tool and Cham electronic dictionary.

1.6 Research Questions

The research questions of this study are:

- (1) What is the most preferable of the script related to
 - i) Cham Thrah
 - ii) Cham Latin
- (2) What is the most preferable of keyboard platform that should be created for Cham fonts?
- (3) What are the level of acceptance of Cham font, Cham font conversion, and Cham electronic dictionary?

1.7 Research Framework

The research framework is presented in Figure 1.1. Software application development forms the basis of this research. The software application development is done for the main reason of providing growth and value to the requirements of each and every user. The fundamental premise of software application development is that the requirements and needs of the user must be converted or created into a good software application. In essence, software development permits the end users to carry out that tasks that they would like to do. It is used in carrying out all functions based on the identified need. The ADDIE model is a generic, systematic approach to the instructional design process, which provides instructional designers with a framework in order to make sure that their instructional products are effective and that their creative processes are as efficient as they can possibly be.

Human-computer interaction (HCI) is the physical and conceptual interaction between the user and the input or output devices of a computer. It is through this interface that the human gives instructions or supplies data to the computer and receives feedback or information from the computer. Most interfaces are dynamic and involve an interaction between the human and the computer (Norman 2014). HCI is a socio-technological discipline whose goal is to bring the power of computers to people in ways and forms that are both accessible and useful in working, learning, communicating etc. It also concerns how people – both individuals and groups – use and are affected by computers and communication systems. Toward this end, technologies such as the graphical user interface, speech recognition, virtual environments, multimedia presentation and cognitive models of human learning and understanding are developed and applied as part of HCI research (Foley 2014).

In the present study, the researcher will construct a series of applications, including Cham fonts, Cham font conversion and a Cham - Vietnamese electronic dictionary. During the processing for each module, these applications will be constructed using the ADDIE model, developed by the Grafinger (1998), which includes five main phases and illustrates the connection of these five phases for application construction and learners will develop their application construction when they are able to see the connection between the five phases in the ADDIE model. During the implementation process, these applications will also be connected with HCI in the process of selecting the application interface (Foley 2014).

Therefore, by considering all these aspects, the expected outcome will be a set of application products that provide for HCI, specifically using the Interaction Model by (Abowd, 1992) with four main translation involved in the interaction such as articulation, performance, presentation and observation in order to promote the design and development of application construction in the five main phases of ADDIE (analysis, design, development, implementation, evaluation).

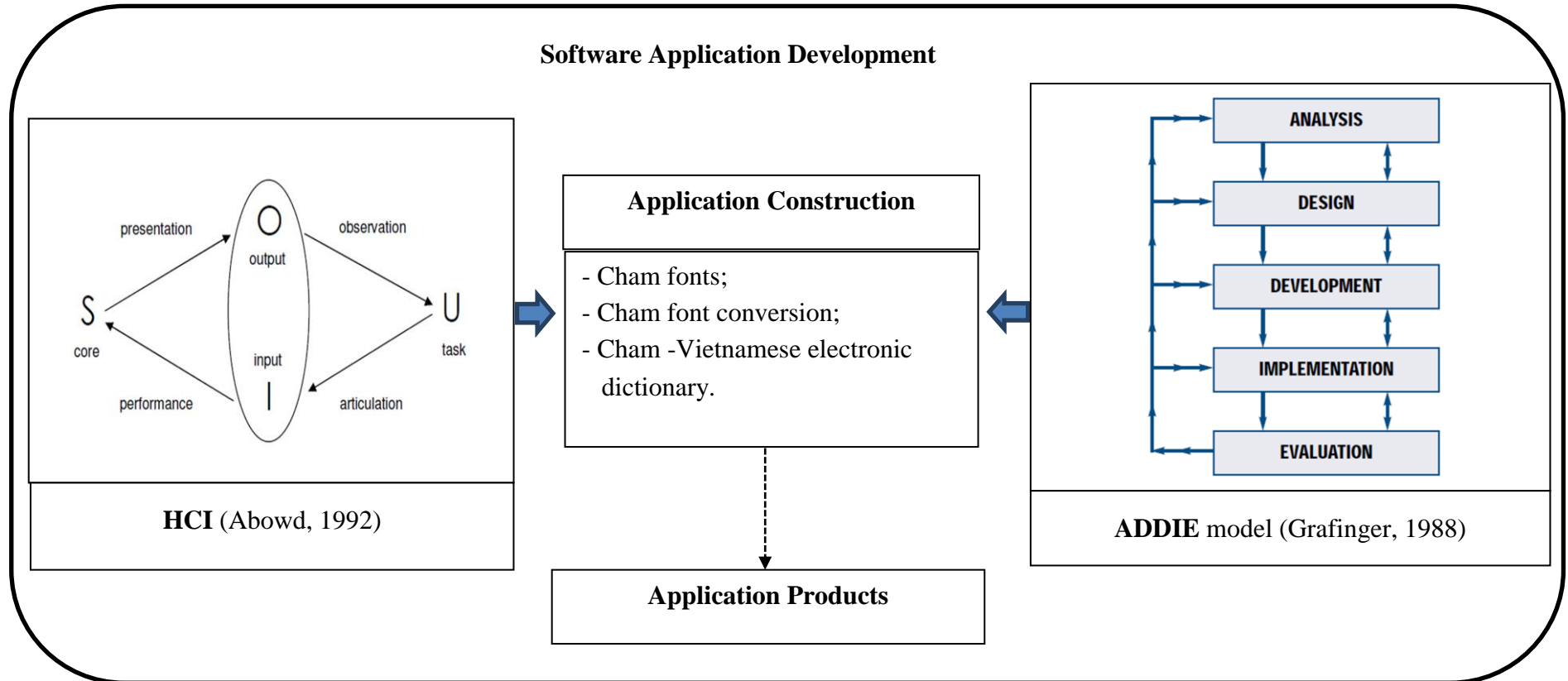


Figure 1.1: Research Framework

1.8 Conceptual Research Framework

The conceptual research framework must be concise, simple and easy to observe, and must guide the researcher to achieve the objectives of the project. Figure 1.2 describes the development process of the Cham script and the choice of the Cham script to preserve through the survey and evaluation. Based on the results of the survey, the researcher will use a number of software applications to develop tools such as Cham fonts, Cham font conversion, and a Cham – Vietnamese electronic dictionary in order to preserve the Cham language and script. There are four phases involved in developing the application products to preserve the Cham language.

Phase 1: Preliminary Study

First, researcher will synthesize materials related to the Cham script, and study and systematise all the basic contents. Currently, Cham people are using three types of script, derived from Sanskrit, Jawi script and Latin script. In this study, to choose the Cham script teaches in school as well as preservation of the Cham script the researcher will focus only on scripts originating from Sanskrit and Latin. The Cham scripts derived from Sanskrit are divided into three styles, namely ancient Cham script, traditional Cham script and modified Cham script. The Latin scripts include EFEO Cham Latin and CTCC Latin.

Phase 2: Select Types of Cham Script to Preserve

In order to select which Cham script to preserve, the researcher will conduct a survey of Cham script in the Cham community. The main groups surveyed will include religious groups, students, working people and experts. Currently in Cham communities, the script selected to be preserved is based on the traditional Cham script from the 17th century, because this script is stable and is stored in multiple

documents. With regard to Latin script, the researcher has decided to use the Latin script from the Malay system by EFEO applied to the Cham language.

Phase 3: Construct Applications to Preserve Cham Script

To preserve Cham script effectively, the researcher will implement solutions using technological applications for the preservation of the Cham language. Some interesting applications are: Creating Cham font for Windows and Macintosh platforms; Converting EFEO Cham Latin to Cham script (Akhar Thrah); Building a Cham electronic dictionary.

Phase 4: Application in Cham Community

To ensure that each application can be used well, these applications should first be assessed through a forum to verify their feasibility and completeness before introducing them into the community for wider use.

1.9 Significance of the Research

This study is important and significant because the application products such as Cham font, Cham font conversion as well as the Cham electronic dictionary are convenient tools for those who are interested or who are studying, teaching and learning the Cham language as well as preserve the traditional Cham language and script. Those involved include students, teachers, religious leaders and Cham community. The details are presented as below:

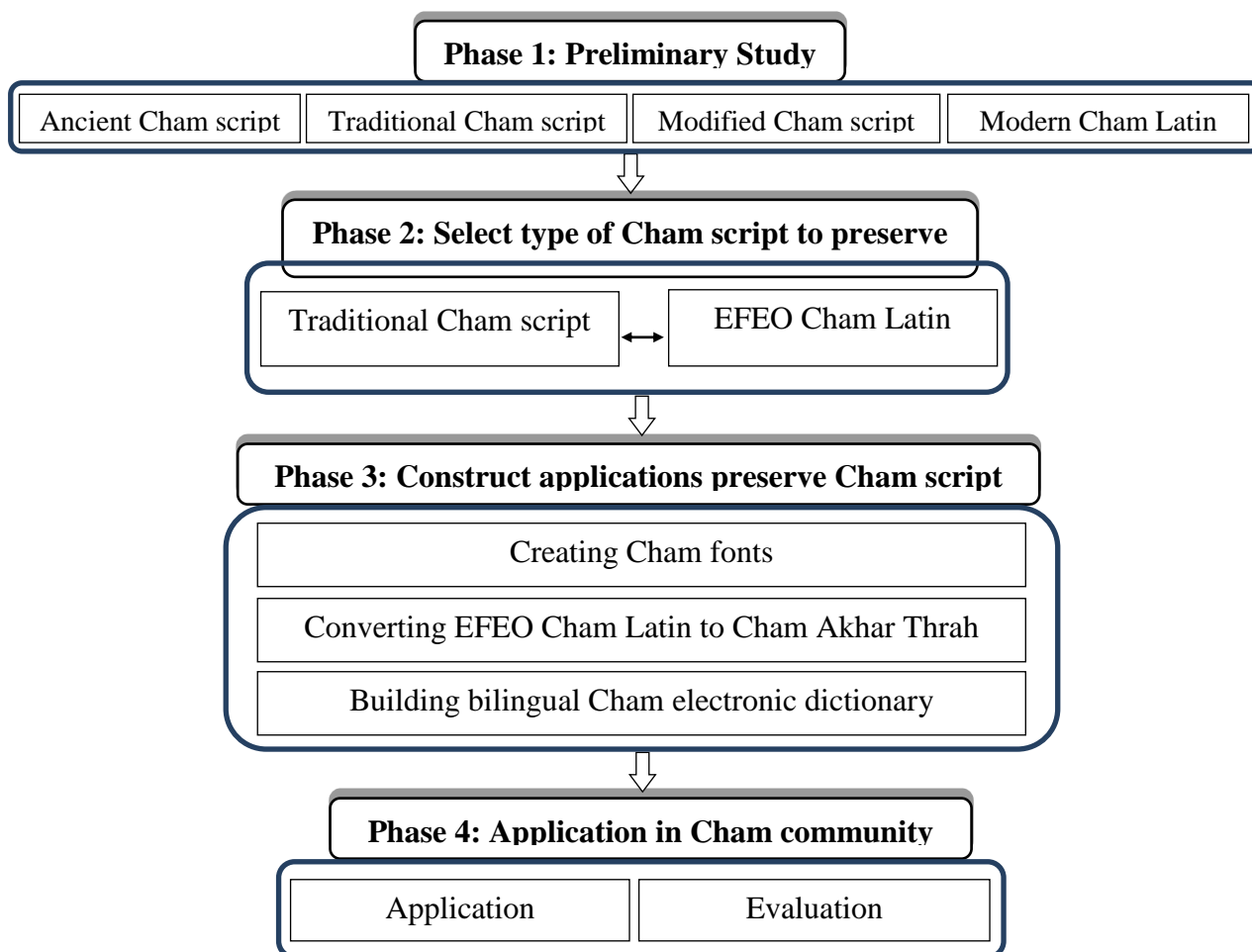


Figure 1.2: Research activities and Cham script application development

1.9.1 Students

Students can enhance their knowledge of Cham language through the literature review, and can give their opinions on which kind of Cham language should be used, studied and developed. Other than that, they can use application software, such as Cham font, Cham font conversion, and the Cham – Vietnamese electronic dictionary. Furthermore, this study will increase attention and concerns towards preserving and developing traditional Cham language in the Cham young generation.

1.9.2 Teachers

In responding to individual differences among students, teachers should use their knowledge of Cham language through the literature review provided in this study in their teaching activities. Based on this knowledge, they will be confident to select which of the various kinds of Cham language that currently exist in Vietnam they should use and teach to their students. In addition, they can use application software, such as the Cham font, Cham font conversion, or the Cham electronic dictionary, to design more effective teaching activities to strengthen the process of teaching the Cham language.

1.9.3 Religious Leaders

Religion is one of the most important components in the social construction of the Cham community. Religious people play an important role not only in belief functions but also in spiritual management of any aspects for the stability of Cham society. To date, all prayer-books, literary materials, historical documents, etc. that are in current use have been written in Traditional Cham Script (Cham Akhar Thrah). Therefore, this study is meaningful for religious leaders and groups and for believers, as using Cham language through application software, including Cham fonts, Cham font conversion and the Cham electronic dictionary will contribute to the preservation of these documents.

1.9.4 Cham Community

This study can help Cham people in Vietnam to enhance cognitive in using and preserving Cham language for their own Cham community. This brings

enormous benefits for community development in multi aspects, such as education, culture, communicate information. Furthermore, they can use application software, such as Cham font, Cham font conversion, Cham electronic dictionary in using and strength effective in communicating process for their own purpose. This contributes technology products to preserve Cham language, culture and general developing social-economic in Cham community. In addition, this study help local authorities develop policies in teaching, or implementing software to bring benefits to all people in community. These raises of perceptiveness and concerns to the preserving and developing traditional Cham language as well as Cham culture when it is facing many challenges to preserve before an effect on another mega-culture.

1.10 Contribution of the Research

In this part, the contribution of the research review focuses on three application as Cham font, Cham font conversion, and Cham electronic dictionary which have a direct and immediate relationship with the contribution made by new application products to students and Cham community using. The findings of this research will contribute in the following:

(i) Research, classification, synthesis and evaluation of the literature on the history of formation and development of the Cham language, which will serve as a basis for theoretical studies on related topics. This study will present the results of surveys on the real situation regarding the need to use the Cham script, as well as the aspiration to choose the type of Cham script to be learned, taught and conserved in the community.

(ii) Creating a new type of Cham font to adapt the demands of different uses, such as:

The EFEO Panrik, Cham font typeface based on drawings in the Cham-French dictionary by E. Aymonier and A. Cabaton, published in 1906;

The EFEO Panrang, Cham font typeface based on drawings in the Cham-Vietnamese-French dictionary by G. Moussay, published in 1971;

The EFEO Udong, Cham Font typeface based on the ancient style of the Cham people in Cambodia, and based on the Cham documents language in Cambodia currently stored in the French library.

In particular, these new Cham fonts will be design for use with both Windows and Macintosh platform. In addition, the researcher will also design a Jawi Cham font to support Imams (dignitaries of Cham Awal), to be used to spread and teach the Qu'ran. They must currently use handwritten texts because these fonts do not exist on the computer.

(iii) After completing the survey to choose the preferable Cham script and Cham font, the researcher will apply these results to create a Cham font conversion application to convert EFEO Cham Latin to traditional Cham script (Cham Akhar Thrah).

(iv) A Cham - Vietnamese electronic dictionary will be created to facilitate favourable conditions for searching, learning, teaching and preserving the Cham script.

1.11 Operational Definitions

Champa

Champa was an Indianized kingdom founded between 190 and 193 A.D in the centre of Vietnam by the Chams, extending north to Quang Binh province and

south to Dong Nai (Bien Hoa). Champa was at its height during the 7th to the 10th century, but then declined, especially in the face of the threats from the Vietnamese Nam Tien (Maspero 1928; Dharma 1999).

The people of Champa

The people of Champa (urang Campa) include Chams living in coastal provinces, and Raglai, Ra-nde, Churu, Koho, Ma, Stieng, Kotu and others living in the highlands of present day Southern Vietnam. These people shared many common features in their culture and religion (Gray 1987).

The Chams

The Chams were the people who founded the kingdom of Champa during the 2nd century A.D. After a series of military defeats by the Vietnamese, the Chams were finally defeated in 1832 (Dharma 1987; Dharma 1999). Nowadays the Chams live scattered across many regions, including Vietnam, Cambodia, Thailand, Malaysia, America, and France. Most of the Chams live in certain provinces in Vietnam, such as Ninh Thuan, Binh Thuan, Dong Nai, An Giang, Tay Ninh and Ho Chi Minh City.(Mon 2003).

Dai Viet

Dai Viet (before Van Lang, Au Lac, Dai Co Viet), the Vietnamese feudal state, was Sinized, founded by the Hung Vuong king from the 2nd century to the 10th century A.D, extending north to what is now China, south to Champa (Ngang pass), east to the Pacific Ocean, and west to Lao. After the 10th to the 19th century, Dai Viet people begun to migrate to the south of Vietnam (Nam Tien) to extend its southern border to Mui Ca Mau province and Cambodia.

Vietnam

Situated at a longitude of 102⁰ 10' to 109⁰ 30' east and latitude of 80⁰ 30' to 23⁰ 22' north. Vietnam today is the rugged part of the Indochina Peninsula. Leaning back against the Asian continent, it looks out on the South China Sea on one side, and is framed by China to the north and by Laos and Cambodia to the west and south. In the southwest of Vietnam, separated by the Gulf of Siam, stands the Malaysia Peninsula, which extends 460 miles from the Malay state of the Perlis in the north to the Straits of the Johor in the south, which, together with the two northern Borneo states of Sabah and Sarawak, make up Malaysia. Historically, Vietnam is part of mainland Southeast Asia. Today, Vietnam is a multi-ethnic nation that includes ethnic groups such as the Kinh, Tay, Hmong, Cham, Raglai, Ra-nde, Kaho, Ma, Stieng, etc. Vietnam has a population of 85,262,356 people, of whom 85% are Kinh, who number over 70 million, making them the largest group in the country (CIA 2008).

Cham Ahier

The Cham group was influenced by Brahmanism. They worship Gods in Hindu-influenced temples, their kings and their ancestors.

Cham Awal

The Cham group was influenced by Islam. They worship Gods (Allah) and divinities in Sang Magik or Masjid (Mosques), their kings and their ancestors.

Ancient Cham Script

Ancient Cham script has a separate character system, derived from the Devanagari script of India, and first appeared on the inscriptions of the Vo Canh stone stele (Nha Trang, Vietnam) in the second century. Ancient Cham script was used by the Chams from the 2nd century to the 15th century.

Traditional Cham Script

Traditional Cham script (Cham Akhar Thrah) is derived from the ancient Cham script but its character style is simpler and it has fewer consonants than the ancient Cham Script. Cham Akhar Thrah appeared from the XV century in communication, but it first appeared in the inscriptions of Po Rome temple in the XVII century.

Modified Cham Script

Modified Cham Script was created by CTCC through adding and removing some characters from Cham Akhar Thrah and is used in teaching and learning in primary schools for Cham children.

Cham Textbook Compiling Committee

The Cham Textbook Compiling Committee (CTCC) is an organization founded by decision number 104/QDUB, dated 23/05/1978 of Thuan Hai province. Its duties involve compiling Cham textbooks for teaching and learning Cham language for children in primary school (grades 1 to 5).

12/12 (Formal education in Vietnam)

There are twelve years of formal education, which are divided into the following stages:

Primary school: From first to fifth grade, usually for children from the ages of 6 to ages of 11.

Secondary school: From sixth to ninth grade, usually for teenagers from the ages of 12 to 15.

High school: From tenth to twelfth grade, usually for teenagers from the ages of 16 to ages of 18.

École française d'Extrême-Orient (EFEO)

The École française d'Extrême-Orient (EFEO) is a French institute for the study of Asian societies. It was founded in 1900 with headquarters in Hanoi-Vietnam in what was then French Indochina. After the independence of Vietnam, its headquarters were transferred to Paris. Its main fields of research are archaeology, philosophy and the study of modern Asian societies.

Human Computer Interaction (HCI)

Human Computer Interaction (HCI) sometimes called Man-Machine Interaction is a field in which the developer makes a user-friendly system in which the user can interact with the computer system without using any conventional peripheral devices. The importance of computer vision is its freedom (Shah, 2014).

ADDIE Model

The ADDIE model is one of the most popular development models used in application development, and also a set of guidelines for designers that include five main phases: analysis, design, development, implementation and evaluation (Grafinger, 1988).

Fuzzy Delphi

Fuzzy Delphi is a method of making decisions based on analysis by combining theory with fuzzy Delphi method (Kaufman, 1998).

1.12 Summary

This chapter has discussed the issues that have arisen since the appearance of the modified Cham script, which has changed the Cham script system. In the current period, the traditional Cham script has also been significantly affected. To solve this problem, the researcher has carried out the objectives of choosing Cham scripts for preservation, including traditional Cham script, modified Cham script, and Cham Latin. In addition, the researcher has also proposed a solution that uses information technology to create applications for conservation of the Cham script, including Cham fonts, Cham font conversion and a Cham electronic dictionary. These applications are highly significant in the study and conservation of Cham script. Hence, educators need to plan and orient in choosing to bring the traditional Cham script back into the educational environment to study, teach and preserve this script.

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