

Lao News Article #3: The Ongoing Threat of AIDS

Next, we have yet a different kind of news article from the other two we've worked on in this chapter. Two warnings about this one, though: this is considerably tougher than the previous two articles, and it's really here for the advanced students among you. The second warning is, while it does contain all sorts of useful vocabulary, this article is really not written all that well.



ອ່ານເພິ່ງສຸຂະພາບ

ອີງຕາມການເພີ່ມຂຶ້ນຢ່າງໜ້າເປັນທ່ວງຂອງຕົວເລກຜູ້ຕິດເຊື້ອໃນທົ່ວໂລກ ເຊິ່ງອີງການອະນາໄມໂລກໄດ້ຊີ້ໃຫ້ເຫັນວ່າ ໃນປີ 2003 ມີຜູ້ຕິດເຊື້ອເອດທົ່ວໂລກມີເຖິງ 40 ລ້ານກວ່າຄົນ. ແລະໃນນັ້ນມີ 3 ລ້ານກວ່າຄົນທີ່ເສຍຊີວິດຍ້ອນເອດ ແລະຍັງມີອີກປະມານ 5 ລ້ານກວ່າຄົນທີ່ຕິດເຊື້ອ HIV ຕື່ມອີກ.

ປັດຈຸບັນນີ້ ຈຳນວນຜູ້ຕິດເຊື້ອຍັງສືບຕໍ່ເພີ່ມຂຶ້ນຢູ່ຕາມພາກພື້ນຕ່າງໆຂອງໂລກ ຊຶ່ງໃນນັ້ນຢູ່ພາກພື້ນຕອນໃຕ້ທະເລຊາຍ ຊາຮາລາ ຍັງແມ່ນພາກພື້ນທີ່ໄດ້ຮັບຜົນກະທົບໂດຍຄາດຄະເນຜູ້ຕິດເຊື້ອເຖິງ 26,6 ລ້ານຄົນ. ໃນນີ້ມີຜູ້ຕິດເຊື້ອໃໝ່ 3,2 ລ້ານຄົນ. ກວມ 2/3 ຂອງຜູ້ຕິດເຊື້ອໃໝ່ໃນທົ່ວໂລກ ສະເພາະຢູ່ພາກພື້ນອາຊີ ປາຊີຟິກ ໃນປີ 2003 ມີຜູ້ເສຍຊີວິດຍ້ອນເອດແລ້ວປະມານ 5 ແສນຄົນ. ມີຜູ້ຕິດເຊື້ອໂລກເອດໃໝ່

The problem is, the article suffers from a run-on, convoluted prose style typical of much modern Lao writing. This is probably due to a lack of consistency in teaching writing in Laos, compounded by the fact that there's so much bad prose as an examples for young writers out there to follow! But you know, you can change this by learning to write clear, crisp Lao prose yourself. For now, though, I'm afraid you're not going to escape from reading the poorly written stuff. It's out there, you need to at least be able to work your way through it.

The title to this article, which you'll find on the next page, is ເອດ ຍັງເປັນໄພຂົ່ມສູ່. The term ໄພຂົ່ມສູ່ means “bitter and fierce danger”; you can figure out the rest of the title yourself. Note also, before you begin reading, the newspaper section title to the left, which should be clear, and the photo above which accompanied the article in its original printing. The main thing to focus on in the photo, which is actually an ad for a popular brand of condom in Southeast Asia, is the slogan at the top of the photo, over the condom box: ນ້ຳເບີວັນ ຄວາມສຳຜັດຂອງຄົນຍຸກໃໝ່ This basically translates as “Number One: The Feeling of the Modern Individual.” (ຄວາມສຳຜັດ means feeling or sensation; ຍຸກ is “era”).

ເອດ ຍັງເປັນໄພຂົ່ມຂູ່

ຫຼາຍກວ່າ 1 ລ້ານຄົນ ເຮັດໃຫ້ຕົວເລກ ຜູ້ຕິດເຊື້ອມີເຖິງ 1,4 ລ້ານກວ່າ ໃນແຕ່ລະມື້ໃນທົ່ວໂລກຈະມີຜູ້ເສຍຊີວິດຍ້ອນເຊື້ອພະຍາດເອດ ແລະສ່ວນຫຼາຍຜູ້ຕິດເຊື້ອໃໝ່ ແລະເສຍຊີວິດແມ່ນຢູ່ໃນບັນດາປະເທດກຳລັງພັດທະນາ ແລະຈະຢູ່ໃນໄລຍະຈະເລີນພັນຊຶ່ງແມ່ຍິງໄດ້ກວມເອົາ 50% ສະນັ້ນເຫັນໄດ້ວ່າເອດແມ່ນມັດຈຸ

ລາດທີ່ເປັນໄພຂົ່ມຂູ່ແລະເປັນສິ່ງຄາມສຽງ ບັນບໍ່ແຕກ ໄດ້ຂ້າຊີວິດຂອງຄົນໄປບໍ່ຈັກ ວ່າເທົ່າໃດ ເຖິງວ່າ ສ.ປ.ປ ລາວຂອງພວກເຮົາຈະມີຈຳນວນຜູ້ຕິດເຊື້ອ ແລະເປັນເອດຈະຍັງຕໍ່ຖ້າທຽບໃສ່ປະເທດພ້ອນບ້ານ ແຕ່ມັນກໍ່ໄດ້ເປັນສັນຍານ ເຕືອນໃຫ້ພວກເຮົາລຸກຂຶ້ນຕ້ານສະກັດກັ້ນ ບໍ່ໃຫ້ເອດໄດ້ລຸກລາມເຜົາຜານຊີວິດຄອບຄົວ

ເຮົາ ເຖິງວ່າເອດຈະແມ່ນຕົວຮ້າຍກາດຖ້າເຮົາຫາກພ້ອມກັນປ້ອງກັນ ຫຼຸດຜ່ອນການມີພຶດຕິກຳສ່ຽງມີຄວາມຊື່ສັດຕໍ່ຄອບຄົວ ຫ່າງໄກຢາເສບຕິດ ບໍ່ໄປມີເພດສຳພັນຊະຊາຍເອດກໍ່ເຮັດຫຍັງບໍ່ໄດ້. ແຕ່ຖ້າຫາກຫຼີກລ້ຽງບໍ່ໄດ້ກໍ່ຕ້ອງໃຊ້ຖົງຢ່າງອະນາໄມ ທຸກເທື່ອເມື່ອມີເພດສຳພັນທີ່ບໍ່ປອດໄພ.

And by the way, the photo really doesn't have much to do with the article itself, which is fairly dry and statistical until the last paragraph when it directly addresses the reader in a didactic fashion.

Paragraph 1 (previous page):

ອີງຕາມ means “to dwell on”. ການເພີ່ມຂຶ້ນ is “increase” (the noun). ໜ້າເປັນຫ່ວງ means “worthy of being concerned about;” worrisome. What the whole phrase is saying is, “Reflecting on the worrisome increase in the number of people in the world infected with AIDS...” ຕົວເລກ is “the number [of]; ຕິດເຊື້ອ means literally “to have germs in one’s blood;” to be infected...it’s used commonly in this article and you can assume it to mean “infected with AIDS/HIV.” ອົງການອະນາໄມໂລກ is The World Health Organization; ອົງການ in particular is a good word to know, it means “organization.” ຊຶ່ງ is “to point out”. ຍ້ອນ is “because of, due to.” And ປະມານ means “approximately.”

Paragraph 2, previous page

ປັດຈຸບັນ the present time	ຜົນ result
ສືບຕໍ່ to continue to	ກະທົບ up against; confronted with
ຊຶ່ງ which, who, that	ຄາດຄະເນ to estimate
ພາກພື້ນ region	ກວມ covering
ໄຕ້ທະເລຊາຍຊາຮາລາ Sub-Saharan Africa	ສະເພາະ especially

Paragraph 2 , continued (previous page):

ພະຍາດ is a formal term for “disease.” ບັນດາ , which you may recognize from the “Life of the Buddha” article in Chapter Two, means “all,” or “various”... ພັດທະນາ means “to develop,” in the social/economic sense...here it’s used to refer to “developing countries.” In this paragraph, we have one of those awful long, run-on sentences with a million embedded clauses you were warned about in the introduction to this article. ຢູ່ໃນໄລຍະຈະເລີນພັນ means “still developing” (in the individual, growing-up sense), and when we join it with ຊຶ່ງແມ່ຍັງໄດ້ກວມເອົາ, we have “immature individuals, still under their mother’s care” (speaking of 50% of the victims of AIDS in developing countries).

Paragraph 3 (previous page):

ສະນັ້ນ therefore
ສົງຄາມສູງບິນບໍ່ແຕກ a war that can't be
won with guns
ມັດຈຸລາດ the god of Death
ສ.ປ.ປ. "Lao PDR" (abbrev. for
ສາທານະລັດປະຊາທິປະໄຕ
ປະຊາຊົນ [ລາວ])
ສ.ປ.ປ.ລາວຂອງພວກເຮົາ...ຍັງຕໍ່າຖ້າທຽບ...
"In Lao PDR, we still have an undetermined
number of AIDS cases, but [whatever the
total number is] it can't compare to that of
our neighboring countries"...
ເພື່ອນບ້ານ neighboring
ສັນຍານ signal, sign
ສະກັດ to obstruct
ລຸກລາມ to invade
ເຜົາຜານ to decimate

ຮ້າຍກາດ ferocious
ຫາກ if
ຫຼຸດຜ່ອນການ stop being slack
and careless
ພິດຕິກຳສ່ຽງ risky behavior(s)
ຫ່າງໄກ stay far away from
ຢາເສບຕິດ drugs
ມີເພດສໍາພັນ to have sexual
relations
ຊະຊາຍ to spread
ຫຼີກລ້ຽງບໍ່ໄດ້ "if you can't just go
without [sex]"
ຖືງຢາງອະນາໄມ condom
ປອດໄພ safe