Glossary

jon outlaw, bandit; from Pali jora

kloe friend, mate, buddy, usually of same sex; cohort of people formed in early years welcomed into families as kin; kloe groups can be 20–30 individuals; kloe is originally from the southern dialect but is common in central Thai

kok group, faction, party; gang in the context of banditry and criminality; from Chinese kuo

metthamahaniyom attraction/repulsion, the magnetic forces, for example, of an amulet after it has been consecrated; personal quality useful to investors, gangsters and political leaders at all levels

mongkhon auspiciousness, often based on prognostications determined by a horoscope; from Pali maṅgala

monthon provincial circle; groups of provinces created between 1893 and 1899

nak leng tough guy of generous spirit and dignified bearing, especially but not exclusively in rural areas; local political leader with these characteristics; gambler (nineteenth century)

paritta Buddhist recitations from Pali texts that keep a person safe from evil spells, betrayal, fire, poison and weapons (knives, guns)

phra curved knife or machete used in cultivation or for clearing jungle; a weapon favoured by rural outlaws before firearms became widely available
pokkhrong to rule, govern; from pok shield; possibly from Khmer prok; khrong to cloak or cover, sometimes to possess

prathetsarat autonomous kingdom or state, sometimes translated as dependency, dominion, colony

saiyasat magical knowledge of putatively Brahmanic origin, sometimes referred to as magical animism or esoteric Buddhism; formulas (dhārani and mantra) associated with this knowledge

saksi dignity, dignified bearing, especially as applied to nak leng

śastra see sat

sat a corpus of knowledge, body of learning, a science; suffix designating an academic or scientific field—for example, economics, geology, geography, history, medicine and so on; from Sanskrit śastra

sen string, line, route; classifier for noodle; a connection with an important or influential person in high places (mi sen)

suea tiger; epithet for outlaw, bandit, nak leng

Tai term for language family and ethnic groups, including Thai

takrut small cylinder containing a thin rolled sheet of tin or other pliable material inscribed with magical symbols (yantra), worn around the neck, from the waist or inserted under the skin

weikza magician, wizard or sorcerer (Burmese); from Pali vijja (‘possessed of wisdom’), cf. Thai wicha