

# The knowledge of herbs in the Mahapon chapter of Vessantara Jataka

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## Abstract

The aim of this article is to study the knowledge of herbs used in medicine which mentioned in the Mahapon chapter of Vessantara Jataka Four versions of the Vessantara Jataka from four regions of Thailand including the Central Northern Northeastern, and Southern Thailand were analyzed and focused on (1) A strategy presentation of content, (2) the identity, and (3) the different of herbal medicines of each version The strategy presentation in the Mahapon chapter of Vessantara Jataka from each version has different, although a head topic of each version has a same Pali samon. For example a Central Thailand version was found that the content started with Pali and following translated and explained with Thai language The name of herbs which not mentioned in part of Thai language The Northern Thailand version, one chapter or one sentence of Pali samon was presented and following descriptive by with North-Thai language and some gerbs were added in the contents. The Northeastern Thailand version, ongoing the contents with Pali language and was translated to Thai language by word for word translation and some medicinal herbs were added in contents. The southern Thailand version was not introduced with Pali but presented with *surangkanang poem* with description about herbs and detailed a property of herbs for treatment including a preparation of magic drug. The comparison the name of herbs which mentioned in contents from four version was found that no herbs was mentioned in all version. While, one of herbs were mentioned in Jataka of Southern Thailand version was highest mentioned about the herbal medicines and following the North, Central, and North-East Thailand, respectively

**Keyword:** Herbs, Vessantara Jataka, The Mahapon chapter