An Analysis of the Vocabulary in the Urangadhatu Palm-Leaf Manuscript

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Abstract

This article was conducted with 2 objectives: 1) to comparatively analyze the content percentage of each part (Bun) presented in the Urangadhatu palm-leaf manuscript of Chulasakaraj 1167 (Thai minor era) and 2) to analyze the literary value of the existing vocabulary. According to the comparison on the content percentage of totally 16 parts, it was found that all 46,783 characters of Dhamma Aksorn that had been transliterated to Thai letters could be classified by their contents into 4 parts in which the researchers assumed that it was possible that the significance of contents has a relationship with the percentage found in each part. In the meantime, the study on the literary value implied that the vocabulary could be classified into 15 categories including: 1. Triple Gem and Buddhist Monk Fellow, 2. Pagoda/Symbol and Lord Buddha’s relics, 3. Non-Buddhist priest 4. Rulers 5. Inhuman Being, 6. Village/ City/ Kingdom/ Places, 7. Hierarchy, 8. Agriculture, Plants/Flowers and Animals, 9. Diseases, Medicines and Herbs, 10. Fabrics, Adornment/Costumes, 11. Equipment/Ingredients, 12. Weapons/War Equipment/ Vehicles, Music/ Games, 13. Sculptures, 14. Positive and Negative Elements of City, and Other vocabularies.

Keywords: Vocabulary, Urangadhatu, Culture, Palm-Leaf Manuscript