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The *Theravādin* influence on the *Mādhyamika* direction about the appeasement of the object - A comparative study between the fifth chapter of *Dhātuparīkṣā* of *Mūlamadhyamakakārikā* and the examination of six elements in *Pāli Tripiṭaka*

Ven. Manapitiye Wajirabuddhi Thero

Department of Pali and Buddhist Studies, Faculty of Arts, University of
Peradeniya

manapitiyew@gmail.com

This paper is to study comparatively between the examinations of six elements directed by both Buddhist traditions, namely *Theravāda* and *Mādhyamika* one of the well-known *Mahāyāna* traditions with special reference to the teachings in *Pāli Tripiṭaka* and the fifth chapter of *Mūlamadhyamakakārikā* of *Nāgārjuna*. Through this study, it can be discussed that is there an influence of *Theravādin* canonical analysis of the elements on the *Mādhyamika* direction of the investigation of six elements and the non-substantiality of phenomena. It should be mentioned here that the sentence ‘*Theravādin* canonical analysis of elements’ means the category of six elements consisting of earth (*pṭhavi*), water (*āpo*), fire (*tejo*), air (*vāyo*), space (*ākāsa*) and consciousness (*viññāṇa*). Through the conceptual examination of the aspects of an entity, namely characteristic (*lakṣaṇa*), characterized (*lakṣya*), existence (*bhāva*) and non-existence (*abhāva*), venerable *Nāgārjuna* have established the nihilistic non-existence of the entity the primary ideology of *Mādhyamika* school, in the end of the chapter by investigating the element of space (*ākāśadhātu*) as the example. According to the teachings of *Theravāda* school, it can directly be found discourses which present an idea of the nihilistic non-existence of the personality. But there are some *Theravādin* explanations which relate to the ideology of non-existence of the entity can be found in both *Suttantapiṭaka* and *Abhidhammapiṭaka* of them. Hence it is agreeable to assume that there is an influence of *Theravādin* teachings on the *Mādhyamika* direction of the non-substantiality of phenomenal elements. According to this assumption, moreover the Prof. D.J. Kalupahana’s recognition on venerable *Nāgārjuna* as ‘he is not a Mahayanist’ can be confirmed.

Keywords: *Dhātuparīkṣā*, *Mūlamadhyamakakārikā*, *Nāgārjuna*, *Pāli Tripiṭaka*,