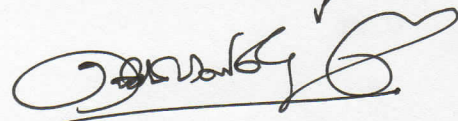


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**A CRITICAL STUDY OF THE HISTORY OF THERAVADA
BUDDHISM IN BURMA FROM THE PAGAN PERIOD TO
THE KONABAUNG PERIOD (10 CENTURY A.D. – 19**

CENTURY A.D.)

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Under the supervision of

Dr. Wasantha Priyadarshana

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ABSTRACT

My dissertation consists of two works – a review of the works of previous scholars and a study of the lacking subjects of previous scholars to undertake research on the history of Theravada Buddhism in Burma from the Pagan period to the Konoboung Period (10 century A.D – 19 century A.D.). The following discussions are mainly first of two: how to base on biased statements by three main sources influenced on early scholars in Introduction, why the previous scholars did those views and how to approach for the historical problems of the early Buddhism before the Pagan period in Chapter 1, “What were the real religions of Pagan before King Anoratha?” in a review of late chronicles in Chapter 2, how the biased chronicles let previous scholars the wrong way of approaching those questions about the time of King Anoratha such as “Did Ashin Arahan introduce Theravada Buddhism in Pagan?” and “Why Anoratha attacked Thaton?” ,and What the best way of approaching those questions is in Chapter 3, What happened until the Burmese rulers after King Anoratha” Chapter 5 and how to approach those questions “ Were there either Bhikkhunis or Silarahn (Silathal) in the early Burma?” and “ Why did Silarahn appear in Burma?” in Chapter 9.

The second work deals with the following discussions: how Theravada Buddhism play in the leading role on the state as state religion in Chapter 4, how to construct an early monastery, what is a centralized system of monastic administration and what are the daily activities of monks in Chapter 6, what is the education system of ancient monastery in Chapter 7, what are the roles of saintly monks, generally referred to as Arahants in Chapter 8, how the laymen felt and behaved in their religious life in Chapter 10 and what are the

ceremonies and festivals which the whole nation celebrated in early Burma. Moreover, I emphasized working a particular type of each Chapter in the main. However, if is essential to join two works for review and new discovery, I will work with two types in every Chapter.

To introduce my Research Papers to the customs of a community of research, I follow guidelines of the fourth edition of the MLA Handbook titled "Sample pages of a research paper in MLA style". Although the fourth edition of the MLA Handbook outdates, it can cover some developing electronic publication.