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VINAYA STUDIES: PROBLEMS IN TRANSLATION and INTERPRETATION RELATED TO THE *VINAYAPIṬAKAPĀLI*

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ABSTRACT

This study is mainly based on critical reading the *Vinayapiṭakapāḷi* and its English translations pointing out as many as possible problematic items encountered in the six-volume series “*The Book of the Discipline*” translated by I. B. Horner, finally proposing new translations or interpretations for each of them.

There are 274 single items; each one is presented in the following order:

- I. B. Horner’s translation with problematic word(s) underlined
- *Pāli* text from PTS. Editions
- Translation proposed with replaced word(s) underlined
- Discussion based on supportive facts or logical reasoning.

In order to make the proposal of the new ones to be accepted, relevant evidence from the *Pāli* literature and materials about Buddhism including logical reasoning will be provided, so that this study discusses not only the *Pāli* language but also Buddhist knowledge especially monastic tradition as well.

Besides, this work also tries to point out a general misconception about the content of the *Vinayapiṭaka* that it is just materials about the monastic discipline of Buddhist monks and nuns, ignoring the fact that rich information about historical events, psychological aspects, cultural incidents, and even medical treatments of people in India in the past of more than 2500 years that are hidden underneath the main theme of monastic rules. Such view pushes general readers away from the *Vinayapiṭaka* and consequently, comparing to the *Suttantapiṭaka* counterpart, there are not many written documents about *Vinaya* studies, not many scholars trying to dig deeper in the *Vinaya* literature, or further no efforts have been made in order to produce new English translation for the *Vinayapiṭaka* after half a century.

To sum up, I think that this study could be used as an extra handout while reading *Vinaya* texts, as a grammar notebook for *Pāli* learners, or further as a useful tool for the becoming *Vinaya* translator.

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