

Thematic Paper Title : A Critical Study of Anumodanâ in Buddhism

Researcher : Phrakrusripanyavikrom (Bunruang Panyawachiro/Jentom)

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Dissertation Supervisor Committees

: Assoc. Prof. Jirapathara Keawku, Pali V, B.A., M.A.

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Abstract

The objectives of this thematic paper were to study of forms of Anumodanâ , the meanings of Anumodanâ, and the development of forms and meaning of Anumodanâ in Buddhism based on the Buddhist Canon and the important Thai Sources such as inscription, legend, geneology, and praying-books by means of showing the relation of them.

A result of this study was found in the following points.

The forms of Anumodanâ found in Buddhist Canon have 2 kinds, viz.:- prose and verse. A prose has a short and special forms and meanings. They almost found in the Commentary Text. A verse character, almost are Pathayâwatgathâ and Upajâtigathâ.

The forms of Anumodanâ found in Thai Buddhism have 3 kinds, viz.:- prose, verse, mixed between prose and verse. A prose has form and meaning like found in Buddhist Text, and the characters'verse are also Pathayâwatgathâ and Upajâtigathâ. Some Anumodanakathas quoted from Tri-Pitaka, and Commentaries by cutting, adding appropriately, while some were re-wrote.

According to their meanings, Anumodanâs quoted from Tripitaka have the same meaning as original, while some quoted from Commentaries found that the meaning transformed a bit viz. the form of verb Panchami Viphatti began to be used. So their meaning lies in asking, requesting or praying for something.

An Anumodanâs found in Thai, clearly have their meaning as above viz. only the forms of verb Panchami Viphatti were used, and at the same time, referred to other power than power of goodness for helping to get the good things.

The development of forms and meaning of Anumodanâ in Buddhism found that they still remained their forms and only some inner structure of grammar be changed. Some of them be cut, be added, and be re-wrote. Specially, Upajâtigathâ were not found in the Re-wrote Anumodanâ.

According to meanings of Anumodanâ in Buddhism, Anumodanâ by the Buddha aims to instruct, to explain or to show the way how to do good. Anumodanâ by the Commentaries aims to instruct and to bless, meanwhile, Anumodanâ in Thai society, especially the re-wrote Anumodanâ, aims to bless.