

ABSTRACT

Thesis Title : Phranipphansotra: an analytical study

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The objective of this thesis is to study and analyze the value of a masterpiece of southern Thai literature, "Phranipphansotra", as a work of literature and as a reflection of art and society in the South in particular the social forces which shape this work.

The research study found that as a work of the literature, "Phranipphansotra" is fundamentally the same as other examples of southern Buddhist literature. There is a unity of theme, the main idea emphasizes Buddhist ethics and the poetry is expressed in rhymed prayer and verse which is unique to southern literature.

"Phranipphansotra" is full of science and art, so it is great in many ways: the choice of words, the sound of the words themselves, the deep meaning and the poetic nature the work. "Phranipphansotra" is viewed as a perfect example of southern literature.

In term of its social value, "Phranipphansotra" clearly reflects the world views, the customs and the traditions of southern people. These are recorded in

“Phranipphansotra”, thereby allowing later generations to learn about southern society in the past.

A search of the content found that the section on the history of the Buddha was based on Buddhist literature. The section describing the distribution of Buddha’s relics (i.e. his teeth) has its roots in Indian and Lankan history, and the section on the building of Muang Nakhon Srithammarat is based on the legend of the founding of that city.

The literary value of “Phranipphansotra” may be seen by the poet’s creativity and his deep faith in Buddhism. Blending literary capability with a unique world view, the customs and traditions of the South, historical, knowledge and personal imagination, “Phranipphansotra” stands as a unique work of art.