

Thesis Title	A Study of Phya Khankhaak, A Northeastern Thai Literary Work.
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### ABSTRACT

The purpose of the thesis is to study the Phya Khankhaak, from the palmleaf manuscript of Bannaasabeng Monastery in Tambon (sub - district) Phanaa, Phanaa District, Ubonratchatane Province. The Phya Khankhaak was composed by a local poet. It was written in Tham Script popularly used in olden Northeastern Thai region. The text consists of 83 leaves.

This thesis is divided into 5 chapters. The first one is the introduction which includes the statement of the problem, the purposes, the hypotheses, the scope of the studies, the methods of study, the related literatures, consequences and the assumptions of the research. The second chapter presents the characteristics and the orthography in the manuscript of the Phya Khankhaak. The third chapter is the literary analysis of the Phya Khankhaak. The fourth chapter is the literary analysis of the social aspects in the Phya Khankhaak. The last chapter is the conclusion and suggestions.

It can be concluded from the research thus : The Phya

Khankhaak is popular tale which is regarded as one of Buddhist Jataka tales. The script used in the manuscript is the so - called ~~the~~ Tham Isarn, popularly used in olden days in Northeastern region of Thailand. The Phya Khankhaak is meant for teaching morality through the conduct of the Buddha in His previous life. It points out how the Bodhisatva or the Buddha would-be, performed good deeds by waging a war against Than, the controller of rain, who caused drought throughout the earth. The Bodhisatva's subjugation of Than brought about prosperity and happiness to the people. The poet has shown his excellent literary skill in composing the work. Varieties of social aspects are also reflected in the work.