

B910016 : MAJOR THAI LANGUAGE

KEY WORD : THAI TEXTS/ANIRUDDHA

CHOLADA RUENGRUGLIKIT : THE THAI TEXTS OF ANIRUDDHA : AN ANALYTICAL STUDY. THESIS ADVISOR : ASSO.PROF. SAKSRI YAMNADDA, Ph.D. 1141 PP. ISBN 974-581-403-2

The purpose of this thesis is to trace the origin and the relationship between various versions of the Aniruddha story as appeared in Thai texts and also at studying their value, significance and important characteristics.

The results of the thesis are as follows:

Aniruddha story is originally a Sanskrit literature, appearing in many versions of the Purāṇas and in the appendix of the Mahābhārata etc. Thai poets did not receive the Aniruddha story from any Indian versions in particular, but gathered the interesting details from different versions and mixed them well together. Besides, many additions had been made to the original story. Aniruddha story in Thai is found in various versions in all parts of the country: the North, the Central, the northeast and the South. It is also known by various names: Aniruddha, Unaruddha, Ussabarot, Usabarot, Phra Kut Phra Phan etc. However, the version closest to the original Sanskrit one is Aniruddha Khamchan, which not only emphasizes on the glory of Krisana over Bāṇa, the thousand-armed giant king like the original story does, but also stresses Aniruddha's heroism and his love with Usa, the Bana's daughter as well. It is noted that the Southern version is similar to the Central one and the Northeastern version is similar to the Northern one. Most of Thai Aniruddha's stories have a happy ending with the exceptions of a few Notheastern versions which end tragically with the deaths of the male and female protagonists.

Despite being found in a great many versions, the Thai texts of Aniruddha can be easily distinguished in terms of their content, diction and expressions, and their outstanding characteristics without much difficulty.

It is noted that Aniruddha story has a lot of significance in Thai literature, various kinds of Thai performance, painting, ethics, and folklore.

According to the researcher's opinion, it is worth to study the various Thai versions of Aniruddha story which have never been published before in order to develop better knowledge of this story.