

4037811 SHCR/M : MAJOR: COMPARATIVE RELIGION; M.A.
(COMPARATIVE RELIGION)

KEY WORDS : CHANTING CEREMONY / CHANTING CHAPTER

PHRAMAHA CHONLATISH CHANHORM: AN ANALYTICAL STUDY OF CHANTING CEREMONY IN THERAVĀDA BUDDHISM: A COMPARATIVE STUDY OF BELIEF OF GRADUATE STUDENTS IN MAHIDOL UNIVERSITY. THESIS ADVISORS: SUBHADHR PANYADEEP, Ph.D., PRAMAHA TEAB SIRIYĀNO, Ph.D., AND SARINTIP SATHIRASILAPIN, MA. 153 PAGES ISBN 974-664-756-3.

The primary objective of chanting is to promulgate Lord Buddha's teaching to bring peace and happiness to people. After the passing away of Lord Buddha, venerable senior monks in Ceylon had re-arranged and categorized many sutras from the Tipitaka, and chanted them to announce and emphasize the meaning of the threefold training in morality, concentration and wisdom (Trisikkhā) as Lord Buddha had taught in Ganakamoggallānasutta named "Anupubbapaṭipadā" in Catubānavāra text. Subsequently, the chanting became the rite of protecting one from danger and to bless one in the Buddhist way. In a commentary, there is an explanation that the benevolent power of mantras had occurred when the prayer and the attendants expressed loving, kindness, faith and honesty to the Triple Gem and followed the Buddha's words with wisdom. Unfortunately, at present the Buddhist chanting ceremony is abused and fails to develop wisdom.

It's found that two groups of graduate students (whose major subjects of study are Pure Sciences & Social Sciences and humanities) show some similar beliefs in the chanting ceremony. That is, the aim of chanting ceremony is for the sake of continuation of Buddhism, and chanting ceremony is not a begging for protection. It is neither necessary to have the binding of sacred thread, nor the sprinkling of holy water. Actually, the power of the chanting will be strengthened if the prayers chant attentively and without greed or gain. However, the former group (Pure-Sciences Student) believes that the sacred power of the Buddhist chanting ceremony will apply if the prayers, being without misdeeds, uninterruptedly practice the pure precepts. Conversely, the latter group does not believe so.