

Thesis Title    A Discourse Analysis of Lanna Buddhist Sermons

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#### ABSTRACT

A Lanna Buddhist sermon is a religious instruction performed by monks during their services, using a text from Scripture. The sermons were originally inscribed on pieces of dried palm leaves strung together as a whole text. They were recorded by using the Lanna scripts and later were transliterated into modern Thai alphabets. Four sermon texts are used for this analysis. The sermons belong to the hortatory discourse genre but are presented in the form of narratives. Their purpose is to influence people's behaviours as well as to entertain them with the storyline. The pervasive embedding of exhortative points in different parts of narratives makes the sermons unique in their characteristics.

Semantically, exhortative points are characterized as previous misdeeds which yield bad results such as being tortured in

hell. Exhortative points also include what people should do to help redeem previous misdeeds as well as how people should behave in order to gain merit. The theme of the sermons is identified by storyline verbs and imperative verbs with various degrees of mitigation. They appear often in quotes. Exhortative points are mostly highlighted by repetition as seen in parallel structure, exact repetition, and partial repetition.

The sermons' notional features are reciprocal to those of ordinary narrative stories, except the Climactic point which is not markedly perceptible in the sermons. In textual cohesion, it is found that the most striking element unifying the entire sermonic texts is the use of Pali Verses which function as partitive, vocative, and topic switch markers. In addition, words of merit accumulation in Buddhist notions have greatly contributed to textual cohesiveness in the lexical level.