

Thesis Title	The Phayahong of Surat Thani Province : a Critical Study
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Abstract

This thesis is to study the Phayahong, a literary work of Surat Thani Province, which appeared in one volume of a traditional Thai Book, “Samut khoi” or what is called by southerners “Nangsue But”. This analytical study is emphasized on the script, the writing system and the literary and social values.

The thesis is divided into 5 chapters. The first one is the introduction. The second deals with the script and the writing system used in the work. The third is the literary analysis. The fourth is the social analysis. And the last chapter includes the conclusion and suggestions.

The results of the study are that the script in the work is of the early Ratanakosin Period and the writing system is based on the southern Thai dialect. However, there is no exact standard in the transliteration. “Phayahong” is a tale of a previous birth of the Buddha. Its original is *Hamṣajataka* in the *Tipiṭaka*, of which there are three commentaries, namely *Mahahamṣajataka*, *Hamṣajataka* and *Cullahamṣajataka*. The contents stress on the Buddhist Teaching regarding the Bodhi sattva’s perfection.

The work is written in a Thai form of poetry known as “Kaap”. The poet is very good at using words and figures of speech by which the readers and the listeners are moved sensationally. Besides, the work reflects the society, values, beliefs, traditions and the way of living of the southerners.