

Watanachai Munying, Commander 2012: An Analytical and Comparative Study of Raiyao Mahavessantara Jataka and the Khmer Mahavessantara Jataka (The Buddhist Institute Version). Doctor of Philosophy (Thai Language), Major Field: Thai Language, Department of Thai Language. Thesis Advisor: Associate Professor Pratheung Dhinaratana, Ph.D. 1059 pages.

This research aimed to study and analyze the literary art of Raiyao Maha Vessantara Jataka and The Khmer Mahavessantara Jataka (The Buddhist Institute Version) in order to study the differences in the literary art between Raiyao Maha Vessantara Jataka and The Vessantara Jataka translated from the Khmer Language. The literary source of the Thai version was Raiyao Maha Vessantara Jataka: 13-Gan Edition, 13th Edition, 2507 B.E. printed by Kurusapa Business Organization. The literary source of the Khmer version was The Vessantara Jataka printed by Buddhasasanapandit in 2539 B.E. The criteria for analyzing the literary art were based on three aspects: the contents, the writing techniques, and the use of language.

The findings revealed that the two versions of The Vessantara Jataka projected all three aspects of literary art. The contents of both versions consisted of the story, plot, theme and setting. Moreover, both presented the writing techniques of opening, continuing, and closing the story. Finally, the two works featured the use of language in the aspect of word usage containing emotive words, indirect words, epithets and elegant variations; in the aspect of literary rhetoric of narration, description, persuasion, exemplification and comparison; and in the aspect of the use of figurative language comprising simile, metaphor, hyperbole, symbol, personification, synecdoche, metonymy, irony, reference and rhetorical question. When compared, the two versions of The Vessantara Jataka were similar in their contents and in their writing techniques. However, they differed distinctly in their use of language in terms of word usage and of the use of figurative language.

Student's signature

Thesis Advisor's signature