

Narinat Samli 2012: The Change of Language and Content Usage in Dhamma Books. Master of Arts (Thai Language), Major Field: Thai Language, Department of Thai Language. Thesis Advisor: Associate Professor Chalor Rodloy, M.A.T. 238 pages.

The current Study was conducted to investigate language expression in Dhamma books in terms of words, sentences, idioms, content and the change of writing in Dhamma books.

The data were collected from 41 Dhamma books published between 1957 to 2010 by six Buddhist monks including Buddhadasa, Panyanantha, Phra Phrayom Kanlayano, Phra Paisarn Visalo, W.Vajiramedhi and Phra Maha Sompong Talaputto.

The result of the study found that 10 lexical patterns in terms of words. In terms of words 8 lexical patterns were found in the first period (A.D.1957 - A.D.1977) including word formation, puns, rhymes, foreign word uses, Buddhist terms, obsolete words, social words, and vulgar languages. Moreover, 9 lexical patterns were found in the second period (A.D.1977 - A.D.1997) which were word formation, puns, rhymes, foreign word uses, Buddhist terms, obsolete words, slang, social words, and vulgar languages. In addition, 9 lexical patterns also found in the third period (A.D.1997 - A.D.2010) including word formation, puns, rhymes, foreign word uses, Buddhist terms, slang, social words, vulgar languages, and dialects. On the other hand, similar sentence patterns were found in all three periods which were purposive sentences including affirmative, descriptive, cautionary, and instructive sentences; question sentences which were wh-questions, yes or no questions, and selective questions; and imperative sentences which were command, asking & requesting and persuasive sentences. In terms of idioms, the original idioms were found in the first period, while modern idioms were found in the second and third period. Furthermore, two content patterns were found including dhamma based from Buddha's teaching and applied dhamma. In detail, dhamma based from Buddha's teaching focused on balance and Buddha's middle way. In contrast, applied dhamma content were separated into four different categories including content related to life, society, education, and love. In conclusion, the significant findings of the study showed that lexical patterns were changed from 8 to 9 in the first to second and third period. Particularly, obsolete words were found only in the second period while dialects were found only in third period. However, there was no difference in sentence pattern found in all periods. On the other hand, the difference in idiom was that the modern idiom occurred in the second and third period. Lastly, the content related to love was not found in the first period while all aspect contents were found in the second and third periods.

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