

**UNIVERSITY OF YANGON
DEPARTMENT OF HISTORY**

**HISTORY OF MYANMA LITERATURE
IN THE NYAUNGYAN PERIOD (1597-1752)**

Ph.D. DISSERTATION

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Abstract

In the Nyaungyan Period, the intellectual monk-writers rose to a leading position in religious literature. They translated works on Buddhism written in *Pāli* into Myanma and such works were known as *Nissaya*. The technique of *Nissaya* translation had a certain influence in the development of Myanma literature. Another outstanding feature in this period was the writing of *Vatthu*. The monk-writers rendered some selected stories of *Suttanta Jātaka* in prose and their works were given a common name of *Vatthu*. In these writings the monks employed the strong didactic tone. They urged all people who claimed themselves to become good Buddhists. The style of writing *Vatthu* differed from that of *Nissaya* although few *Pāli* words were still in use in the *Vatthu*. Some stories of *Suttanta Jātaka* were versified as *Pyui*. Both monk and man would write a *Pyui*, on any religious theme. The religious literature includes *Jaṇḥmaypañṇāsa* which became popular in this period. One of the *Jaṇḥmaypañṇāsa* work is *Maṇḥkak Prajāt*. This *Prajāt* was the foremost of its kind in Myanma literature. The religious literature especially *Vatthu*, *Pyui*, and *Prajāt* were enjoyable to read at the same time they gave moral lessons that could be of much use in everyday life. The Nyaungyan Period also produced many non-religious literary works. The Royal Orders were good research material and they reflect the administrative, economic and social life of the period under survey. The famous *Kuiṇḥcāḥ Dhammasat* was written with suggestion of the king. A special feature of this period was the U *Kulāḥ's Mahārājawaṇ*. It seems to be the best literary works of this age. The other non-religious literary works are

Swan:cā, *E-khyañ*., *Moaukwan*: *Yui:dayā:samrok Pyui*., *Lū:tā*., *Uiñkhyañ*., *Tyākhyañ*., *Sikhyañ*., indigenous medicine and *lokīpañā*. The non-religious literature in the Nyaungyan Period included in various topics and they were written in prose as well as in verse. Various works in the Nyaungyan Period were considered as a stepping-stone in the progress of Myanmar literature. But before it reached the zenith unfortunately the dynasty fall. However it paved the way for further progress in the next era of the Konbaung Period.

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