

**SOCIAL VALUES ON CEREMONIAL CREMATION OF MONKS:  
A STUDY OF MONK FUNERALS ( *PONGYIPYAN* ) IN TAUNG BON  
AND TAUNG BYIN VILLAGES, YE TOWNSHIP, MON STATE**

**MRes THESIS**

**TIN MYO WIN**

**DEPARTMENT OF ANTHROPOLOGY**

**UNIVERSITY OF YANGON**

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## Abstracts

The title of this thesis is "Social values on ceremonial cremation of monks: A study of monk funerals in Taung Bon and Taung Byin villages, Ye Twonship, Mon State". The study was started in June of 2012 and ended in April of 2013 and last for nine months. The aims of this thesis are to present the preliminary preparation and process of the celebration of *Pongyipyan*. And the roles and interaction of monks and men in *Pongyipyan* and what are their social values on *Pongyipyan* are investigated and explored from the cultural and social anthropological points of view. The ethnographic, qualitative field research was conducted by means of Focus Group Interviews (FGIs), In-depth Interviews (IDIs), Key Informant Interviews (KII), Direct Observation (DO), Participant Direct Observation (PDO), and Indirect Observation (IO). This thesis is described about the preliminary preparation and the process of the celebration of *Pongyipyan*, the role of monks in the society, the interaction and function of monks and men in *Pongyipyan*, the three social elements related to the ritual - religious belief, economic interest, and cultural heritage - as society's social values and the context which maintain the social values in seven chapters. Monks are very essential in Mon Buddhists society not only in religious affairs but also in social phenomena. The celebration of *Pongyipyan* grandly and successfully is the ultimate desire of the society as showing their gratitude upon monks. A man who did and supported monastic profits can get social dignity and presitage among the society where he or she is participating as a member. Based on *Pongyipyan*, how three social elements- religious beliefs, and economic interest and cultural heritage- were complemented on the society as their social values is described in details.

*Key Words: Pongyipyan, social values, religious beliefs, economic interests, and cultural heritage*