

**PREHISTORIC BURIAL PRACTICE IN CENTRAL
MYANMAR**

Ph.D (DISSERTATION)

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ABSTRACT

The burial ritual represents actions by the living, and how an individual was interred provides us with information on their status in life. A person interred, for example, with many valued exotic artifacts might have been a person of high standing in the community. Myanmar has its cultural heritages of archaeological findings and interpreting by scholars of local and abroad. Since Myanmar ancestors had lived for a numbers of thousands of years, like then in other parts of Asia region, they had some thought in burial practice. However, a few interpreting burial features and grave goods have been made since the discovering of Nyaunggan. Recent excavations in 2000s in *Samon* valley are mostly concerned with burial sites so that it needs how burial features were practiced in those days is interested among scholars. In fact, ritual practice of burial is one of the most key indicators to identify the cultural pattern of prehistoric communities. In this dissertation, interpretation of prehistoric burial practice in Central Myanmar is attempted, in which includes meaning of burial orientation, grave offerings such as pottery, tool, ornament, and other artifacts, and their thoughts and belief in both present and next life. And also by studying grave goods could be reconstructed their socio-economy and the ancient trade routes.