

A Composition Analysis on Myanmar Personal Author Names

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Abstract

In Cataloguing of Myanmar personal author names, there are some problems in identifying the name element which is to be applied as a heading in cataloguing. Having no tradition of using a family name, but assuming many different names for works by an author have caused such problems. The paper has analyzed the compositions of Myanmar personal author names to identify what the heading for a particular author is. Though analysis, there are three main components although they may differ in numbers. It is found that one of the components, the honorific prefix, plays a key role in identifying heading. With a new approach to the cataloguing rules the paper has prepared a table to categorize the different compositional structure of Myanmar personal author names, and to enter them under more functional headings.

Keywords: Cataloguing, Family name, Heading for cataloguing, Honorific prefix, Myanmar personal author, Name element, Other appellation, Personal author, Pseudonym.

Introduction

Libraries have collected and preserved information materials to provide instant accessibility to users. Information materials such as manuscripts, paintings, maps, sculptures, books, photographs, photographic images in microforms, audio-video materials, and computer files, etc. are the medium containing a certain information created by the humans. The person chiefly responsible for the creation of the intellectual or artistic content of a work¹ is recognized as an author, i.e., personal author.

Libraries have been collecting and preserving, through ages, different information materials created by different authors on different subjects, and thus become a large depository of information materials. For making them accessible to users, libraries pave three different channels through which users could access a particular information item. Author Catalogue, and Title Catalogue are for the users recognizing the name of the author and/ or the name of the title of information item. If both are not well remembered, there is Subject Catalogue to try at.

In cataloguing an author name, the form and the order of the author name written down on catalogue entry generally varies from those appearing on the title page of information item. An author name appeared on the title page of information item. An author name appeared on title page is to be transformed into a heading for cataloguing purposed. According to the Anglo-American Cataloguing Rules (AACR), transforming it into a heading is to make an entry under the family name of the authors who have a tradition of assuming family name or surname. For authors who do not follow such a tradition, heading would be the author's name element.

Nature of Myanmar Personal names

Myanmar parents have usually given a name to their child after several months the child was born. It is generally done with a consultation of the one who have experience in astrology. The name elements are chosen in accordance with the day on which the child was born. The name given has generally reflected the

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¹ American Library Association and others, Anglo-American Cataloguing Rules, 2nd ed., edited by Michael Gorman & Paul W. Winkler. (London: Library Association, 1978), 568.

good sense: prosperity, wealth, and victory. It has been recorded in the bound pieces of palm-leaves called horoscope which explains the position of planets of the time when the child was born.

Myanmar has no tradition of using the family name, but various honorific prefixes are used to differentiate among age, sex, ranks, status, religious persons, and royalities. There is no discrimination in giving the name element against sex. Thus the name of a man and a woman may be similar. Some westernized Myanmar families during the British colonial period had adopted British way of naming system, i.e., using family name . After several decades, it was not popular among Myanmar. As to the number of name element, there is no limitation. The longest Myanmar personal name which had been ever found so far has 8 name elements (မချောမို့မို့သည်းဦးဆုပြည့်စုံ) ². As a whole , Myanmar are free in assuming their personal name elements.

Composition of Myanmar Personal Author Names

Since Myanmar has no tradition of using family name, and has no restrictions in assuming names, Myanmar personal authors could probably assume various pen-names or pseudonyms freely for their works .They have composed their names with different elements. They have assumed a name jointly owned. They have assumed a name commonly used for different writings. They have assumed an opposite gender name. They even have assumed an identical name to the names of the late famous. Thus, understanding the nature of Myanmar personal author names and analyzing the composition of Myanmar personal author names would be of a great help in transforming them into headings.

Except the initials and the phrases assumed as Myanmar personal author names, it is found that Myanmar personal author names are composed of three elements. They are the name element, the honorific prefix, and the other appellation.³

The name element (NE) is the element personally assumed by which he or she is known in the social surrounding by others. It generally identifies who the one is . As to the number of name element there is no limitation. The honorific prefix (HP) is the element traditionally used to differentiate each other on the basis of race, sex, rank, and age, etc. Like Bamar, other Myanhnmar national races have their own honorific prefixes. The common characteristic of honorific prefixes is that they always precede the name elements. The other appellation (OA) is the element that obviously or likely to extend the meaning of the name element. It works as an adjective does in the languages. The place of the other appellation could be before and/or after the name element ,or both places, and has no limitation in number.

Through the compositional analysis on Myanmar personal author names, it is found that there are twelve different types of compositions. They are shown in the compositional table as follows:

²ကြေးမုံသတင်းစာ။ (၁၆၆၂၉၃)စာ၁၊ကော်၃။

³ ဦးသော်ကောင်းနှင့်ဒေါ်တင်အေးကြည်၊ " မြန်မာကလောင်အမည်များ" မှ မြန်မာစာရေးဆရာတို့၏ကလောင်၊ ဦးသော်ကောင်း... [နှင့်အခြားသူများ] (ရန်ကုန်၊ ရွှေပုရပိုက်စာပေ၊ ၁၉၉၉)၊ ၂၂

Type	OA	OA	HP/OA	NE	OA	OA
1				စိုးရှိန်		
2			ဦး	သော်ကောင်း		
3				ကျော်စွာသူ	(သာယာသတီ)	
4			မောင်	ခင်မင်	(နေဖြူ)	
5			ဦး	ကျော်	(ဓာတ်ပုံ)	မြန်အောင်
6		ဂီတလှလင်	မောင်	ကိုကို		
7		ဆရာ	ဦး	စံတင်အောင်	(ရွှေဘို)	
8	မိုးတား	ဆရာ	ဦး	ထွန်းရှိန်		
9			သဘောကြီး	ခင်မောင်		
10			ကာတွန်း	မြင့်စိုးလေး	(ကျိုင်းတုံ)	
11		သတင်းထောက်	စဉ်းဒုက္က	စိုးဝင်း		
12	သာသနာ့ အကျိုးဆောင်	ကေလာသ	ဆရာ	အောင်		

Cataloguing Rules

There are two sets of cataloguing rules currently applied to Myanmar personal author names: the one in the second revised edition of the Anglo- American Cataloguing Rules(AACR) under the rule number 22 and 26, the other drawn up by some Myanmar senior librarians. The latter set of rules have been drawn up , based on AACR2R, to solve some particular problems in cataloguing of Myanmar personal author names. The basic concept of the rules are to:

1. Enter the name element as heading in cataloguing.
2. Treat the other appellation as it is, not as the name element if there is no honorific prefix between them.

In accordance with the rules, cataloguers could enter all types of names, except type 9. 10 and 11, under their headings. It could be done easily because these types of names are either composed with the name elements only without any honorific prefix and other appellation (i.e., Type 1,3) , or composed with the honorific prefix before the name element (i.e., Type 2, 4-8,12). In this respect, the honorific prefix has played two important roles in identifying the heading.

Problem and Solution

Problems usually arise when cataloguing the Myanmar personal author names can be found, as in the types 9,10 and 11, because they contain the name element and the other appellation only. There is no honorific prefix that identifies what the element is in their composition. The number of the other appellation

may be more than one and its place may be either before or after the name element, and sometimes at the both places. For lack of the honorific prefix, it has confused in identifying the name element. The following Myanmar personal author names are some good examples representing problems which may be faced by the cataloguers in cataloguing them.

သင်္ဘောကြီး	ရွှေတည်ရန်နောင်	မန်းကြီး
ကာတွန်းမြင်စိုးလေး(ကျိုင်းတုံ)	ရေနံမြေခင်စု	ထီလာကျော်မင်း
သတင်းထောက်စဉ့်ကူစိုးဝင်း	ရေနံမြေအောင်ဖေ	ထီလာစိုးမြင့်ထယ်
ကျီးသဲလေးထပ်ဆရာတော်	မြေချစ်သူ	စစ်သူမြလေး
ဗန်းမော်တင်အောင်	မြေနီသစ္စာ	တောသားကြီးလူနိုင်
ဗန်းမော်ညိုနွဲ့	မြေနီနီဦး	အညာတောနွယ်ပန်း
ဗန်းမော်ဆရာတော်	ရဝေထွန်း	တက္ကသိုလ်ဘုန်းနိုင်
လင်းယုန်မောင်မောင်	ရဝေရှင်ဘုန်း	လန်ဒန်ပျံသင်း
လင်းယုန်သစ်လွင်	ရွှေမန်းတင်မောင်	မနောမယသုတစိန်
လင်းယုန်နီ	ရွှေဝယ်ဇ	ရတနာပုံထိပ်တင်လှိုင်
လင်းယုန်နက်	မန်းတင်	ရွှေခယ်ညိုရှင်
ရွှေကျင်တေဇ	မန်းခင်မင်	ဟံသာစိန်
ရွှေကျင်ဆရာတော်	မန်းရွှေတံဇဉ်	ညောင်ရမ်းသွေး
ရွှေတည်လျှောင်	မန်းငမန်းရောင်	ရွှေမုံဝင်း

Depending on the cataloguer's experience, the headings for the above names certainly vary from one cataloguer to another. Inconsistencies in cataloguing are undesirable, and they have led to the wrong access. Therefore, it is suggested that these types of Myanmar personal author names should be wholly treated as the name element instead of trying to identify which element belongs to the name element or the other appellation. The reasons for the suggestion are:

1. Maintaining the same form of elements by which the user normally access the author's name,
2. Maintaining the same composition of elements which the author desirably and proudly assumed it for works,
3. Saving the time and energy of both cataloguers and users due to the direct access without consulting the cross references,
4. Offering more convenient accessibility when they are to be accessed through computer networking, and
5. Providing an alternative way in solving new problems of Myanmar personal author names in future.

Therefore the headings for type 9,10,11 have to be the whole elements. The following table shows the 12 types of compositions of Myanmar personal author names in parallel with their headings respectively.

T y p e	Composition of Myanmar Author Names						Headings for cataloguing				
	OA	OA	HP/OA	NE	OA	OA	NE	HP/OA	OA	OA	
1						စိုးရှိန်	စိုးရှိန်				
2			ဦး	သော်ကောင်း			သော်ကောင်း၊	ဦး			
3				ကျော်စွာသူ (သာယာဝတီ)			ကျော်စွာသူ	(သာယာဝတီ)			
4			မောင်	စိန်ဝင်း (ပုတီးကုန်း)			စိန်ဝင်း၊	မောင် (ပုတီးကုန်း)			
5			ဦး	ကျော် (ဓာတ်ပုံ) မြန်အောင်			ကျော်၊	ဦး (ဓာတ်ပုံ) မြန်အောင်			
6		ဂီတလှလင်	မောင်	ကိုကို			ကိုကို	၊ မောင်	၊	ဂီတလှလင်	
7		ဆရာ	ဦး	စံတင်အောင် (ရွှေဘို)			စံတင်အောင်	၊	ဦး	၊ ဆရာ (ရွှေဘို)	
8	မိုးတား	ဆရာ	ဦး	ထွန်းရှိန်			ထွန်းရှိန်၊	မိုးတား	၊	ဦး	၊ ဆရာ
9				သင်္ဘောကြီး ခင်မောင်			သင်္ဘောကြီး ခင်မောင်				
10				ကာတွန်း မြင့်စိုးလေး (ကျိုင်းတုံ)			ကာတွန်း	မြင့်စိုးလေး (ကျိုင်းတုံ)			
11			သတင်းထောက်	စဉ်းပုကူ စိုးဝင်း			သတင်းထောက်	စဉ်းပုကူ	စိုးဝင်း		
12	သာသနာ့အကျိုးဆောင်		ကောလာသ	ဆရာ	အောင်		အောင်၊ ဆရာ၊ ကောလာသ၊ သာသနာ့အကျိုးဆောင်				

Conclusion

Among three channels to access an information material, it could be said that the most frequently used channel is author catalogue. It is because of human nature, people mostly memorize their favourite books in terms of author's name, i.e., pennames or pseudonyms. Thus, whenever the readers or the library users are to search an information item in a library, they first approach the author catalogue. Moreover, they search for an author's name in the form of what they have seen on the title page of the book by the author. It is the most favourable if it works so, because the book could be instantly retrieved with a single access. But it does not always work like this.

In transforming the personal author names into the headings, in accordance with the cataloguing rules, the composition of the elements of an author name has usually change. It is well accepted that the family name changes into the heading for author who follow the tradition of assuming family name. Likewise, the name element of the authors who have not followed the tradition of assuming family name stand as the

heading. After transforming, the other elements previously composed with in the personal author names are to be transposed into the place after the heading.

As it is seen in the compositional table, type 1 and 3 have no honorific prefix, but the name element only. Therefore the name element has become the heading. Likewise, type 2,2,5-8,and 12 have the honorific prefixes respectively. Thus the elements just after the honorific prefixes have become the name elements representing themselves as the headings in cataloguing.

Type 9,10 and 11 in the compositional table have no honorific prefix it is not easy to identify what the name element is. According to the cataloguing rules currently applied have treated them as if they are composed of the other appellation and the name element. It may be true to some simple author names. If the rules are applied to the Myanmar personal author names mentioned as examples earlier in this paper, there will be a problem in identifying the name element. Through a comprehensive analysis on other Myanmar personal names in similar composition, it is suggested that they should be alternatively treated. It is that they are to be treated wholly as the name element.

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ညွန့်မောင်ဦး။ ၁၉၉၆။ ရဟန်းတော်အမည်များကိုကတ်တလောက်တင်ခြင်း။ စာကြည့်တိုက်နှင့်သုတပညာမဂ္ဂဇင်း(၁၉၇၁-၁၉၉၆)။ ၆၈-၇၂။

တင်အေးကြည်၊ ဒေါ်။ ၁၉၇၆။ မြန်မာစာရေးဆရာများ၏ကလောင်အမည်စာရင်း။ ဝိဇ္ဇာနှင့်သိပ္ပံတက္ကသိုလ်၊ ရန်ကုန်။ စာကြည့်တိုက်နှင့်သုတပညာဌာန။(သုတေသနပရိဂျက်လုပ်ငန်း-၁/၁၉၇၁-၇၂)။ (စာကူးမိတ္တူ)

မြင့်ကြိုင်(အမျိုးသားစာကြည့်တိုက်)။ ၁၉၉၉။ မြန်မာစာရေးဆရာတို့၏လျှို့ဝှက်ကလောင်။ မှ မြန်မာစာရေးဆရာတို့၏ကလောင်၊ ဦးသော်ကောင်းနှင့်အခြားသူများ။ ရန်ကုန်၊ ရွှေပုရပိုက်စာပေ။

သော်ကောင်းဦး နှင့်ဒေါ်တင်အေးကြည်။ ၁၉၉၉။ မြန်မာကလောင်အမည်များ။ မှ မြန်မာစာရေးဆရာတို့၏ကလောင်၊ ဦးသော်ကောင်းနှင့်အခြားသူများ။ ရန်ကုန်၊ ရွှေပုရပိုက်စာပေ။

အောင်လှ၊ မောင် ။ ၁၉၇၃။ မြန်မာတိုင်းရင်းသားအမည်များနှင့်ကတ်တလောက်တင်နည်း။ ဝိဇ္ဇာနှင့်သိပ္ပံတက္ကသိုလ်၊ ရန်ကုန်။ စာကြည့်တိုက်နှင့်သုတပညာဌာန။(ဒီပလိုမာတင်သွင်းကျမ်း)။ (စာကူးမိတ္တူ)

