

**A STUDY ON THE LATERITE CULTURE: EVIDENCES
FROM THE MOTTAMA COASTAL REGION**

PhD DISSERTATION

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ABSTRACT

Mottama coastal region is remaining a lot of laterite cultural evidences. Especially this *Mottama* coastal region is included Yangon region, Bago (southern) region and Mon state. So laterite culture was known as Mon cultures because of all of these laterite ruins were remained in the *Rāmanyadesa* or the gulf of *Mottama* Region of Lower Myanmar. The first called its laterite culture was Mon culture by Bohmu Ba Shin. However laterite materials were used not only Lower Myanmar but also India, Thailand and Cambodia since early first millennium CE. They used laterite for bricks, drains, wells, pillars, pagodas, and sculpture. Mons used the laterite blocks to construct their religious buildings as pagodas and also used their religious sculptures and images. The significant laterite ruins are as Kyaikhtizaung pagoda and Hsindat-Myindat of Zokthok village, Bilin Township in Mon State. But Yangon Region, Bago Region and other places of Mon State also found the remains of laterite culture. So some of the gaps in the information on Mon culture have been filled with the information obtained from the laterite culture's research, and it can also be revealed the social and cultural affairs more clearly.