

A Study on Calendar Found in Old Myanmar Inscriptions (ME. 800-998)

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Abstract

Pāli and Sanskrit Loanwords in this paper are on Calendar. These words are found in Old Myanmar Inscriptions Vol. V (ME. 800-998). It has 65 inscriptions in number containing their appendixes. Loanwords are divided into four categories, namely, (a) Names of year (B) Names of months (c) Names of days in a week (d) General words. This paper aims to know more clearly how to become Name of years, months and days in Myanmar culture. This research paper expresses etymology of technical terms on Calendar in Myanmar. it can be known that Myanmar language is influenced by Sanskrit and Pāli by studying this research paper.

Keywords: Pāli, Sanskrit, Loanwords, Inscription

Introduction

There are many languages in the world. Pāli, Sanskrit and Myanmar are members of them. Pāli and Sanskrit belong to Indo-Iranian group of Indo-European family of languages.¹ But Myanmar is an important member of the Tibeto-Burma subfamily of the Sino-Tibetan family of languages.² The most familiar classification of languages is into three groups, known as Isolating, Agglutinating and Inflecting respectively.³ Pāli and Sanskrit are inflecting languages but Myanmar, agglutinating. No type of language is so similar with one another. It is surprised, Myanmar is influenced by Pāli and Sanskrit according to point of linguistic view.

Loanwords in this paper are found in Old Myanmar Inscriptions vol. v (ME. 800-998), pre-pared and published by Archaeological Department in 1987. It has 65 inscriptions in number containing their appendixes.

(A) Names of Year

āsāt

အာသတ်

āsāt in sakarac 702 khu **āsāt** nhac mlwaytā laplñ tanhañ ka nuy niy...⁴

(ME. 820. AD.1458)

noun. Name of a year which is 4 remainder. [Sanskrit. āṣaḍa]

āsin

အာသိန်

āsin in sakkarac 801 khu **āsin** nhac nhuik...⁵

noun. Name of a year which is 7 remainder. [Sanskrit. Ā.]śvina]

citsat,cist

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¹ See Mario Pei, 1956, pp. 195--6

² Stewart. J.A., 1995, p. xi

³ Sturtevant, Edgar H., 1960, p.55

⁴ Old Myanmar Inscription vol. v, 18, line 1, p.61

⁵ Ibid, 2 a, line 15-16, p. 4

1. စိတ်သတ် **citsat**..... *citsat* nhic wachuiw lachan tachaytarag krāsapate ne nhuik ...¹
2. စိတ်တ် **cist** in.....sakkarak 889 khu *cist* nhick kachun lachan 7 ryak sokrā ne...²
noun. Name of a year which is 3 remainder. [Sanskrit.jyaiṣṭha]
Pisyak, piśyak
1. ပိသျက် **pisyak** in..... sakkarak 808 khu *pisyak* nhick kachunla chut 5 rak krāsapatene...³
2. ပိရက် **piśyak** in..... sāsanāt 2026 nhac sakkarāj 844 khu *piśyak* nhacnhuik...⁴
noun. Name of a year which is 2 remainder. [Sanskrit. vaiśākha]
Pusya
- ပုသျ **pusya** in sakaraj 804 khu *pusya* nhac...⁵
noun. Name of a year which is 10 remainder. [Sanskrit. puṣya]
Phalakuin, bhalaguṇ
1. ဖလကိုန် **phalakuin** in.....sakkarak rhañ 82 khu *phalakuin* nhac...⁶
2. ဘလဂိုဏ် **bhalaguṇ** in..... sakkarak 830 *bhalaguṇ* nhac wākhoñ lchan 5 ryak...⁷
noun. Name of a year which is 0 remainder. [Sanskrit.phālguna.]
Mākha
- မာခ **mākha** in..... sakkarak 816 khu *mākha* nhac tanchoñ mun lchan 8 rak...⁸
noun. Name of a year which is 11 remainder. [Sanskrit and Pāli. mākha]

(B) Names of Month

- tapoñ
တပေါင် **tapoñ** in872 khu *tapoñ* lachut khunacrak krāsapatene ...⁹
noun. The twelfth and last month of the year in Myanmar Calendar. [Pāli.tāla ‘toddy tree + Myanmar. poñ’ ‘cook by means of steam.]
- tankhu, tankhū
1. တန်ခူ **tankhu** in.....*tankhu* lachut tachai le rak lakway satañ ne ka carwe...¹⁰
2. တန်ခူ **tankhū** in.....*tankhū* lachan kuiw rak krāsapate ne...¹¹
noun. the first month of the year in Myanmar Calendar.[Pāli. tāla.”see preceding” + Old Myanmar. Khu: :pluck, pick”.]

¹ Ibid, 50, line 4, p. 124
² Ibid, 52, line 1, p. 127
³ Ibid, 13, line 1, p.50
⁴ Ibid, 26 a, line 3, p.68
⁵ Ibid, 10 a, line 1, p.34
⁶ Ibid, 51 b, line 1, p.126
⁷ Ibid, 21, line 1, p.65
⁸ Ibid, 16 a, line 1, p.54
⁹ Ibid, 38, line 28, p.101
¹⁰ Ibid, line 61, p.104
¹¹ Ibid, 54, line 7-8, p.129

natau နတ်တော်	natau in.....sakkaraj 863 khu <i>natau</i> laplaññ puttahūne... ¹ noun. the night month of the year in Myanmar Calendar.[Pāli. nātha “god” + Myanmar. tau "reverence or royalty".]
wākhon ဝါခေါင်	wākhon in..... <i>wākhon</i> lachan nhac rak.... ² noun. the fifth monk of the year in Myanmar Calendar.[Sanskrit. vāṣa “period of monsoon retreat for Buddhist monks, Buddhist lent” + Old Myanmar “khon” middle according to U Pho Lat.]
Wāchuiw ဝါဆို	wāchuiw in..... sakkarāj 872 khu <i>wāchuiw</i> lachun le rak... ³ noun. the fourth month of the year in Myanmar calendar.[Sanskrit. vārṣa ‘see the preceding’ + Old Myanmar chuiw ‘recite’.]

(c) Names of day in a week

aṅkā အင်္ဂါ	aṅkā (twice) in (a).....poñ lachun tachaisum rak <i>aṅkāne</i> ⁴ (b) sakkaraj 841 wāchuiw lachut nhacrak <i>aṅkā</i> ne... ⁵ noun. tuesday [Sanskrit. aṅgāraka] krassapatti, krāsapate, krāsapade, kra:sapate
1. ကြာသပတិ	krassapatti in.....sakrac 865 khu tapoñ lchan 14 ryak <i>krassapatti</i> ne... ⁶
2. ကြာသပတေ	krāsapate in.....lachan nāryak <i>krāsapate</i> ne medhun lak nhuik... ⁷
3. ကြာသပဒ	krāsapade in.....wāchuiw lahoñ laprañ kyau khrok rak <i>krāsapade</i> ne... ⁸
4. ကြာ:သပတေ	kra:sapate in.....sakkarac 873 khu tausalañ lachan khrok rak <i>kra:sapate</i> ne... ⁹ noun. Thursday. [Sanskrit. vākyaspatai.]
cani, cane,	
1. စနေ	cani in.....sakrac 789 khu tapoñ lapleñ satinbhit <i>cani</i> ni... ¹⁰
2. စနေ	cane (common) in.....949 khu tapon lchut 2 rak <i>cane</i> ... ¹¹ noun. saturday. [Sanskrit. śani]

pitahu, pitahū, putahū, puttahu, buddhahū

1. ပိတဟု **pitahu** in.....sakkaraj 872 khu kachun lachan lerak *pitahu*...¹

¹ Ibid, 45 b, line 30, p.115
² Ibid, 38, line 86, p.107
³ Ibid, line 88, p.107
⁴ Ibid, line 24, p.101
⁵ Ibid, 48, line 2, p.117
⁶ Ibid, 49 c, line 1-2, p.122
⁷ Ibid, 38, line 1, p.99
⁸ Ibid, 62 b, line 1-3, p.137
⁹ Ibid, 40, line 1-2, p.109
¹⁰ Ibid 49 a, line 1-2, p. 199
¹¹ Ibid, 61, line 1, p.135

2. ပိတဟူ **pitahū** insakkraj 942 khu arhañkhu 44 khu wāchuiw lachan tachainhic rak *pitahū* ne...²
3. ပုတဟူ **putahū** in.....sakaraj 777 plāsuiw lchut 10 rak *putahū* ne...³
4. ပုတ္တဟူ **puttahū** in.....sakarag 766 khu kachun laplañ *puttahū* ne....⁴
5. ဗုဓဟူ **budhahū** in.....tanankanwe *budhahū* sokrāpūe...⁵
noun. wednesday.[Sanskrit. budha ‘the planet Mercury’ + Old Myanmar hū ‘calling ,invoking’ according to Pho Lat.]
- sokkrā, sokr,ā sokrā
1. သောကံကြာ **sokkrā** (usually) in...sakkrac 882 khu tapuiw thway lchut 8 rak *sokkrā* ne...⁶
2. သောကြာ **sokr,ā** in.....sakkrac 889 khu cist nhic kachun lachan 7 ryak *sokr,ā* ne....⁷
3. သောကြာ **sokrā** in.....sakkrac 887 khu sankran lachan 7 nhac ryak *sokrā* ni....⁸
noun. friday. [Sanskrit. śukra.]

(D) General words

sakarac, sakkarac, sakk,rac sakaraj,sakarāj,sakrac, sakraj, sakkra, sakaraj,saggarac

1. သကရစ် **sakarac** (usually) in.....*sakarac* 779 khu kachun lchan taryak 6 ne....⁹
2. သက္ကရစ် **sakkarac** (usually) in.....*sakkarac* 801 khu āsin nhan nhuik....¹⁰
3. သက္ကရစ် **sakk, rac** (common) in.....namo tassati, sakk,rac 802 khu....¹¹
4. သကရဇ် **sakaraj** insakaraj 874 khu tanchoñmun lachan summ rak....¹²
5. သကရာဇ် **sakarāj** (common) in.....*sakarāj* 766 khu kachun laplañ puttahū ne....¹³
6. သက္ကရဇ် **sakkaraj** in.....*sakkaraj* 804 khu pusya nhac nwe prissa....¹⁴
7. သက္က **sakkra** in.....*sakkra* 915 khu tapoñlapre....¹⁵
8. သက္ကရစ် **sakrac** in..... *sakrac* 852 tañkā taryā nāchaile khyap...¹⁶
9. သက္ကရစ် **sakraj** in.....*sakraj* 900 sāsanāt nhacdhoñ syhac chai nhac nhac twañ...¹

¹ Ibid, 38, line 72, p.106
² Ibid, 62 a, line 1-3, p.136
³ Ibid, 45 b, line 10, p.114
⁴ Ibid, line 17, p.115
⁵ Ibid, 54, line 5, p.129
⁶ Ibid, 46, line 1, p.116
⁷ Ibid, 52, line 1, p.127
⁸ Ibid, 49 b, line 1-2, p.121
⁹ Ibid, 6 a, line 7, p.11
¹⁰ Ibid, 2 a, line 15-16, p.4
¹¹ Ibid, 5, line 1, p.10
¹² Ibid, 41, line 1-2, p.109
¹³ Ibid, 45 b, line 17, p.115
¹⁴ Ibid, 10 a, line 1, p.34
¹⁵ Ibid, 56, line 1-2, p.130
¹⁶ Ibid, 31, line 1, p.86

10. သကြာဇ် **sakkraj** in....*sakkraj* 942 khu arhañkhu 44khu wachuiw lachan tachainhac rak....²
11. သက်ကြာဇ် **sakkraj** in....*sakkraj* 943 khu phuiw khoñ toñè arhephak...³
12. သဂ္ဂရဇ် **saggarac** in (a)*saggarac* 809 khu kachun lachan 1 ryak...⁴
(b)*saggarac* 845 khu lhūsamle ka...⁵

Remark

Old Myanmar Methods on names of years are that 2 subtracts from present year and then divided by 12, according to remainders names of years are known as follows;

1 remainder is Jaya or Jeya year.

2 remainder is Visākhā year.

3 remainder is Jetṭha year.

4 remainder is Āsaḷī year.

5 remainder is Sarawaṇ year.

6 remainder is Adra or Bhadra year.

7 remainder is Assayujja year.

8 remainder is Krattikā year.

9 remainder is Migathī year.

10 remainder is Phusyha year.

11 remainder is Māgha year.

0 remainder is Bharaguṇī year.⁶

Conclusion

This research paper is based on *Old Myanmar Inscription Vol. V*. It has 65 inscriptions in number containing their appendixes. These inscriptions belong to middle Inwa and middle Nyaungyan period from ME.800 to 998 (AD.1438-1636). Old Myanmar used Sanskrit and Pāli terms for names on Calendar however it can be found most of them are direct Sanskrit or Sanskrit loanwords. It can be studied that Myanmar writing was not stable at this period, for example, the word sakkraj is found in twelve kinds of spellings. We must honour to creative thinking of Old Myanmar who invented new Myanmar words by using Sanskrit and Pāli languages. These terms are current and sustainable. We must love the higher Myanmar tradition and culture found in Old Myanmar Inscriptions. The etymology can be known in terms of Myanmar calendar and we can easily conclude that Myanmar is overshadowed by Sanskrit and Pāli languages by studying this research paper.

¹ Ibid, 54, line 2, p.129

² Ibid, 62 a, line 1-2, p.136

³ Ibid, 60, line 18-19, p.135

⁴ Ibid, 14, line 1-2, p.52

⁵ Ibid, 27, line 2-3, p.72

⁶ Pho Lat, U, 2018, p.185-186

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