

# **A STUDY OF USING IN ENGLISH TERMINOLOGY TO EXPLAIN THE IMPORTANT PLACES OF BUDDHISM**

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## **Abstract**

This research aims; (1) to study of using in English terminology to explain the important places of Buddhism, (2) to analyze of using in English terminology to explain the important places, (3) to study the process of development of using in English terminology to explain the important places correctly, which is collected information through the documentary research and interview the five tourist guides and the ten English lecturers.

The study found that;

There are many Buddhist terms that related to religious places, a variety of English words are used in each of terms, mostly they are as a Thai meaning. And from the analysis found that the meaning of English is varied, depend on the meaning, and familiarity of Buddhist meaning in any term with the understanding of English as a result of the comparison meaning of the west.

The guidelines for the development of English terms, in summary the meaning or definition of Thai language must be clear according to the principles of Buddhism and Thai culture, and so they are generally known. The meanings in English should be correct in accordance with the meaning of Buddhism. The vocabularies must be published by doing the Buddhist Encyclopedia and then propagates in a book or website etc. The using words and meanings of English should be provided for training the skill of using vocabulary to the person who is concerned.

**Keywords:** Buddhist terminology, English words; to analyze of using in English terminology

## **Introduction**

Buddhism is the main religion of Thailand. And all most of the Thai people are belief in Buddhism. In the ancient times, the temple was the central of Thai people. In addition, the temple a place to educate people. And it is still collected of many teachings of Buddhism. And it is also the center of the Buddhist superstition, which is the belief of the individual.

Nowadays, there are contains essential Buddhist terms used in important places in Buddhism, most of them use words that derived from the Pali Sanskrit language, which may cause the meaning of the English language to be different from the original meaning. And the most of the Thai arts are derived from Buddhist influences such as Uposatha walls, Wihara walls, pavilions, etc. or even paintings. Many traditions and cultures come from Buddhist influences, and even the meaning of the Thai language can also cause confusion among Thai people. Because of the incomprehensibility of the culture and traditions of Buddhism, which can lead to misinformation to the foreigners. To explain the Buddhist meaning by communicating in a foreign language such as English for foreigners to understand the culture deeply. It is quite difficult. Because even the Thai people still give the meanings that do not match.

And one more thing Thailand will step into the ASEAN community. As an ASEAN community, there must be a common language of communication, which is English. And while the places that are most revered by Thai people are temples, there are still some media in English to study or explain to the correct meaning, in fact there are few, causing not fully propagated. And it may make foreign tourists misunderstand the principles of Buddhism, lead to the wrong interpretation, and may lead to a misunderstanding of Buddhist principles as well.

Therefore, from the reasons mentioned above, the researcher was motivated to study and analyze English that to use to describe the important Buddhist sites and to describe the traditions and cultures correctly. And it may give rise to a deeper understanding of the meaning. And to see the importance of those places, or can describe the arts and traditions of various cultures, causing preservation or inheritance. The researcher has set objectives as follows.

### **Research Objects**

- 1) To study of using in English terminologies to explain the important places of Buddhism.
- 2) To analyze of using in English terminologies to explain the important places.
- 3) To study the process of development of using in English terminologies to explain the important places correctly.

### **Research Methodology**

**1. The research model was qualitative research.** It focuses on analyzing the usage of various words, phrases or short sentences with an interview from English academicians and professional guides.

**2. The research informants** are ten English academicians and five professional guides.

**3. The research tools,** the researcher have created research tools divided into 3 types as follows:

1) Study from the document, textbooks and research papers, by studying the use of English vocabularies related to important Buddhist places or according to a specific topic.

2) Prepare an interview about English words, phrases, or sentences that used in explain about the important places of Buddhism.

3) Organize a focus group discussion, which is a discussion to analyze and synthesize the information in an in-depth manner to lead to the development of the English language in accordance with the Buddhist meaning.

**4. Information Collection,** This research was carried out on the following steps;

1) Study and survey documents to gather various information about the use of terms in describing important places of Buddhist from the documents, academic texts, journals, articles and related researches.

2) Field data collection, the researcher doing interviews from someone who knows or teaches in English about religious sites or English for tourism and tour guides

3) Take the information obtained from the data collection both from documents, and from the field to characterize the number of words and phrases in order to facilitate further data analysis. As well as information about the use of English language to be analyzed and synthetic find out meaningful suitability in true Buddhism and Thai culture.

**5. Data Analysis,** after surveying and collecting the data on words, phrases and sentences in explaining all Buddhist landmarks. The researcher has used the various vocabulary information obtained to study and analyze the qualitative methods as follows;

1) Studying a collection of English vocabulary or phrases used in explaining important places of Buddhism. Using the study methods from documents, textbooks, and media that in each word, what is used in English?

2) Take the results from interviewing with tour guides and from English scholar. In terms of meaning of using the words, phrases and sentences of the English, to study and analyze how it looks

3) Then take the research results were analyzed and synthesized, to find suitability in terms of meaning in true Buddhism and Thai cultural arts

4) The results obtained from the study were analyzed and synthesized to organize a group meeting (Focus Group Discussion) by means of discussion in-depth inquiries were used and the results were compiled in descriptive form as a guideline for the development of teaching materials. And research report

## **Research Results**

The researchers have studied the English words, phrases or sentences, to describe Buddhist landmarks both in Thai and English, in order to compare the meaning or giving the meaning of the scholars who have written in the books, texts, brochures, public relations places or appearing on the Web site and explaining the meaning of the guides to tourists as well as interviewing that the researchers interviewed the Buddhist scholars and tour guides. In this research, the researcher has separated the issues according to the objectives set as follows:

To study the English Terminology used to describe Buddhist landmarks in this time, the researcher defined 32 terms in the terms research area. It was found that the important religious terms in each word were used in English to describe many meanings, giving tourists a greater understanding of Buddhism and Thai culture. But there are also some words that have various meanings in the Thai language. There are various definitions in the English language as well, which may cause foreign tourists to be confused. Therefore, the researcher has compiled some examples of terms that may give rise to a confusing, with the following;

**1) Wat** refers to a place of Buddhism. Usually there is an Uposatha, a Viharn, a Chedi, as well as a monk who resides. (Phradham Kittiwong (Thongdee Suratecho, Ph.D. Pali Grade 9, Royal Master). 2005: 869)

The researcher found that the words is used English phrases that can be used in place of meaning in many words

**Wat** is the name calling in Thai transliteration style. (Transliterated word)

**Temple** refers to a place for performing religious or spiritual ceremonies. Spirit and activities like doing prayer various sacrifices

**Monastery** means Ara-rarm

**Temple-monastery** means a place that is a residence and an area with a temple, a pavilion hall, etc. are also included.

**2) The Uposatha** is an important building in the temple since it is a place where monks use for a formal act of Buddhist monks assembled or Sanghamma. (Phradhamma Kittiwong).

The researcher found that many words and phrases used in place of meaning, can be summarized as follows:

**Uposatha hall** means a hall for ceremonies in the temple.

**Assembly hall** refers to the hall for the ceremonial meeting.

**Ordination hall** refers to the room for ordination ceremonies.

**Convocation hall** refers to an auditorium

**Chapel of ordination hall** refers to the chapel used for ordination rituals.

**3) The Wihara** refers to the address of the monks. Where the Buddha image is enshrined with the temple but not be like an Ubosot (Phradham Kittiwong (Thongdee Suratecho), Ph.D. Pali Grade 9, Royal Master). 2005:933). It was found that there are many words, phrases, and phrases can be used in place of meaning, it can be summarized as follows:

**A temple** means Wat

**The repository of Buddha images** refers to where the Buddha images are enshrined.

**Buddha-image hall** refers to the room where Buddha images are enshrined.

**Shrine-hall** refers to the shrine.

**4) The Salaganparian** or Sermon Hall means a building for merit-making, for education, etc. in the temple area or for use in various Buddhist activities. (Phradham Kittiwong (Thongdee Suratecho, 2005: 957)

The researcher found that many English phrases used in place of meaning can be summarized as follows;

**Hall** means the hall is a large area surrounded by a roof and walls.

**Study and merit-making Hall** refers to the hall used to study or make merit.

**Preaching hall or Sermon hall** means a pavilion used for teaching and learning.

**Multipurpose hall** means a multipurpose hall.

5) **A Kutī** refers to a building that is the residence of the monks and novices. It is used as a lexicon term in Buddhism only. Researchers have studied documents and collected from interviews with scholars and guides. The English words that describe the meaning of many words are summarized as follows:

**An abode of a Buddhist monk or novice** refers to the lodging or residence of monks and novices.

**A monk's cell** means the cloister of the monk.

**A monk's lodging** refers to the lodging of a novice monk.

**Dormitory** refers to the dormitory of monks.

**Living quarters of monks** refer to the dwelling of the monks.

**Monk residence** means the residence of the monk.

7) **The Stupa** means the pagoda or stupa building to worship and remember. Researchers have studied documents and compiled from interviews from scholars and guides, can get English words that describe the meaning and can summary as follows:

**A sepulchral monument** refers to a monument that houses a burial place.

**Pagoda** means Chedi (Nilrat Klinchan (Asst.), 2008: 73.)

**Shrine** means shrine

**Bell-shaped stupa** refer to the bell-shaped stupa

**Tapering-spire stupa** refers to a slender stupa.

**Phra Chedi** means pagoda.

8) **Phrathat** means relics of Buddha or Buddha relics refer to the ashes of the Buddha, but if referring to the Chedi use the word Pagoda

9) **Prang or Phra Prang** is a type of construction in Thai architecture mainly or important in a temple. Researchers have studied documents and compiled from interviews with scholars and guides, and found the following English words:

Phra Prang refers Phra Prang in Thailand (Phra Dhammapitaka, 1995: 394). Sometimes use the word “Stupa” in English Pagoda means “Pagoda”

From the research study “A study of using in English terminology to explain the important places of Buddhism” Researchers have found that, there are many terms can be used to describe the meaning. It depends on the scope we want to study. It also involves giving the Thai meaning of the word with the Buddhist technical term. Each term may have a variety of meanings, because most of the time will translate meaning from Pali and translate the meaning that appears empirically Therefore, the meaning of the English language is varied as well. If referring to the hall, it is a large area surrounded by roofs and walls. English will use the word hall. If referring to the hall used for studying or making merit, in English it will use the term study and merit-making hall (Preecha

Kanetnok (Assoc. Prof. Dr.), 2558: 182) if referring to the hall used for teaching and learning, English will use the word preaching hall, if referring to the hall used for Dhamma teaching, the English word Sermon hall is used.

And from terminology analysis after the researcher had studied the use of English terms from the research textbook, it was found that the vocabulary used to describe the important places of Buddhism is most of the time it is a Buddhist term and has a specific meaning in Buddhism as well, Hence, a variety of English meanings are provided depending on the understanding of the meaning and the Buddhist custom. Along with an understanding of English resulting from comparing the meaning of the Westerners for example, the word “Wat” is sometimes used as temple because it is compared with the word “Temple”, the meaning of the Cambridge Advanced Learner’s Dictionary, is a building used for worship of god or gods in some religions. (Cambridge University, 2005: 1336). The term monastery is used because it is compared to the meaning of the independent Encyclopedic Wikipedia dictionary, such as “A monastery is a building or complex of buildings comprising the domestic quarters and workplaces of monastic, monks or nuns, whether living in communities or alone (hermits).” or sometimes it is transliterated as “Wat” because it wants to maintain the linguistic identity of Thai culture, as well as giving meaning according to understanding or by the state that they see is empirically for example, the word "Phra Ubosot" if the user understands that the Ubosot is a place where a Buddhist monk's meeting is held, the word assembly hall will be used if there is an understanding that The Phra Ubot is a place for the ordination to the general public as a novice monk. The word ordination hall or sometimes transliterated Uposatha hall is used to maintain the technical term in Buddhism, but from observing the terms of scholars, found that there is a wide variety of meanings in English, but most of the interviews with tour guides Will be used in the way of translation according to the Thai meaning, for example, the word “Nammon” means holy water English will use the word holy water like this, etc.

For a guideline to develop the use of English terminology to describe the important places of Buddhism from a focus group study with scholars and guides where the researcher has 32 words to improve in the English language.

1. The meaning or definition of Thai language must be accurate according to Buddhist principles and Thai culture, and to be known generally first, because sometimes a single word has a variety of meanings, such as the word "Wat", some refer to the place of residence of monks, novices or nuns, some refer to places of merit, others refer to tourist attractions. Such various meanings, giving English meanings there must be a variety of English meanings as follows, and must give meaning in English to all points in order to make tourists or foreigners have a greater understanding of Buddhist principles

2. English meaning or calling the name in English should be correct in the meaning of the true Buddhism, for example, the Buddha image comes from the Pali word “Buddharupan” means the image is like the Buddha. Therefore, in English, it is best to

use the word Buddha image, or if any term is specific. It is used in transliteration, such as stupa or jedi, use the word “stupa” or “Chedi” to spread the word in Buddhism, and have to translate or explain the meaning in English as well.

3. After researching the usage of terminology, the term must be published, by doing it in the form of an encyclopedia of Buddhist terms (Buddhist Encyclopedia) and spreading it thoroughly in a book or website form, etc.

4. After researching the required English terms and meaning, there should be a training of words skills or an explanation of meaning related to Buddhist important places, to relevant persons such as guides or students who are studying a course English for Tourism, Course List of Religious Sites in Thailand or an English course in Buddhism, etc. for the intended use.

Conclusion, there are many terms related to the important places of Buddhism. Most of them are words that have specific meanings in Buddhism. In order to describe the distinctive features or specific meanings of Buddhism and Thai culture, the English meaning of the meaning must be consistent or relevant to the Buddhist meaning and Thai culture. And there must be more propagation of meaning in both the Thai and the English language in the form of technology media, etc.

## **Discussion**

The research study analyzes, the use of terms in describing the important places of Buddhism, there are many vocabulary words that are important to Buddhism and Thai culture, and have a variety of meanings. It will be making it difficult to give meaning in English. The researcher then studied, analyzed and compiled meaning of the English, from documents and interviews with scholars guides made to know that Buddhist terms it is a technical term in Buddhism, so the meaning in English must be in line with the Buddhist principles and Thai culture. The researcher has compiled a total of 32 words for reference or as an approach for teaching and learning in educational institutions related to the English for Tourism course, Course in Buddhist, or course related to Thai arts and culture, etc., as well as organizations or agencies, both public or private sectors with an English training course for tourism It can be used as a training guideline for a correct understanding of Buddhist principles and Thai culture, both in Thai and English and it can be used to describe or give the meaning correctly and effectively, and able to use the research data in the study academic reference related research, useful for researching further study and integration.

## **Suggestion**

After the researcher has studied “A study of Using in English Terminology to Explain the Important Places of Buddhism” has been completed. The idea was to suggest to further the research on this subject to become more academic achievement. The researcher has therefore suggested 2 directions: at the policy level, the government should support agencies or institutes such as the Office of the Royal Society or educational agencies such as Mahachulalongkornrajavidyalaya University. Buddhist College, etc., has

prepared an encyclopedia of Buddhist terms in Thai and English, to be used as a reference book for explaining important religious sites in English, or use it to spread to foreigners to understand the principles of Buddhism and Thai culture.

And if the next research is done, the researcher has suggested to enhance the effectiveness and efficiency of the learning or the use of terms, phrases, and sentences related to the important places of Buddhism, research should be done on the topic. "Development of English language training courses for Buddhist and Culture tourism in Thai society) in order to extend research into efficiency and quality. It is a real response to serving society.

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