
An Enquiry into Theravada Abhidhammic Philosophy on Paññatti and the Concept of Truth

Ven. Ekala Dhammanisanthi

*Department of Pali and Buddhist Studies, Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences,
University of Ruhuna, Sri Lanka*

Corresponding author: dhammanisanthithero@gmail.com

The truth is two devisions in Abhidhamma: such as conventional truth and ultimate truth, based on state of understating. The symbolic word is true due to worldly convention. The ultimate word is true due to the apparentness of *Dhamma-s*. A truth that cannot be easily grasped by the sense organs is described in *paramattha*. In practice, psychological designation (*paññatti*) is used as medium of communication. In this regard, the use of psychological designation to obtain the wisdom of conformity with truth can be recognized in various instances. What is the functional value basis of dividing the truth as conventional and ultimate truths? What support will be given by this for the realization of *Nibbāna*, is the main research problem here. The research depends mainly on library survey and textual analysis. *Abhidhamma* texts, its commentaries and sub commentary will be utilized here as primary sources. Furthermore other canonical texts are also utilized as pertinent with the context of discussion to go deep into concepts. Psychological designation, truth, language, concept and other phenomena related with this work are expected to analyze referring to relevant secondary sources on the particular subject. *Paññatti* is free of time, similar to the *Nibbāna*. Thus, *paññatti* is mind originated. What is called the truth, or reality also has a mind based process. This why, even *Nibbāna* is analyzed as an emptiness. Emptiness or with nothing that can be taken as self, in the Theravada Buddhism. According to this, an accurate understanding of *paññatti* will result in a proper understanding of what is really existing or non-existing. Similarly, to explain the above mentioned understanding and to describe how to realize the truth also the psychological designations is to be utilized. Thus the person who enlightened that is taught in Buddhism, deals with society, free from clinging, based on *paññatti*. Language, concepts truth, and reality are controlled by these psychological designations.

Keywords: Abhidhamma, Convention, Paññatti, Truth, Ultimate