



AN INVESTIGATIVE STUDY ON THE ADOPTION OF SYMBOLIC DHARMA IN TANTRIC BUDDHISM

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Tantric Buddhism recognized as one of the major philosophical schools in Buddhism which was later period developed as *Vajrayāna* and *Mantrayāna*. The etymologically term *tantra* derived from the prefix $\sqrt{Tañ}$ which means the immeasurable strength of knowledge. However, in later period with the development of its doctrinal factors above meaning of the term *tantra* turned into the meaning as “mystic doctrine”. Tantric Buddhism greatly influenced by Mahayana Buddhist Philosophy. One of specific characteristics of Tantric Buddhism is that it explained philosophical factors by using symbols. Some basic symbolic doctrines introduced by tantric Buddhist teachers are charms (*mantra*), signets (*mudra*), circuits (*maṇḍala*), spell (*dāraṇi*) etc. In this context, Mantra was made by them summarizing traditional doctrinal factors and long sutras. For example *AṣṭasahasrikāPrajñāparamitaSūtra* summarized as *Prajñāparamitamāntra* by using word *prañ*. Beside above *Sūtra*, many other *Sūtra* have summarized by using their theory of *mantra*. The words *om, āh, hūm, svā* and *hā* are such logarithmic terms of Sutras were used when they chant *mantra*. They employed *mudra* to symbolize some tangible mysterious object. Especially *mantra* used to show the power of the sound and *mudra* employed to show the power of tangible mysterious things. These *mudras* have shown up by using fingers and toes. Some well known such symbols which have mysterious meaning are *Karmamudra*, *Dharma mutra*, *Samaya mudra* and *Mahamudra*, Here *maṇḍala* means circuitous, quadrilateral and different shape of forms. In the *mudras* there are mystic drawings and arts that interpret the doctrinal facts of Tantric Buddhism. According to the Tantric Buddhism, to develop and cultivate the concentration it is much essential to use that *mandala*. Yogic practices, also known as *Sādhy Dharma* is fundamental teaching of tantric Buddhism. There are four basic Yogic practices as *hata*, *laya*, *mantra* and *raja*. Besides above symbols and stamps, there are some other specific signs in tantric Buddhism which represent the different kinds of philosophical teachings of tantric Buddhism. Thus, tantric Buddhism is very distinctive philosophical school that introduces novel philosophical trends to world. Even today some doctrines of Tantric Buddhism are used by Buddhist people in the worldwide. In this research Data was collected referring library and E- library. The data from the primary and secondary sources related to the field collected through the libraries and discussed with scholars in the field. The data analysis method of the research is descriptive method

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