BSTC2016 Pāli language I (6 credits)

Course Description:

Pāli is the language of Theravāda Buddhism commonly practiced in South and Southeast Asia. This Theravāda school of Buddhism is the only Buddhist school that has preserved the complete canons since the 3rd century B.C. ‘Introductory Pāli’ is meant for those students who have no prior knowledge of Pāli and who wish to become familiar with Pāli expressions and idioms, and with the basic requirements to understand Pāli Buddhist texts. The main focus of the course is to introduce basic Pāli grammar together with Pāli exercises, including Pāli phonetics, parts of speech, nouns of different gender and their declensions, verbs and their conjugations, participles and their functions, syntax and classification of sentences. At the end of the course the students are expected to be able to read simple Pāli sentences and understand their religious and philosophical significance.

Offering Semester | First Semester
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Lecturer | Prof. T. Endo
Office | Rm 406, 4/F Jockey Club Tower, Centennial Campus
Contact Number | 39175080
Email | tendo@hku.hk
Schedule | Every Wednesday from 6:30 to 9:20 pm
Class Venue | CPD-LG.59

Course Outline:

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Lesson</th>
<th>Content</th>
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<tr>
<td>Lesson 1</td>
<td>I: Introduction: What is Pāli?, Pāli Literature, Pāli Alphabet. II: Reading ‘Ti-saraṇa’ (Three Refuges) in Pāli</td>
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<tr>
<td>Lesson 2</td>
<td>I: Parts of Speech, Gender Number and Case in Pāli, Declension of Nouns – ‘a’ ending Masculine Nouns. Exercise 1. II: Reading ‘pañcasīla’ (Five Precepts) in Pāli.</td>
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<td>Lesson 3</td>
<td>I: Conjugation of Verbs: Present Tense, Different Conjugations. Exercises 2-3. II: Reading simple Pāli passages for the understanding of basic Buddhist concepts.</td>
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| Lesson 5  | I: Personal Pronouns. Exercise 6  
 II: Reading simple Pāli passages for the understanding of basic Buddhist concepts.  
 **(Mid-term Test)** |
 Exercises 7-8.  
 II: Reading simple Pāli passages for the understanding of basic Buddhist concepts. |
| Lesson 7  | I: Declension of (irregular) masculine nouns (adjectives) ending in ‘u’ – ‘bhatu’ (brother), ‘nattu’ (grandson), and ‘-vantu, - mantu’.  
 Exercises 9  
 II: Reading simple Pāli passages for the understanding of basic Buddhist concepts. |
| Lesson 8  | I: Declension of nouns: ‘ū’ ending Masculine Nouns.  
 II: Reading simple Pāli passages for the understanding of basic Buddhist concepts. |
| Lesson 9  | I: Declension of nouns: ‘ā’ ending Feminine Nouns.  
 Conjugation of verbs: Imperative and Optative.  
 Exercise 11.  
 II: Reading simple Pāli passages for the understanding of basic Buddhist concepts. |
| Lesson 10 | I: Declension of nouns: ‘i’ and ‘ī’ ending Feminine Nouns.  
 Conjugation of verbs: Indeclinable Past Participle (Absolutive).  
 Exercise 12.  
 II: Reading ‘Dhammacakkapavattana-sutta’ (the Buddha’s first sermon) |
 Exercise 13.  
 II: Reading ‘Dhammacakkapavattana-sutta’ (the Buddha’s first sermon) |
 Conjugation of verbs: Infinitive  
 Exercise 14.  
 **(Term-end Test)** |
Assessment:

50 % Course work and 50 % Examination
(Mid-term Test and Term-end Test)

Faculty Grade Expectations:


Text Books:


Reference Works:

1. K.R.Norman: *Pāli Literature* (online edition is available)


