The Function of *Vitakka* as Wisdom or Knowledge

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Thought (*vitakka*) is commonly and frequently used among everyone of different religions. Nevertheless, there is a lack of knowing that thought is related to wisdom or knowledge. Accordingly, this study aims to analyze the relationship of *vitakka* to wisdom or knowledge. In agreement with the discourses and *Abhidhammic* analysis, *vitakka* representing *sammāsaṅkappa* contains the analysis of the path constituents and the truth by means of analysis. Particularly, it will investigate why *vitakka* and knowledge are similar in the Commentary and why *vitakka* is an essential requirement of wisdom. The combination of different research types - textual method, descriptive research and qualitative research - is adopted in the current study. In the classification of tranquility and insight, right view and right thinking which comprise the wisdom aggregate are insight and they can be called elements of the insight path. *Sammāsaṅkappa* has the characteristic of focusing rightly. Right thinking has three functions: abandoning wrong thinking, causing the cessation of the object, and focusing particularly on co-nascent states. In accordance with the *Saddhammapakāsinī*, since *vitakka* resembles knowledge or insight (*ñāṇa*), it is difficult to differentiate *vitakka* from knowledge in the context of the path. Furthermore, there is no function of insight knowledge which is devoid of *vitakka*. Insight with the help of *vitakka* can perform its own function. According to the *Visuddhimagga*, in the above first two constituents of the path, wisdom (*paññā*) cannot define an object by itself as impermanent, painful and non-self, but it can do so when applied thought repeatedly strikes at the object. This research shows that *vitakka* and *ñāṇa* are grouped together because they have similar functionality. It was substantiated that to possess both wisdom and insight knowledge and to develop insight meditation, the function of *vitakka* is important to the connection with *vitakka* and wisdom as well as insight knowledge.

Keywords: Insight knowledge, *Sammāsaṅkappa*, *Vitakka*, Wisdom aggregate