

## The Significant Roles of *Sacca*

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### Abstract

The word of "*Sacca*" had been widely used in the field of Myanmar tradition and culture. The Majority of Myanmar people are familiar with it. But the word of "*Sacca*" is not a true Myanmar word. "*Sacca*" is a *Pāli* word that has been adopted as a Myanmar word. It means truthfulness. "*Sacca*" (truthfulness) has many kinds of usages such as *Diṭṭhi sacca* (truth attached to wrong belief), *Brāhmaṇa sacca* (*Brahmana's truth*), *Ñāṇa sacca* (Penetrating truth) and *Viratī sacca* (truth in avoidance of voices), according to one's point of view. But if those usages of *Sacca* are summarized, it should be kept in mind that there are only two views "*Paramattha Sacca*" (ultimate truth) and "*Sammuti Sacca*" (conventional truth). Out of these two, this paper aims to focus on *Vacī sacca* (verbal truth) which is included in "*Sammuti Sacca*" by taking out extracts mainly from *Pāli* literature presenting fully how the truth is applied in practice, how it is of benefit to the people in return and how it is prestigious and powerful enough to benefit the people in that way.

**Key words:** *Sacca*, Ultimate Truth, Conventional Truth, Verbal Truth.

### Introduction

Human beings do not usually live alone. They are social animals for their life. They need their own family, friends and society. Human beings have to communicate with one another. So, they have to speak. Speech is one of the means to communication between man and man and which is obviously the most useful tool in man's daily life. By using this tool effectively, man tries to meet his needs.

Ideally, speech used by man as one of his means for communication should be truthful by nature, for the truthful speech (*Vacī sacca*) constitutes the good speech (*Subhāsītavācā*), which again leads to one of the blessings of life or the blessed speech in simple words. The auspicious speech, in turn, is the main cause of man and his world's prosperity. In the other way round, a false speech must be a lie and, very evidently, it will cause the opposite results of the truthful speech. Verily, truth is an essential ingredient in speech, by which man communicates with his society.

### The Role of *Sacca* in the Four Ways of Conquering Others

*Sacca* is also found to be one of the four ways of conquering other people, namely,

1. *Akkodha*: patience
2. *Sādhu*: no swearing or calling names
3. *Dāna*: charity and
4. *Sacca*: truth in speech.

These ways of conquering other people were pointed out by the *Buddha* to *Uttarā*, a devout young lady. The story goes that the *Buddha* asked her how she looked upon *Sīrīmā* who, out of jealousy, poured hot oil and butter on her. *Uttarā* answered, 'Lord *Buddha*, I never felt angry with her. Instead, I just radiated *mettā* or loving-kindness on her, recounting her thanks





