

## Annotation

The subject matter of religious language from the perspective of Religious studies is the chief schema of the thesis. It deals with concrete religious utterances, namely Buddhist mantras. The thesis outlines the context of their origin in Vedic religion and their subsequent development in Mahayana and Tantric Buddhism. It further examines the mantra both in Buddhist theory (the mantra in the text) and in Buddhist practice (the mantra in the ritual). The answer to the questions if the exact meaning of the individual mantras can be found and to what extent mantras are translatable from original Sanskrit is the primary aim of the thesis. Special attention is paid to the *Heart Sutra*, the crowning text of Mahayana Buddhism, and its final mantra *gate gate paragate parasamgate bodhi svaha*.

**Key words:** buddhism, Mahāyāna buddhism, the Heart Sūtra, mantra, ritual language