

## HISTORICAL MAPPING METHOD: NEW RESEARCH METHOD FOR RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

*Dr. Tin Naing Win*

*Department of History, Yadanabon University*

### ABSTRACT

In doing historical reconstruction several different forms of research methods are usually used laying down research methodology, firmly. Once a research methodology is laid down, it must be the one that can appropriately support and shape the field of research or subject matter studied. There are a number of historical sources that can be presented not only in the form of words but in the illustratable pattern or structure. In other words, historical events, facts and data that are neither geographical features nor physical reality, can be represented as 'historical maps'. Therefore, in this paper attempts have been made to reveal and introduce the Historical Mapping Method, a new research method, into research methodology, and to show much light on the importance of historical mapping method in historical reconstruction and research with concrete evidences to solve why it is so important. With a brief comparison with other research methods, the definition to the Historical Mapping Method that has never been described in previous research methodological works, its importance, usefulness and benefits for various kinds of research

have been vividly and thoroughly explained in this paper along with some supporting citations and instances. Moreover, the researcher has judged on the defect and perfect points of the new method introduced.

The four ultimate objectives of writing this research paper are:

- To introduce a new research method i.e. "*Historical Mapping Method*"
- To prove that historical mapping method is very important and useful not only in doing historical research but in pursuing other disciplinary studies
- To show the practical drawing of secondary historical maps using the historical mapping method
- To encourage historical researchers to use this applicable new research method

As this study is a preliminary introductory research work in the field, it will bring us to a new field of research in the near future. Therefore, I simply hope that it would be a significant contribution, so to say, not merely for the history and historical research but for the development of research methodology itself.

## KEY WORDS

Historical Mapping Method,  
Research Methodology, Secondary  
Historical Map,  
Non-readymade Secondary Historical  
Map, Mappable Sources, Mappable  
Data,  
Mappable Theme, Mapping

## THE ROLE OF RESEARCH METHODOLOGY IN DOING HISTORICAL RESEARCH

Research is generally understood to follow a certain structural process. Although procedure or research methodology may vary depending on the subject matter and researcher, such steps as formation of the topic, hypothesis presenting, conceptual and operational definitions, data gathering and analysis, hypothesis testing, conclusion and interpretation are usually parts of most formal research, both basic and applied. Etymologically, the word 'research' derives from the French '*recherche*', from '*rechercher*', to search closely where '*chercher*' means '*to search*'; its literal meaning is '*to investigate thoroughly*'. Nowadays research is defined as an organized and systematic way of finding answers to questions, and human activities based on intellectual application in investigation of matter. Truly, in doing research, the application of intellectual knowledge is very important and certainly essential. Similar vital factor is that it is also needed to understand, thoroughly and definitely, about

disciplinary research trend, research categories, research methods, data collection methods, data analyzing and synthesizing and research methodology.

In doing historical reconstruction several different forms of research methods are usually used laying down research methodology, firmly. Once a research methodology is laid down, it must be the one that can appropriately support and shape the field of research or subject matter studied. Similarly, the research methods to be used must also be suitable and appropriate with the research under investigating. The research methods that are mostly used in historical research are historical method, descriptive method, case study method, comparative method, etc. These methods are, indeed, data presentation methods which are to be used in alternative ways as are necessary depending on the bases of available sources, data and field of study in doing research on diverse academic disciplines. Therefore, all these methods associate with all kinds of academic disciplines. In accordance with the emergence of new multi-disciplinary subjects and the expansion of the scopes of fields of study, number of research methods becomes increased, and diverse in form. Therefore, there would be found that various research methodologies i.e. research methods are stated differently in numerous research methodological works written by eastern and western scholars on the subject. In Wikipedia

that had been lastly edited in July 2007, there are altogether nineteen research methods described, where one may notice that data presentation methods, data collection methods and research types have been described, collectively and confusedly. However, there is another research method that has never been described or that cannot be found in all these 'manuals of research' works and online Wikipedia and encyclopedias. That is a new research method called '*historical mapping method*'.

## INTRODUCTION OF HISTORICAL MAPPING METHOD INTO RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

The reason for the introducing of historical mapping method is that as some certain historical sources and facts are not only mappable or illustratable sources and facts but also they should be mapped and presented, if they are transformed from the form of words to a map and then presented, it would be more obvious, observable and able to provide respective historical study. Another reason is because of the thoughtlessness and negligence of historical writers concerning historical maps in doing historical research. This means that a historian who studies about a local, regional or global history does not use to draw or study maps that are directly related to the locality or region he studied. Indeed, if there have already been as much mappable sources and facts as needed to be mapped and presented,

local historians must certainly do so as it will be more fully endowed with information if a local history is presented not only with texts but with historical maps. It must be said that this is either a requirement or an obligation. Therefore, in such case, one must apply the new research method historical mapping method; research results that received by the using of that new method would be significant contribution for the related local history and historical research as well. Correspondingly, one must also take notice of the capable of presenting other historical events that are not associated with local or regional historical study, in the form of maps or figures by using historical mapping method.

For Myanmar history, we find various sorts of primary historical sources that can be converted as useful historical maps such for example as *pei*, *parabaik*, stone inscription, *sittan*, royal chronicle and gazetteer. As such events as travel accounts were used to record in the sources like *pei* and/or *parabaik*, route maps can be drawn based on those accounts. Locality of a particular place, area, distance, population, background socio-economic conditions are usually described in gazetteers and *sittans* census-requests. Therefore, numerous good mappable historical events and facts can be found also in such sources. The fact that what kind of historical maps can be drawn from these sources will depend on the field

studied and on the sources and historical events available.

In writing history, some people think that history can only be reconstructed with 'text' or 'words'. They seem not to have thought that whether history can present with another way except for words. Indeed, history can be represented also with 'pictures' or 'figures'. In other words, in doing historical research illustrating method can be used in order to become animated. As one of the goals of historical research is to communicate an understanding of past event, it is to shape the past to become obvious with every possible means. Actually, the practice of illustrating 'picture' or 'map' in historical works has been used since the beginning of modern historical writing by successive historians. However, that is not the utilization of illustrating as a research method but only the following of conventional or traditional way. For example, it can be seen that one or two Myanmar historical maps (map(s) of Myanmar) are used to be described on the inside pages of front or back cover of local Myanmar history books written by such Myanmar and western scholars as Arthur Phayre, G.E. Harvey, G.H. Luce, Pe Maung Tin and Htin Aung. Still, this is merely formal description and nothing more than that. As their history works are only the ones that have presented history in general, such tradition of map illustrating is natural and typical. However, for the specialized historical research, the

method of 'using' or 'drawing' of figures or maps sometimes become necessary, certainly and inevitably. In such case, the method should be practically used with clear and real understanding on it. Especially, that method ought to have been already as a certain kind of research method in research methodological context. If this were so, why do we see such kind of method need in the research sphere? What kind of method the historical mapping method is?

## **HISTORICAL MAPPING METHOD**

Historical mapping method is "*the one that represents the historical events, facts or numerical data that occurred or existed in a certain space during a period or a time span as a form of 'map' or 'figure', after having collected them under a given phenomenon or topic*".

To say more, Historical mapping method is *the visualization of spatial and/or historical data; it is especially intended for visually oriented learners*. Therefore it is a method that makes pictorial representations of the data in two-dimensional space.

The chief feature of historical mapping method is, needless to say, 'map'. Here, the word map represents object, structure, locality, nation, region, and globe. Ultimately, the universe can be added in the list.

Actually, they are merely spatial elemental things which are the typical basics of a map. The meaning of the word map is very broad in scope. It is as broad in its scope as it is narrow, depending on who is asked to define it as a term. It is said that in the 21st century it is possible to find a map of virtually anything from inner working of the human body to the virtual worlds of cyber space. By seeing this the term can be defined in various ways in line with the respective field of subject. The extensive definition of the word map can be found in online Wikipedia, with its typical meaning, like that

*“A map is a visual representation of an area a symbolic depiction highlighting relationships between elements of that space such as objects, regions, and themes. Many maps are static two-dimensional space, geometrically accurate representations of three-dimensional, while others are dynamic or interactive, even three-dimensional. Although most commonly used to depict geography, maps may represent any space, real or imagined, without regard to context or scale; e.g. Brain mapping, DNA mapping, and extraterrestrial mapping.”*

Moreover, in the same online Wikipedia, the answer in regard to the question on the meaning of map is follow:

*“A map is a flat, two-dimensional representation of an area.*

*Usually maps present a view from above. Normally the space they represent is a geographic area (cities, towns, countries or neighbourhoods, for example), but maps can in theory represent non-geographical things (a “map” of the circulatory system) or even thing with no physical reality at all (a “map” of someone’s consciousness).”*

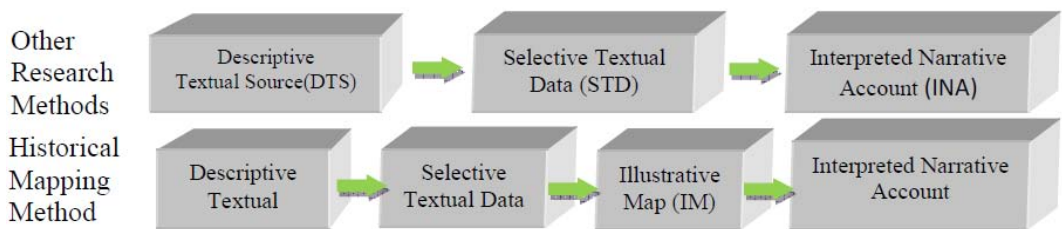
Therefore, it is no doubt that historical events, facts and data that are neither geographical features nor physical reality, can be represented as ‘historical maps’. Because of that we find such a definition as “*a map is anything which represents graphically a succession of events, states, or acts; as an historical map.*” Now, we have studied the definition of historical mapping method, some aspects of historical map and some important meanings of the word ‘map’. Therefore it is clear that the method can be used not only in historical research but in all other kinds of researches.

## **BRIEF COMPARISONS WITH OTHER RESEARCH METHODS**

In comparing historical mapping method with other methods it can be followed in two ways: general collective comparison and special selective comparison. Firstly, if we make general collective comparisons, we will find that, like other methods, sources and data are especially important to apply historical mapping

method in doing research. However, for the historical mapping method sources and data must be primary mappable sources and data. This means that every historical event or fact cannot be used to map. Therefore, the availability of sources and data for other methods is broad and extensive while it has limitations or restrictions for the historical mapping method. In terms of synthesizing and presenting of data, other research methods follow to present analyzed data within selected theme or frame. Similarly, historical mapping method also presents research data after performing data

synthesization. The different point is that other research methods, except descriptive statistical research method, represent the analyzed data as textual form whereas historical mapping method presents the data in the configurational shape of map(s). Therefore data can be seen visually as a picture or image; we can get a chance for reinterpretation after judging and evaluating of that image again from which new conclusion can be developed. As such it is seen that historical mapping method can stand separately with its own style like other research methods appeared in Figure 1.



**Figure 1.** Network Diagram Showing the Differences between HMM and Other Research Methods.

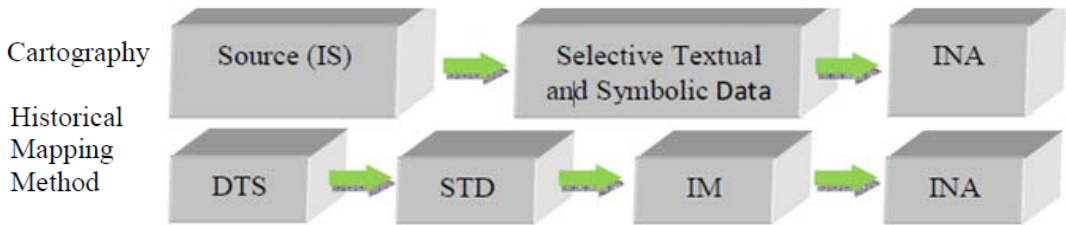
As for the special selective comparison, cartography method, comparative method, historical method and statistic method would be suitable to compare with historical mapping method for they are not only closer to the historical mapping method but also comparable with it.

Firstly, we will make attempts to compare historical mapping method with ‘cartography’, a method of geographical mapping and studying. It has not been for a long time that

cartography or mapmaking is described as a research method in research methodological context. It is the study and practice of making representations of the Earth on a flat surface. Cartography combines science, aesthetics, and technical ability to create a balanced and reliable representation that is capable of communicating information effectively and quickly. As such this method can be called a geographical mapping method as well as a method of utilizing

directly to the readymade maps. However, historical mapping method is a method of making a historical map by using only historical data. Therefore, it does not need science, aesthetics, and technical ability as is needed in cartography. This means that scale, grid lines, etc. are not essential things to be used in applying historical mapping method. But what is required is only mappable sources and data; historical maps should be

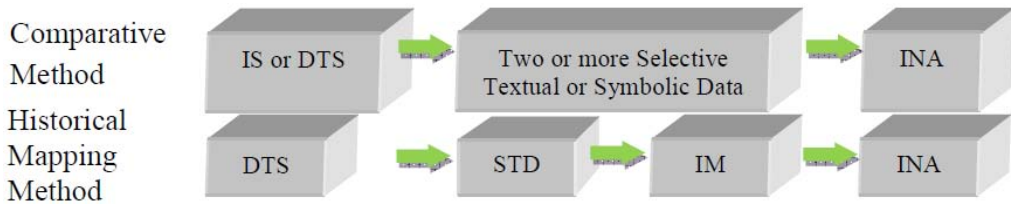
made within the frame set or fixed by the sources and data. However, a good idea or inspiration is essential for how will these mappable data be presented in which kind of map or figure. Because of this reason the historical mapping method is totally different from so-called cartography method. Accordingly, stages of research process are also dissimilar to each other as follow in Figure 2.



**Figure 2.** Network Diagram Showing the Differences between HMM and Cartography Method.

Secondly, the selected method with which historical mapping method should be specifically compared is ‘comparative method’; which is, indeed, extensively useful as well as influential over all other research methods. It can be used by integrating it with all other research methods. For example, maps that have been mapped by using historical mapping method can be compared with each other by using comparative research method. The sources or data for comparative method may be text as well as figure. However, for the

historical mapping method sources or data would be only in a single form, ‘text’. However, as an exceptional case, in the subject like archaeology ‘object’ may be sometimes a source type. Again, for the comparative method there should be at least two or more comparable data sets in order to make comparisons whereas for the historical mapping method data will be only a kind of mappable data that are extracted from mappable historical sources. This can be seen like that in Figure 3



**Figure 3.** Network Diagram Showing the Differences between HMM and Comparative Method.

In research sphere, like comparative method, historical method can influence over other research methods, and stand independently as a certain research method. This means that in a work like ‘A History of Chemistry’ historical method must inevitably be used. What should be noted here is that the terms ‘historical method’ and ‘historical research’ are dissimilar to each other. The former is a kind of research method and the latter is a research process on the subject ‘history’. Therefore, in every disciplinary research historical method can be applied. If we compare such a broadly useful ‘historical method’ with historical mapping method, it would be found that the fundamental natures are the same to each other. Historical method attempts to describe a series of events, facts, states, and acts of the past in chronological order. Similarly, if there are mappable data available, a series of historical maps can be revealed chronologically by applying historical mapping method. Then, we can discuss and criticize progress and retrogression of the past by studying chronologically or periodically produced historical maps. In regard to data

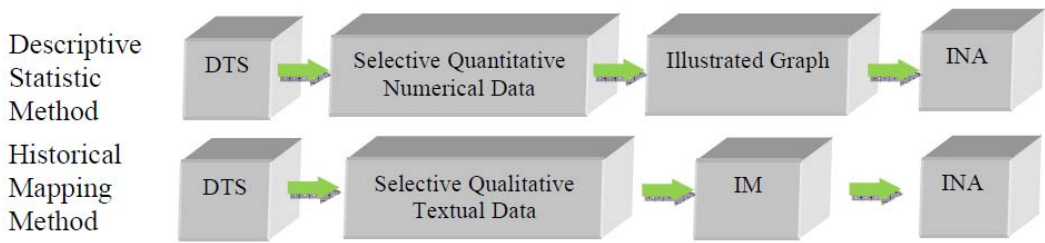
collecting and synthesizing processes all procedures are the same to the statements mentioned under the section of discussion on general collective comparisons between historical mapping method and other research methods. A selective textual data for both methods are of events, facts, states, and acts of the past, it is very extensive and broad.

Lastly, the method that should also be compared with historical mapping method is ‘statistic method’. There are two kinds of statistic method: viz. ‘Descriptive Statistics’ and ‘Inferential Statistics’. Out of them historical mapping method can be compared with the former, ‘descriptive statistics method’. According to their nature, historical mapping method and descriptive statistics method are very similar; both methods represent research data in two-dimensional form or illustrated structure. The reason for the applying of these two methods is to describe, summarize and explain or make sense of a given set of data. The two methods use descriptive textual sources, and another similarity between the two methods is that if there is no mappable source and data historical mapping method



cannot be applied as well as if there is no quantifiable numerical data, a statistical method is unable to be used. For the historical mapping method, mappable data would be qualitative categorical textual variables or some data like relationships among variables. In contrast, the quantitative categorical numerical variables are set of data for descriptive statistical method which needs frequencies, percentages and intervals or grouped intervals.

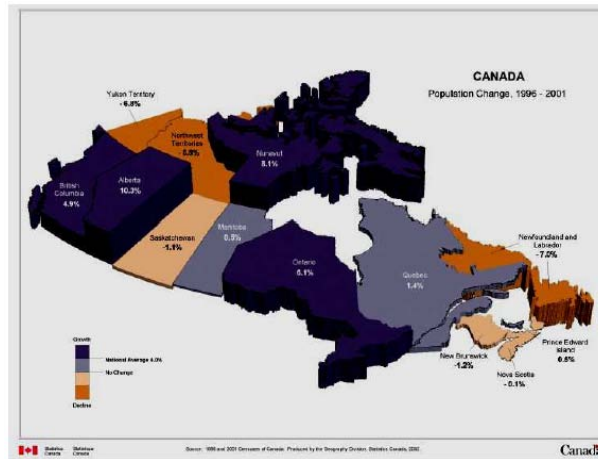
Therefore, this method is the one that describes research data in the combined form of numerical variables and graphics such as bar graph, line graph, pie graph, histogram, scatter plots, etc. On the other hand, historical mapping method, as stated above, constructs the research describing map(s) with text (and labels) in combined way. The pattern would be like that appeared in Figure 4.



**Figure 4.** Network Diagram Showing the Differences between HMM and Descriptive Statistic Method.

However, a very significant and distinctive fact is that historical mapping method and descriptive statistical method can be integrated and applied as a useful method called 'mixed research method'. This fact shows the nature of the two research

methods that they can mutually rely on each other. As a sample map following is selected. This prism map shows Canada's statistical population changes in 1996 - 2001 by provinces and territories in combined way of a map and bar-chart.



**Figure 5.** A Sample Prism-map Made by Applying both HMM and Descriptive Statistic Method.

Therefore, when we compare historical mapping method with other research methods in the means mentioned above, we find obviously that the former has its own characteristic features; and it can stand independently and separately as a certain research method, and be used by mixing with other research methods. However, for the sake of more understanding on the method it still needs to explain in detail.

## THE AIM OF HISTORICAL METHOD

As has been stated above, the word ‘map’ has many diverse meanings. In the same manner the meaning of the word ‘mapping’ is also wide in range. In academic or nonacademic studies, several methods of mapping are found frequently such as animated mapping, pictorial mapping, thematic mapping, general mapping,

topographic mapping, topological mapping and so on; and all of which has their own ways in making map. Similarly historical mapping method also has its own style and method to represent historical data. Therefore it can be known that maps can be found in various forms or styles.

In the catch phrase ‘historical mapping method’ the word ‘historical’ represents the events, facts, states, or acts everything happened or existed in the past by source, data, or theme while the ‘mapping’ is meant for the illustration of these historical variables in one or another form of ‘picture’. Therefore, for our purpose we will use a broad definition "mapping" as the representations of all mappable historical sources and data under every possible ‘theme’. In illustrating ‘picture’, the representation in the form of ‘map’ is prime custom or tradition of the historical mapping method. According to this definition,

it will be found that historical mapping methods covers not merely the studying and researching of history but also that of other disciplines.

However, in creating a historical map, it does not need to follow certain mapping procedures, techniques and modulus operating rigidly and unbendingly. In general, it can be mapped without considering of scale bar, grid line, contour line, terrain, etc. as they are usually included in a typical geographical map. However, every historical map needs some concepts of map symbolology, for instances, compass rose or north arrow, information about map sources so that the condition or situation of historical existence and occurrence can be known exactly.

The most important elements to create historical maps are (1) mappable sources, (2) mappable data, and (3) mappable themes, which are initially needed to find out. The map resulted from basing on these elements must be the one that may contribute and be effective to the subject under study. If it were so, it is needed to solve these questions that how a historical map can be revealed by using which kinds of source and data, and that what kinds of event or subject matter are going to be mapped with which way.

The aim of historical mapping method is to reveal spatial elements as well as to state historical events, facts, states and acts together with

illustrated historical map(s) in order to be aware of the past in a wide range. Therefore, the sources that can be mapped are, as already mentioned above, the ones that contain events, facts, states, or acts of the past. If a source has either one out of these four elements or all of them the historical mapping method can be applied. As for source type, it may be vary according to field of study. For Myanmar history, mappable historical source-types are stone inscription, *pei*, *parabaik*, royal chronicle, royal order, travel account, contemporary literature, *sittan*, and gazetteer. Moreover, secondary historical maps can also be made by using other kinds of sources that are available in accordance with the period of study, for examples, diaries, correspondences, and congress reports for colonial period of Myanmar. However, mapping with excavated ancient objects would be seen rarely for which we can show a map like "M yay pon P haya T wei-shi yar A yat" [Locations where Votive-tablets found]. As such, for the historical events and facts that come from various kinds of sources and diverse contents of subject matters, created historical maps may be in various forms and styles. It means that a floor plan or construction structure of a building may be a map as well as pictures sketching periodic marching routes of military campaigns can be found as historical maps. However, it is needed to decide that what kinds of sources and data should be mapped as historical maps.

Besides, we have to specially think that what kind of subject matter ought to be selected to perform mapping process. Because all the subject matters contained in the source cannot be totally neither mappable nor worthy of mapping. Nevertheless, if there will be effective and beneficial for the subject by so doing, it should be carried out. As an instance, there is a source describing about the fortresses of the Kingdom of Ava in ancient Myanmar, written by a westerner called M. Montmorency in 1827. In that record, such as the cubic measurement of fortifications in high, depth and length and degree and angle of earthen banks have been mentioned along with construction methods. Therefore, a historical map can be mapped by extracting data from that contemporary record. Then, we can get a chance to compare the created map with other sources and practical measurements done in field research, and become aware of the construction system of the respective period, partially. Moreover, we can also check whether the mentioned facts are right or wrong, and search similarities and differences. Hence, it can easily be guessed that what kind of map would be for above mentioned source. If we can describe the population diffusions rates and condition of ancient towns, villages and administrative units in a mixed form of comparisons and maps by using *sittans*, it will certainly contribute to local histories. Therefore, such kind of mappable sources must be

searched and mapped if the outcomes can support both the field under study and history.

For a research process, sources are important as well as data are crucial. Data can be available both from primary sources and from secondary sources to create a historical map. However, one should not extract mappable data from the later. This fact can be said as a defect point of the historical mapping method. Mappable data that are extracted only from primary sources will deserve to be used doubtlessly and reliably in historical reconstruction and research. Even maps that are made with data directly extracted from primary sources should not be regarded as primary historical maps; but can only be considered as secondary historical maps. Because, on the other hand, there has already been original historical maps i.e. primary maps sources as a kind of main map group. When we categorize secondary historical maps in a sense that with which type of data they can be made, we get following sets of mappable data.

1. Data that can be classified
2. Data that can be integrated or organized
3. Data that can be compared
4. Data that can be constructed
5. Data that can be measured
6. Data that has something movement
7. Data that has something progress or retrogress

Therefore, depending on the source and data types used, 'themes' of maps will be different variously, and also will be in limited condition.

### **ITS USEFULNESS AND BENEFITS**

By studying the facts and maps mentioned above, it is obvious that historical mapping method is a research method that can stand independently, and that it is always based on (1) mappable sources, (2) mappable data, and (3) it has always a theme, (4) ability to see the data visually, and (5) ability to compare with the results of other research methods together with (6) ability to integrate with other research method as its unique characteristic features. Because of the facts that it can be compared with and used by integrating with other research methods, the historical mapping method represents a broader sense. Therefore, it is a kind of research method capable of using widely not only in historical research but also in other disciplinary fields of research. Moreover, it can be said that it is also a useful method for teaching and learning environments. For instance, if one uses curriculum texts, in teaching and learning history, together with visual maps that have been created by using historical mapping method it would be easier than ever for the teacher as well as it can get more clear and understandable benefits for the learners through which reflective and profound thinking skill can be improved.

Similarly, if we evaluate the usefulness and benefits of historical mapping method for history and historical research, we will find that the mapping of what did happen, exist, or act at which place in what period of time with collected research sources and research data can give more obvious and understandable benefit when studying some kinds of theme. Whence some useful conclusions can be laid down and also new interpretations can be revealed from different points of view. Another benefit is that we can know and criticize easily what become developed and what become deteriorated by comparing historical maps of the different periods under the same theme as well as we can reveal fuller perspective of a historical event or condition by organizing historical maps of the same period under different themes. Moreover, the outcomes of the using of historical mapping method, i.e. maps or other kinds of figure, can be compared with other similar sources and data if they are available so that we can get a chance to test whether they are right or wrong, and truthful or untruthful. If the resulting map is wrong we can criticize and reject it by opening a new field of research discussion.

### **IT'S IMPORTANCE IN DOING HISTORICAL RESEARCH**

If we claim that historical mapping method is very important in historical research, we will have to

prove that hypothetical statement. In research context there are three main reasons for the importance of historical mapping method. They are not exotic things but already mentioned fundamentals: because of the source, because of the data, and because of the theme.

(1) The importance caused by the source is that because some sources are being needed to be mapped to become historical maps. This means that there is a condition that source itself paves a way to be mapped. Such kinds of sources are certain mappable sources.

(2) The importance caused by the data is that because some data contained in mappable sources are the ones that will surely provide and support history and historical research if they were mapped in the form of historical maps. Such kind of data will not be effective if they remained unchanged (unused) from their original form. i.e. the data themselves. Actually, this is a process or an attempt of mapmaking by searching mappable data in order to delineate a map.

(3) The importance caused by the theme is that because some themes are not enough to state only with regular textual descriptions. This means that the theme that one wishes to present is in the condition that it will be more understandable when it can be seen visually. In other words, there is a situation in which theme itself requests for mapmaking. Therefore,

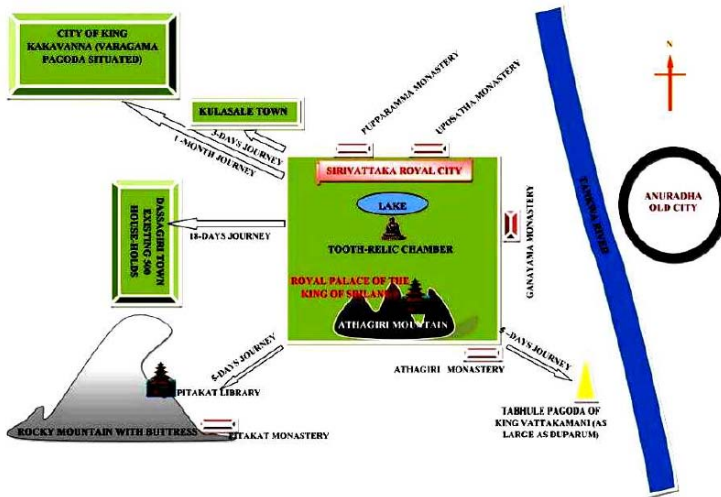
such kind of themes should be termed as mappable themes. Therefore, by seeing and examining the facts mentioned it is obvious that sources, data and themes themselves are very important for historical research. To contribute to the history with such important mappable sources, data and themes, we have to use the historical mapping method.

### **PROVING: PRACTICAL MAPPING**

When we search mappable sources, data and themes, in order to draw historical maps by using historical mapping method, we come to find a number of historical evidences that can contribute to Myanmar history. Now, we will continue to make a practical mapping using with mappable data. The selected source here is a palm-leaf manuscript titled “*Sihol Yauk Yodaya Phone-tawgyi Ssara Lanka ei Sasana-pyu Kha-yi Thwar Hmat-tam*”. Among the mappable data that contain in this source, textual description of the location of Sirivattaka, the then capital of Sri Lanka, was also described by the author. We can draw at least two or three route maps from this source. If we convert this textual information into a form of map we will get a religious and political location map as stated below. Such kind of map, therefore, can be regarded as the one drawn by using mappable data.

Therefore, it is obvious that historical mapping method is useful and vital for history and historical research. However, the usefulness and importance of the historical maps resulted from the using of historical

mapping method will depend on the scholar and field studies. Therefore, we will not be able to measure how much extent they have usefulness and value.



**Figure 6.** A Non-readymade Secondary Historical Map Drawn by Basing on a Mappable Palm-leaf Manuscript of a Missionary Record of a Myanmar-Thai Buddhist Monk in 1787.

### COMMENTS ON THE METHOD AND JUDGMENTS

When we study the historical map drawn above, i.e. the result of historical mapping method, it becomes obvious that there can get various benefits by using that method. The maps that were delineated and represented by using different kinds of sources, can be discussed and criticized comparing with other maps of the same theme or other sources. Then we can examine whether the outcome maps are right or wrong and correct or incorrect by comparing one

by one. Because of the fact that some maps delineated by a kind of source may be incorrect if we compare them with other sources it will become necessary to check the map(s) stated in the research. As a wrong history is needed to be emend, we can open a new field of research by this way of checking and comparing maps with other available sources.

Another perfect point of historical mapping method is that relationships between variable data included on the map can be easily overviewed. This is somewhat like

other research methods as statistical methods from which a more understandable opportunity or positive and perfect point may appear. Again, conclusions can be laid down as well as new interpretations can be revealed from different points of aspect after viewing the outcome map(s) overall. Because it should not end the task as soon as after delineating a map and it does not adequate by describing map alone, it inevitably and certainly needs new interpretations and conclusions. If it were so, delineating of map by using historical mapping method would be worthwhile. And new interpretations and conclusions must be, from various points of view, revealed as much as possible so that we will be able to fulfill historical knowledge, gaps, and needs. Again, the delineated maps can also be maintained as database maps for further applications as required.

However, there are also some facts to be taken notice of in using historical mapping method. The frequent use of that method in a single research work would not be suitable. It should be used only for the theme that can contribute to the historical research, and that should be certainly and inevitably presented. One important factor is possible incorrectness of the sources and data to be used. It is very important not to delineate a map from uncertain, incorrect and infirm sources and data. If it is happened to delineate a map using incorrect source and data, it would be a dangerous outcome for

related subject. Therefore, it is especially needed to check the sources and data before doing a mapping. The source and data must be trustworthy primary source and data.

Another fact that should be noticed is that the historical mapping method cannot be applied without mappable sources, data, and themes. Even when they are available, value of outcome maps will differ depending on the mappable sources, data and themes. Again, although the research result can be maintained not only as interpreted narrative account but also as illustrated map, it has a limitation that it can be mapped only within the favor of the mappable sources and data. In practice, it is very rare to find an 'easily' mappable source and to get mappable data; it is needed to read and search sources and data thoroughly and extensively. Therefore, it must be invested much time.

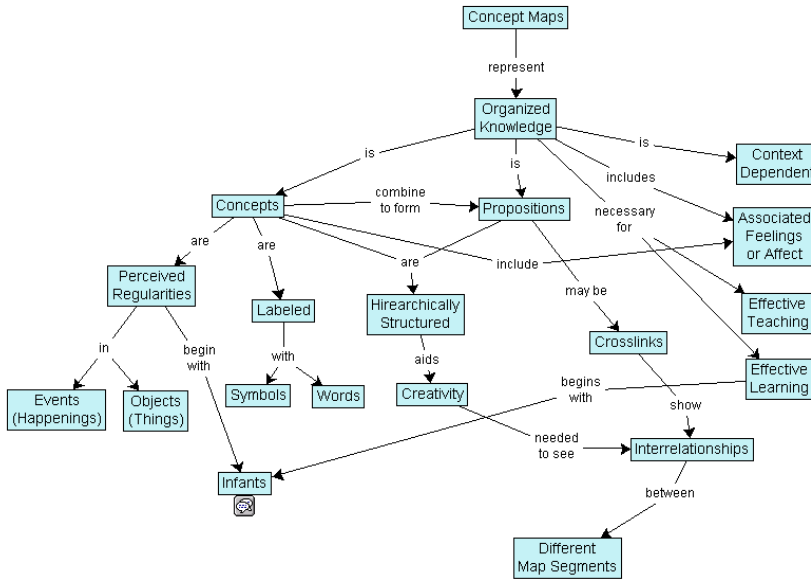
The next factor that should also be noticed is that a historical map can never be delineated with secondary sources. Maps should not be mapped by using incorrect and doubtful sources as well as by using secondary sources. All these facts are to be noticed when historical mapping method is intended to be applied.

Apart from historical research, also in other field of disciplinary



research such as social sciences, natural sciences, applied sciences, life sciences, historical mapping method should be and can be used in different forms. As mentioned above, as broad in scope the definition of map is as it can be used extensively in various disciplinary researches. We have many evidences of using (historical) mapping

method in other fields of subject. For example, we usually find concept mapping (see below) or mindmapping in sciences and many other subjects as well as language maps in some sociological studies. Therefore, the method may be called as a kind of interdisciplinary usable research method.



**Figure 7.** A Concept Map That Explains About What the Concept Maps Are.

**CONCLUSION**

Although such presentation of research using maps have already been in various fields of research, there has never been described such a kind of mapping method, basing mappable sources and data, in research methodological works as a certain research method. According to its usefulness and importance, historical mapping method deserves

to be recognized formally and legitimately as “a new research method” in research methodology. If there are (1) mappable sources and data, (2) the themes should be delineated as a map, and (3) it would be better if historical mapping method is used, then the method ought to be applied in any subject or any field of research. Especially, historians should use the method

because the more they can delineate historical maps, historical knowledge, gaps and needs may become fuller and fuller.

## ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

I would like to acknowledge my very special indebtedness to the Korea Foundation for Advanced Studies as this research paper is a summarized version of a part of my advanced research work done in the Republic of Korea in 2008-2009 with the financial support of the foundation. I am greatly indebted to my greatest benefactor beloved mother Daw Tin Tin Win, my father U Kyaw Kyaw, aunty Daw Yin Yin, younger sister Daw Yamin Kyaw and my beloved wife Daw Thu Zar Thant for their help and support. My sincere thanks also go to Rector Dr Khin Maung Oo and Pro-rector Dr Maung Maung Naing of Yadanabon University as well as the scholars and organizers who participated in the 10th International Conference named "Inter-University Cooperation Programme, ASEAN Community Knowledge Networks for the Economy, Society, Culture, and Environmental Stability."

## BIBLIOGRAPHY

- Berg, Bruce L. (1998), *Qualitative Research Methods for the Social Sciences*, Boston, Allyn and Bacon, Third Edition,  
Harvey, G.E. (1925), *History of Burma*, London, n.p.

Hla Way, Thet Lwin, and Myo Thant Tyn (2002), *Research Methods in Arts and Sciences*, Yangon, The Universities' Press, First Edition.

[http://academic.emporia.edu/aberjame/map/h\\_map/h\\_map.htm](http://academic.emporia.edu/aberjame/map/h_map/h_map.htm). (January 21, 2009)

<http://ardictionary.com/Map/1496>, (January, 19, 2009)

<http://dictionary.reference.com/search?db=dictionary&q=map>, (January 21, 2009)

<http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Research#Etymology>, (September 25, 2008)

<http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Research#Etymology> (September 25, 2008)

<http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Map> (January 19, 2009)

<http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Research#Etymology> (September 25, 2008)

[http://geodepot.statcan.ca/Diss/Maps/ThematicMaps/population/National/pop\\_chg\\_3d\\_colour\\_e.jpg](http://geodepot.statcan.ca/Diss/Maps/ThematicMaps/population/National/pop_chg_3d_colour_e.jpg), (February 12, 2009).

[http://geodepot.statcan.ca/Diss/Maps/ThematicMaps/pop\\_dist\\_e.cfm](http://geodepot.statcan.ca/Diss/Maps/ThematicMaps/pop_dist_e.cfm)

[http://learningcenter.unc.edu/Resources/Handouts/concept\\_mapping\\_s.jpg](http://learningcenter.unc.edu/Resources/Handouts/concept_mapping_s.jpg), (February 12, 2009)

[http://learningcenter.unc.edu/Resources/Handouts/concept\\_mapping\\_s.jpg](http://learningcenter.unc.edu/Resources/Handouts/concept_mapping_s.jpg), (February 12, 2009).

[http://linguistics.byu.edu/faculty/henrichsenl/researchmethods/RM\\_1\\_01.html](http://linguistics.byu.edu/faculty/henrichsenl/researchmethods/RM_1_01.html), (September 25, 2008)

- [http://serc.carleton.edu/images/NAG\\_TWorkshops/assess/earth\\_as\\_a\\_syst.jpg](http://serc.carleton.edu/images/NAG_TWorkshops/assess/earth_as_a_syst.jpg) , (February 12, 2009)
- <http://sociology.camden.rutgers.edu/jfm/tutorial/main.htm>, (October 13, 2008)
- [http://users.edte.utwente.nl/lanzing/cm\\_home.htm](http://users.edte.utwente.nl/lanzing/cm_home.htm) (February 12, 2009)
- [http://wiki.answers.com/Q/What\\_is\\_the\\_meaning\\_of\\_map\\_and\\_globe](http://wiki.answers.com/Q/What_is_the_meaning_of_map_and_globe) , (January, 19, 2009)
- [http://www.allcountries.org/maps/world\\_language\\_maps.html](http://www.allcountries.org/maps/world_language_maps.html) , (January 29, 2009)
- <http://www.answers.com/topic/methodology> (January 3, 2009)
- <http://www.answers.com/topic/methodology> (January 3, 2009)
- <http://www.phil.unipassau.de/histhw/tutcarto/english/index-frames.en.html>;
- <http://www.smartdraw.com> ;  
<http://www.goldensoftware.com>, (January 27, 2009)
- [http://www.southalabama.edu/coe/bs\\_et/johnson/dr\\_johnson/2lectures.htm](http://www.southalabama.edu/coe/bs_et/johnson/dr_johnson/2lectures.htm) , (October 13, 2008)
- Johnson, Burke and Larry Christensen (2008), Educational Research: Quantitative, Qualitative, and Mixed Approaches, Los Angeles: Sage Publications.
- Life at war, 서울 : 한국일보 타임-라이프, 1977.
- Maung Htin Aung (1967), A History of Burma, New York, Columbia University Press.
- Montmorency, M.(Autumn 2005), "Account of the Fortifications at Ava in 1827", SOAS Bulletin of Burma Research, Vol.3, No.2.
- Nakkhat- Pya Set-wai Pon (Par), *Parabaik* Manuscript, CML Collection, No. 117.
- Pe Maung Tin and G.H. Luce(1960), The Glass Palace Chronicle of the Kings of Burma, Rangoon, Rangoon University Press.
- Phayre, A.P.(1853), History of Burma, n.p.
- Simmons, J.L. and George J. McCall (©1985), Social Research, The Craft of Finding Out, New York, Macmillan Publishing Company.
- Than Tun (1965), "The Story of Burma told in Pictures", Rangoon, Working Peoples' Daily, Sunday Supplement.
- Than Tun (2005), Myanmar Thamaing Myay-pon mya, Yangon, The University Press.
- Thone-se Ta Bon Tha-yoke Phaw Pon, *Parabaik* Manuscript, UCL Collection, No. 180266.
- Tin Naing Win, Dr. (2009), The Importance of Historical Mapping Method in Historical Research: A Study on Myanmar Historical Maps as Illustrated in *Parabaik* Manuscripts and Other Sources, research work done in the Republic of Korea under the financial support of the Korea Foundation for Advanced Studies.

Trager, F.N. and William J Koenig  
(1979), *Burmese Sit-tans 1764-  
1826, Records of Rural Life  
and Administration*, Trans. by  
William J Koenig, Arizona,  
The University of Arizona  
Press.