Three Organs of Opinion and the Punishments of Scholar-officials in *Joseon* Korea

Takeshi YAGI

There were three organs of opinion in the *Joseon* government, namely *sahonbu* (Office of Censors), *saganwon* (Office of Remonstrators), and *hongmungwan* (Office of Academic Counselors). They had a strong influence on the political world of *Joseon* Korea.

They investigated the wrong deeds of the officials, and the defendant were required to submit an informal resignation, even if not guilty at all. The punishment was decided by the king, if guilty, in accordance with the request of the three organs of opinion.

It was regarded as a virtue of the sovereign that the king obeyed the opinions of scholar-officials, which were represented through the activities of the three organs. However, the final decision was made only by the king, who sometimes neglected the requests of the three organs.

The king decided the punishments, which were based on the original customs of *Joseon* Korea, and which had a different system from that of the penal code of *Ming* China.

However, those who received the punishments of dismissal, banishment, or death penalty, still possessed honor by virtue of being a scholar-official. It was not unusual for the king to retract the punishments and redeem the honor of scholar-officials under certain changes in political circumstances. Thus, it can be said that the absolute power of the king was still restricted by the public opinions of scholar-officials.

A Study on Elements of *Yi Jing* in *Cantongqi* 參同契

—— Concerning The Origin of *The Diagram of the Great Ultimate* 太極圖 ——

SUH Dae Won

The Diagram of the Great Ultimate and *The Explanation of the Diagram of the Great Ultimate* are one of the most important texts in Neo-Confucianism. Scholars have not reached agreement on the issue of the meaning and origin of *The Diagram of the Great Ultimate*. While some scholars do not regard it as the work of ZHOU Dunyi, others take it to be ZHOU Dunyi's work. Those who do not think that *The Diagram of the Great Ultimate* is ZHOU Dunyi's work assert that it has a close with *Cantongqi*. However, they have not given enough evidence for supporting their argument.

This paper examines *Zhouyi Cantongqi Zhu* 周易參同契注 and *Zhouyi Cantongqi Tongzhenyi* 周易參同契通眞義 both by anonymous authors in order to explore the possibility to prove that the Diagram has a connection with *Cantongqi*. Both of these two works expound *Cantongqi* in terms of external alchemy. This investigation along with ZHU Xi's commentary on the Diagram and the Explanation lead us to the following conclusions. First, three pictures on the top of the Diagram can be inferred from *Cantongqi,* if we view *Cantongqi* from the perspective of external alchemy. Second, we can find the trace ZHOU Dunyi's *Diagram of the Great Ultimate* originates from the picture that we can infer from *Cantongqi*.

The Situation of Paddy Field Cultivation in China as Seen From a Soil Fertility Perspective :

Focusing on the Song, Yuan, Ming, Qing Period

Michito Ichimura

Among the research on the history of Chinese agriculture in Japan, the previous research on paddy field cultivation utilized "hard-work" and "heavy-fertilizing" as analytical indicators. There is a problem with such cultivation that the amount of energy invested is large, while that of energy generated from the production is small. In order to comprehensively examine the overall picture of paddy field cultivation, it is effective to analyze it from a "soil fertility" perspective. This is a good example of effective research, because an improvement of soil fertility is not synonymous with an increase in fertilizer application.

Although oil cakes were common as fertilizer by the middle of the Qing Period, and it was an age when "heavy-fertilizing" was just beginning. The application of fertilizer dependent on oil cakes can cause physiological disorders of various kinds. To solve this problem, the application of combustion ash had been considered to be effective. However, compared to the supply of oil cakes, that of combustion ash was not sufficient. Therefore, determining whether the increase in application of oil cakes led to an improvement of soil fertility remains a matter to reconsider.

In Pre-modern China, there were some other methods that were considered effective to improve soil fertility, such as winter flooded paddy fields, soil dressing and paddy-upland rotation fields, etc.. However, when viewed from the modern agricultural perspective, some of them are regarded as illogical. Research on Chinese agricultural history including the ideological background of the people of the time is needed in the future.

Digital Transcription of Historical Chinese Texts :

A Case Study on the Digitization of Duan Yucai's *Shuowen Jiezi Zhu*

Hiroyuki Shirasu

The mathematical theory of *institution* could present general foundations for ontology-based semantic integration. The author already presented a formalization of describing knowledge on Chinese characters by using *institutinalized* representational systems. This formalization can model systems constructed by characters and relations between them, and present an inference system to deduce facts on characters.

The aim of this paper is to present a case study of creating digital versions of historical Chinese texts. Our target text for digitization is Duan Yucai's *Shuowen Jiezi Zhu,* which is a Qing print of an annotated edition of Xu Shen's *Shuowen Jiezi* dictionary. This dictionary was compiled during the Eastern Han Dynasty and presented interpretation of the simple pictographs and analysis of complex characters.

Our digital transcription uses as a character encoding the Universal Character Set (Unicode) which includes a rich set of CJK ideographs. In the transcription with the Unicode characters, we use the three standard dictionaries selected by the Unicode Consortium.

Identifing characters in origital texts requires an interpretation of them. In particular, we take notice of Duan Yucai's phonological annotations of characters. Phonological information of characters is useful for presenting digital transcription of anciant Chinese texts. Our case study of digitizing *Shuowen Jiezi Zhu* shows the usefulness of our formalization, which can present inference on phonological information of characters from Duan Yucai's annotations.