

**A Preliminary Korean Linguistic Perspective on Hyeych'o's  
*Memoir of a Pilgrimage to the Five Indian Kingdoms* 往五天竺國  
傳**

XU Ye (Zhejiang University)  
charlottexuye@gmail.com

**ABSTRACT**

The manuscript fragments of the Silla monk Hyeych'o's 慧超 (or 惠超, ca. 704~783) *Wang o Ch'ōnchukguk Chōn* 往五天竺國傳 [*Memoir of a Pilgrimage to the Five Indian Kingdoms*] (hereafter 'Hyeych'o's Memoir') were discovered at Dunhuang in China by the prominent French archaeologist and sinologist Paul Pelliot 伯希和 (1878~1945) around 1908. The aim of this article is to initially discuss the Hyeych'o's Memoir as the drafts of his book from a Korean linguistic perspective, rather than as remnants of the finalized version of three volumes, while from the three volumes 85 selected words were annotated in Huilin's (慧琳, 737~820) *Yiqie jing yinyi* 一切經音義 [Sounds and Meaning of (all the words in) the Buddhist Canon].

Hyeych'o's Memoir as the drafts contains (1) some Chinese vernacular sinographs which have existed on the Korean peninsula discussed in section 2, such as a. *fo* (佛-仏) b. *deng* (等-寸), *si* (寺-等) c. *bo* (波-彼) and etc. (2) some misused homophone sinographs which represented the Sino-Sillaic pronunciations discussed in section 3, such as a. *wenli* (文里-纹理) b. *lanbo* (覽波-嵐波) and etc. (3) some Sino-Sanskrit phonograms which represented the Sino-Sillaic coda [-r/l] discussed in section 4, such as a. *mi* (蜜) b. *lü* (律) and etc. (4) some Koreanized Literary Sinitic (Or *Sillasik hanmun* 新羅式漢文) expressions which had the admixture of the Silla language discussed in section 5, such as a. *zai* (有), *you* (在) VS *issda* (있다) b. *jianzai* (見在) VS *poyō issda* (보여 있다), *po'ida* (보이다) and etc.

In conclusion, Hyeych'o's Memoir was recorded as the drafts while his knowledge of sinographs and Literary Sinitic were based on the education he had received in Silla. In the other words, as one of the most significant and precious primary sources in the Korean language history, Hyeych'o's Memoir represented the Koreanized Literary Sinitic writing style of contemporary Silla.

**[Keywords]:** Hyeych'o 慧超; *Memoir of a Pilgrimage to the Five Indian Kingdoms* 往五天竺國傳; the drafts; Chinese vernacular sinographs used in Silla; Koreanized Literary Sinitic

## References

Donald S. Lopez Jr. 2017. *Hyecho's Journey: the World of Buddhism*. Chicago: University of Chicago Press.

Jeong Su-il 鄭守一. 2004. *Hyecho ui Wang o Cheonchukguk jeon* 혜초의 왕오천축국전 [Hyecho's "Memoirs of a pilgrimage to the five Indian kingdoms"]. Seoul: Hakgojae.

Kin Bunkyō 金文京. 2010. *Kanbun to higashi ajia: kundoku no bunkaken* [Literary Sinitic and East Asia: a cultural sphere of vernacular reading]. Tokyo: Iwanami Shoten. Translated by King, Ross, Burge Marjorie, Park Si nae, Lushchenko Alexey, Hattori Mina. Leiden; Boston: Brill. 2021.

Kuwayama Shōshin 桑山正進 (eds.). 1992. *Echō Ō go Tenjikukoku-den kenkyū* [Study of Hyecho's "Memoirs of a pilgrimage to the five Indian kingdoms"]. Kyōto: Rinsen Shoten.

Matty Wegehaupt. 2012. "Open Road to the World: Memoirs of a Pilgrimage to the Five Indian Kingdoms," Roderick Whitfield (ed.). *Collected Works of Korean Buddhism*, vol. 10, *Korean Buddhist Culture: Accounts of a Pilgrimage, Monuments, and Eminent Monks*. pp. 5–174. Seoul: Jogye Order of Korean Buddhism.

Maurizio Riotto. 2010. *Pellegrinaggio alle cinque regioni dell'India*. Milan: O Barra O.

Pelliot Paul M. 1908. "Une bibliothèque médiévale retrouvée au Kan-sou", *Bulletin de l'Ecole Française D'extrême Orient* (EFEO), Tome VIII, nos 3-4, Juillet-Décembre, Hanoi.

Yang Han-Sung, Jan Yun-hua, and Iida Shotaro. 1984. *The Hye Ch'o Diary: Memoir of the Pilgrimage to the Five Regions of India*. Laurence Preston (ed.) Berkeley, CA: Asian Humanities Press.

Zhang Yi 張毅. 1994. *Wang wu tianzhuguo zhuan jianshi* 往五天竺國傳箋釋 [Notes and interpretations of "Memoirs of a pilgrimage to the five Indian kingdoms"]. Beijing: Zhonghua Book Company.