

Abstract

Royal Vernacular Materials in the Joseon Dynasty

In this lecture, we will introduce concrete examples of the use of Hangeul in the royal family of the Joseon Dynasty through existing royal materials of the Joseon Dynasty written in the Korean old vernacular, and consider the value of the royal vernacular materials. In the Annals of the Joseon Dynasty, specific cases of using Hangeul in the royal family from the time when Hangeul was created are recorded and handed down. However, extant royal vernacular materials have been confirmed since the end of the 16th century. Therefore, in this lecture, we will examine the aspects of Hangeul's use in the royal family after the creation of Hangeul through historical records, and deal with specific cases in which Hangeul was used in the royal family through existing royal vernacular materials. "Royal vernacular materials" refer to Hangeul materials written or used by the King and his family, or intended for them. This can be subdivided into Korean old vernacular materials written by the king and his family, Korean old vernacular materials for the king and his family, and Korean old vernacular materials used by the king and his family. First of all, among the "Korean old vernacular materials directly written by the king and his family," the royal *eon'gan* (諺簡) is representative. The royal *eon'gan* was written by members of the royal family, such as the king, queen, or princess, so the king or queen's handwriting remains intact and shows the royal language and daily life. Sometimes, the royal *eon'gan* can glimpse the other side of the political situation at the time. Representative examples of "Korean old vernacular materials for the king and his family" include *Uigwe*(儀軌) written in Korean old vernacular and *Wangsil Balgi*(王室 발기 [件記]) produced in the course of royal ceremonies. In particular, *Wangsil Balgi* containing items to be used in the royal family in the late Joseon Dynasty or the details of items required are intensively recorded, and the Korean and Chinese characters of the same content coexist. Therefore, it shows in detail what kind of things are in the royal family's vocabulary, what characteristics the royal family's vocabulary is, and how things written in Hangeul are written in Chinese characters. "Korean old vernacular materials used by the king and royal family" include the royal dress code book (*Sajeolboksae* [kajangyoram 四節服色. 資粧要覽]), the royal family's childbirth guidelines (*Limsanyejibeop* 臨產豫知法), *cheonjamun*(千字文) placed on a 1-year-old birthday party (*royal cheonjamun*), Various materials such as materials (*Nyeolsheng Hubijimun*) remain.

These royal vernacular materials of the Joseon Dynasty are important data for understanding the royal culture, such as the royal language, clothing, food, and customs. Therefore, there is a need for a holistic and comprehensive study on the royal vernacular materials in the Joseon Dynasty is necessary.