

Park Pooja

Sungshin Women's University

## Royal Women and Korean old Vernacular Materials in the Joseon Dynasty

### Abstract

In this lecture, we will introduce specific examples of Korean old vernacular materials related to royal women of the Joseon Dynasty and consider the characteristics and values of Korean old vernacular materials related to royal women.

Korean old vernacular materials of royal women can be divided into Korean old vernacular materials written directly by royal women, Korean old vernacular materials directly used by royal women, and Korean old vernacular materials targeting royal women. First of all, the earliest Korean old vernacular materials written by royal women is *Naehun*(內訓). *Naehun*(內訓) was compiled and written by Queen Sohye (昭惠王后, 1437-1504). It is the only primary source written directly in Korean old vernacular by a royal woman in the 15th and 16th centuries. In the late Joseon Dynasty, various materials written by royal women themselves are handed down. A representative example is the Korean old vernacular letters(*eongan*, 諺簡) written by queens and princesses. *Eongan*(諺簡) written by royal women are different from letters written by women from noble families in terms of send-recipient relationship, content, language, and font. There are *Seongunyusa*(先君遺事) and *Seonbiyusa*(先妣遺事) written by Queen Inwon.

Korean old vernacular materials directly used by royal women include materials for royal women's reading and educational books and guidelines for learning royal culture. There are still remaining books such as *Sajeolboksae*(四節服色) and *Guggibogaegsoseon*(國忌服色素膳), which are guidebooks for royal women's clothing, Nakseonjaebon classic novels for royal women's reading and *GOnbeom*(壺範) for royal women's education. *Donguibogameonhae*(東醫寶鑑諺解) can also be seen as being for the culture and reading of royal women.

Representative Korean old vernacular materials targeting royal women include *Wangsil Balgi*(王室발기[件記]) and *Holgi*(笏記), which were written for royal women in the process of performing royal ceremonies. *Wangsil Balgi* written for royal women are mainly representative of *clothing Balgi*(服飾件記) and *food Balgi*(飲食件記). *Clothing Balgi* is the list of clothes and accessories worn by royal women, and *food Balgi* is the list of foods used for ancestral rites for royal women. *Holgi*(笏記) corresponds to the order of ceremonies and is written in relation to the behavior of royal women in royal ceremonies.

Such Korean old vernacular materials related to royal women are not only materials that confirm the literate lives of royal women using Hangeul, but are also important materials for understanding royal culture, including the language, clothing, food, and customs of royal women.