



Academic Achievements of Prof. AISIN GIORO Ulhicun

Khitai Studies

With her profound knowledge on historical linguistics and Altaic linguistics, Prof. AISIN GIORO has made unprecedented achievements in terms of the decipherment of Khitai morphological structure, the simulation of Khitai phonetic system, and the reconstruction of Khitai grammar. Above all, she has conducted pioneering discoveries in both phonetic and semantic aspects of Khitai large and small scripts, and has simulated the sounds of 848 Khitai large scripts and 314 Khitai small scripts based on researches of the ideographs, phonographs as well as the etymology by which a large number of Khitai words were identified that are homogenous to their Mongolian counterparts.

In addition, Prof. AISIN GIORO is among the pioneers who ascertained the existence of ‘gender’ in the Khitai language, similar to Middle Mongolian. It was found that the category of ‘gender’ had been prevailing among the verbs and aspect words in Khitai language. For instance, the ‘first name’ and ‘style name’ of Khitai people carry suffixes marking their genders. More specifically, the suffix ‘-n’ used in Khitai men’s ‘style name’ and women’s ‘first name’ is able to derive adjectives and feminine adjectival verbs, while the suffix ‘-r’ in men’s ‘first name’ is the one that can function grammatically to derive masculine adjectival verbs. The research of prosodic structure of Khitai names has directly led to the discovery of the distinctive ancient Khitai custom – the derivation of a wife’s name from that of her husband’s, and the derivation of a son’s name from that of his father’s.

Besides, Prof. AISIN GIORO has made significant contribution to the development of Khitai language studies. Not only has she conducted comprehensive researches on the case and number

of Khitai *aspect words*, coupled with flexible grammatical usages of Khitai suffixes, but has also provided convincing evidence that Northern Chinese language in Liao Dynasty has eliminated ‘-k’ and ‘-t’ as ending consonants while still preserving ‘-p’. Together with the far-reaching argument on the succession relationship between Khitai large scripts and Jurchen large scripts. (*A Study of Khitai Language and Scripts*, Kyoto: Association of Eastern Literature and History, 2004; *History of Liao and Jin, and the Khitai and Jurchen Scripts*, Kyoto: Association of Eastern Literature and History, 2004; *A Study of Khitai Large Scripts*, Kyoto: Association of Eastern Literature and History, 2005; *AISIN GIORO Ulhicun’s Study on Khitan and Jurchen*, Kyoto, Shokado, 2009).

Her latest academic successes constitute a complete decipherment of five newly excavated epitaphs written in Khitai large and small scripts, along with clarified explanations of their historical backgrounds. She also deciphered for the first time the inscription of a seven-character quatrain in Khitai small script on the bronze mirror owned by the National Museum of Korea (in *The Khitais and Jurchens as Seen from the Korean Peninsula*, Kyoto, Kyoto University Press, 2011) Her newly published work, *A Study of Morphology of the Khitai Language*, is a byproduct of the research project, *The Edit of the Dictionary of the Khitai Language*, JSPS Grant-in-Aid, 2008-2010, in which a complete translation of all stone inscriptions written in Khitai large and small scripts is provided in the preface of the book. Its first half presents the variety of ‘gender’ in terms of the suffixes in Khitai language. The second half deals with the elucidation of morphological and syntactic characteristics of nominals, verbs and functional words. (Kyoto: Association of Eastern Literature and History, 2011).

Prof. AISIN GIORO’s study of Morphology of Khitai Language marked a milestone in that it has accommodated contemporary historians a panoramic view of the Khitai culture and the dynamic interaction between Khitai people and their fraternal ethnic groups. This study has bridged the gap between conventional linguistic and historical researches, as well as those among documents in both Chinese and Khitai languages. It has transcended not only the traditional methodology of historical researches of the Liao Dynasty, but also the constraint of the accounts in Chinese literatures such as the *Liaoshi* (*The Liao History as Seen from Epitaphs in Khitai Scripts*, Kyoto, Shokado, 2006). The book delves into the contents, characteristics, and relationships among imperial family (the Yelü clan and the Yaonian clan), queen families, and other Khitai tribes of the Liao Dynasty. It further uncovers the structures and the historical development of the *Heng Zhang* (横帳) and the *Guojiu Zhang* (国舅帳), and offered a considerable amount of rectification on the *Huangzubiao* and the *Waiqibiao* of the *Liaoshi* based on investigations of genealogies of families of some outstanding figures in the Liao Dynasty. The analysis of Prof. AISIN GIORO denies the hypothesis that the Jin Dynasty was primarily named as *the Jurchen State*, and convincingly proposed that the title of the Liao Dynasty is *Hulji Khitai* (胡里只契丹) or *Khitai Hulji* (契丹胡里只), rather than *Qara Khitai* (哈喇契丹). In addition, Prof. AISIN GIORO also proved that the Yalud Clan (耶律氏) was originated from the tribe of Tois Deraq (陶猥思迭剌). Further, The book threw light on the dynamic interaction among Khitai people and other ethnic groups from the cultural-historical perspectives such as their address forms to themselves, among relatives, polite addresses to women, as well as to Chinese people, paired with researches on distinctive Khitai marriage customs. The book distinguishes itself in its convincing verification of the historical facts of Khitai people based on profound Khitai language sources. It has ushered a

freshly new era of Khitai study.

Jurchen Studies

Prof. AISIN GIORO's latest academic achievements in Jurchen studies include a comprehensive decipherment of the Stele in Jurchen Large Script from Gyeongwon and the Stele in Jurchen Large Script from Bukcheong owned by the National Museum of Korea (*The Khitais and Jurchens as Seen from the Korean Peninsula*, Kyoto: Kyoto University Press, 2011), coupled with clarification of trilingual Yongning Temple stele engraved in Jurchen large script, Uighuric Mongolian and Chinese in 1413, as well as the *Nüzhenyiyu* compiled by the Siyiguan during early Ming Dynasty (*Jurchens in the Ming Era: From the Nüzhenyiyu to the Yongningsibei*, Kyoto: Kyoto University Press, 2009). By means of study of the Jurchen Stone Monument at Serven Khaalga, Mongolia. Prof. AISIN GIORO confirmed the marching route of the military troops of the Jin Dynasty led by Wanyan Xiang, Youchengxiang in 1196 in their conquer of 北术孛 and the historical fact of their elimination of the remaining enemy forces. She also provided the most updated explanation on the etymon of 扎兀惕•忽里 in *The Secret History of the Mongols* in the Khitai language. Jurchen Stone Monument at Serven Khaalga, Mongolia and Ja'ud-quri (*Research on Inscriptions of Jin Dynasty in Mongolia*,) (*Report of Research Project, JSPS Grant-in-aid for Scientific Research, 2004-2005*).

From the engraved words in the Quaxue stele in Shangjing of the Jin Dynasty in Jurchen Large Script excavated in E'Cheng of Heilongjiang Province in 1994, Prof. AISIN GIORO verified the establishment of Jurchen Education Institute under the reign of Emperor Shizong, and accordingly proved the prosperity in Jurchen education in the ancient capital -- Shang Jing Aisin Gioro *Ulhicun's Study on Khitan and Jurchen*, Kyoto, Shokado, 2009). On the basis of decipherment of the inscriptions in Jurchen large script of the Hirjala Momke Bogin Stone Box"excavated in Inner Mongolia Autonomous Region in 2009, she unveiled the mysterious history of the Hirjala momke Bogin tribe and their migration stories, which are missing in the *Jinshi* (A Study of the inscriptions in Jurchen large script of Hirjala Momke Bogin's Stone Box, *An annual report :the Takanashi Foundation for Arts and Archeology*, 2009. She also restored the manuscript reminiscent of the *Nüzhezishu* (女直字書) found in Beilin of Xi'an in 1973 which was compiled in early Jin Dynasty (*A Study of the Nüzhezishu*, Fugasha, 2001). She carried out systematic researches on the phonetic, morphological and syntactic structures of the Jurchen language and their evolutions reflected in literatures in the Jin and Ming Dynasties written in Jurchen Large Scripts. Moreover, she differentiated the large and small Jurchen scripts for a second time in *History of Liao and Jin, and the Khitai and Jurchen Scripts*, Kyoto: Association of Eastern Literature and History, 2004.

Manchu Studies

In this field, Prof. AISIN GIORO has recently comprehensively deciphered the two proclamations of gratitude by the kings of Joseon in Manchu script owned by the National Museum of Korea (*The Khitais and Jurchens as Seen from the Korean Peninsula*. Kyoto: Kyoto University Press, 2011). In *Manchu Language Grammar* (People's Press of Inner Mongolia, P.R.C., 1983), *Textbook for Manchu Language* (People's Press of Inner Mongolia, P.R.C., 1985), *Phonetics and*

Phonology of Manchu Language (Kyoto: Genbunsha, 1992), she fulfilled a set of intensive researches on the phonological, morphological and syntactic aspects of Manchu Language. In *Manchu Ancient Mythologies* (People's Press of Inner Mongolia, P.R.C., 1987), she carried out broad study on contemporary Manchu language preserved in folk literatures spoken in Heilongjiang dialects and Nenjiang dialects. What's more, Prof. AISIN GIORO also undertook studies on history of the Qing Dynasty and Manchu culture from the perspective of linguistic studies of Manchu and Jurchen languages in *A Collection of Theses on Manchu Studies by Scholars of Three Generations in AISIN GIORO Family* (Yuanfang Press, 1996), and *A Collection of Theses on Altaic Studies by Scholars of Three Generations in AISIN GIORO Family* (Meizendo, 2002).