《奧古斯特公爵圖書館菲律賓唐人手稿》研究

A study of the *Philippine Chinese Manuscripts in The Herzog August Library*Fabio Yuchung Lee, Chinfa Lien and Ying Cheng

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Contacts between languages was an important aspect in the exchange of foreign cultures, and one notable example concerned the Hokkien people in the 16th century as they ventured into Southeast Asia to trade. When they encountered Western European colonizers and local indigenous peoples in the process, the contact of languages, as well as the studying of each other's languages that followed became a significant component of the cultural exchanges that occurred.

Due to the scarcity of related historical materials in the past, the few translation documents of western languages and Hokkien held by Europeans that were available earlier often gave readers the impression that the Hokkien people undertook a relatively passive role in the cultural exchange process. But as the *Philippine Chinese Manuscripts in The Herzog August Library* were discovered and published, these documents were evidence of the precious historical process showing how Hokkien Sangleys in the Philippines have actively studied Spanish and Tagalog.

Realizing the historical and linguistic value contained in this set of manuscripts, professors Fabio Yuchung Lee, Chinfa Lien and Ying Cheng formed a team to conduct interdisciplinary research on them, currently the sole surviving collection of documents that detailed how 17th century Hokkien people studied a foreign language. In terms of division of labor, the host had studied the document, deducing its creators and their backgrounds, as well as historical details concerning associated vocabulary; on the other hand, the two co-hosts had analysed the content of the manuscripts with their specialties in linguistics, studying pronunciation and vocabulary used in 17th century Spanish and Hokkien. In addition, interdisciplinary discussions were held in team meetings, from which the fruitful results were recorded and organized.











This team, through support from the interdisciplinary research plan, had organized and recompiled the manuscripts for publishing. The *Philippine Chinese Manuscripts in The Herzog August Library* was published by National Tsing Hua University Press in 2020, which was met with acclaim from academic circles.[1]

Regarding research findings, the team had already published two articles. The preliminary study of the Philippine Chinese Manuscripts in The Herzog August Library confirmed the production time of the manuscripts and addressed the issue of living space of the associated Hokkien merchant community.[2] On the other hand, Approaching the Spaniard's Manuscript from Phonological and Lexical Vintage Point utilized historical materials in the manuscripts to analyze Spanish pronunciations in the 17th century, while expounding on the linguistic diversity in the manuscripts.[3] Also, contents of an account book in the manuscripts were also given a preliminary transcription and decipherment, which were published in the article Introduction of the fifth type of account books, Shubu Daji Lishi in Philippine Chinese Manuscripts in the Herzog August Library.[4]

In terms of training researchers, currently there were two graduate students who undertook research efforts on the manuscripts. Professor Fabio Yuchung Lee's student Louis Ianchun Ng had completed his master's thesis *An analysis of the early seventeenth-century commercial material of the Philippine Chinese Manuscripts in the Herzog August Library*.[5] Professor Ying Cheng and her graduate student Wenjun Chen have presented the paper *A Preliminary Study on the Chinese Character Writing of the Philippine Chinese Manuscripts in the Herzog August Library* in The Third Symposium on Taiwan Languages that took place on October 5, 2019.[6] Wenjun Chen is also composing his master's thesis under the topic *A Lexical Analysis of the Philippine Chinese Manuscripts in the Herzog August Library*. They were both talented researchers trained by the research plan.

- [1] Fabio Yuchung Lee, Tsung-jen Chen, José Luis Caño Ortigosa, Shih Wen-cheng. *Hokkien Spanish Historical Document Series II: Philippine Chinese Manuscripts in the Herzog August Library*. Hsin-chu: National Tsing Hua University Press, 2020.
- [2] Fabio Yuchung Lee, Ricardo Cheng-yan Chang, Louis Ianchun Ng. The preliminary study of the *Philippine Chinese Manuscripts in The Herzog August Library*. Journal of Monsoon Asian Studies 2019; 8: 93-117.
- [3] Chinfa Lien, Fabio Yuchung Lee, Ying Cheng. Approaching the Spaniard's Manuscript from Phonological and Lexical Vintage Point. Journal of Monsoon Asian Studies 2020; 10: 37-67.
- [4] Louis Ianchun Ng, Eason Kunhan Lee, Sin-Ieng Cheong. Introduction of the fifth type of account books, Shubu Daji Lishi in *Philippine Chinese Manuscripts in the Herzog August Library*. Journal of Monsoon Asian Studies 2020; 11: 151-189.
- [5] Ng, Ian Chun. An analysis of the early seventeenth-century commercial material of the *Philippine Chinese Manuscripts in the Herzog August Library*. Hsin-chu: National Tsing Hua University, 2020.
- [6] Chen, Wenjun and Ying Cheng. A Preliminary Study on the Chinese Character Writing of the *Philippine Chinese Manuscripts in the Herzog August Library*. The Third Symposium on Taiwan Languages. Hsinchu: National Tsing Hua University. October 5, 2019.
- [7] Lien, Chinfa. Forthcoming. Historical Documents on Southern Min. In Hsiu-Huang Hsiao (ed.) Encyclopedia on Taiwan Studies. Leiden: Brill.