

<Abstract>

Le conoscenze mediche in lingua latina nella Corea del XVIII secolo

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[English]

Chosŏn, unlike China and Japan, where Jesuit missionaries reached from the 16th century with Western knowledge written in Latin language, was completely isolated from direct contact with Latin texts, since the government did not allow them to be admitted to its territory. Therefore, China was the unique path to encounter Latin documents for Chosŏn, because the government regularly dispatched envoys and scholars to Ming and Qing Dynasty for cultural exchange. In China, numerous Jesuit missionaries, including Matteo Ricci, translated various texts in Latin on Catholic doctrines, astronomy, mathematics, and medicine into Classical Chinese, or even wrote ones in Classical Chinese directly. These texts could be transmitted into Chosŏn in the name of *Sŏhak* (西學), «Western knowledge», by a group of practical scholars, *Sirakcha* (實學者). The texts introduced into Chosŏn and diffused by practical scholars were as follows: *De Deo Verax Disputatio* (『天主實義』) of Matteo Ricci; *Zhuzhi Qunzheng* (『主制羣徵』) of Adam Schall, a partial translation into Classical Chinese of *De Providentia Numinis* of Leonardo Lessio; *De Anima* (『靈言蠡勺』) of Francesco Sambiasi, transcribed by *Xú Guāngqǐ* (徐光啓), *Taixi Shuifa* (『泰西水法』) of Sabbatino de Ursis. Chosŏn scholars, especially who wanted to overcome the limitations of Korean medicine, tried to trace and understand medical knowledge contained in those texts, thereby eventually contributing to create a sort of Western medical discourse in Chosŏn society. The European knowledge, produced in Latin, the official language of Europe for studies, and came over until East Asia, could be reached in Korean peninsula thanks to Jesuit missionaries, the only Latin experts in East Asia, being translated into Classical Chinese, the official language in that area for studies, even though Chosŏn had no chance to encounter Latin language. This passage of knowledge stems from one characteristic of Latin language as a cultural vector, which allow to circulate specific concepts that represent European ideas.

Key Words: Jesuit, Latin language, medical knowledge, Chosŏn, translation, Sirhak(實學), cultural exchange