

Research Objectives



View of Heaven (天觀)

Perception of Heaven



View of Earth (地觀)

Perception of Earth



View of Humanity (人間觀)

Perception of Humanity

Main Research Objectives

- To demonstrate that Donghak-related thought constructed a worldview fusing East and West through the Eastern philosophical method of thinking.
- To analyze the indigenous-modernity features of the View of Heaven, View of Earth, and View of Humanity from the perspectives of correlative thought and Liminality.
- To verify, through a comparison of Donghak Thought and Daesoon Thought, the completeness of "True Donghak" as a philosophical thinking methodology.

Expected Effects

- Rediscovering the value of the East's indigenous modernity as a philosophical method of thinking on par with modern scientific philosophy.
- Exploring its potential as an alternative modernity in response to the crises of modern society.

Research Scope and Method

Research Scope

- Examining indigenous modernity centered on the View of Heaven (天觀), View of Earth (地觀), and View of Humanity (人間觀) of Donghak Thought and Daesoon Thought.
- A comparative study centered on early Donghak (Suun's four-year period of activity) and Daesoon Thought's 'True Donghak'.

Theoretical Framework

- Liminality: applying the theory that explains religious change as the liminal zone of a rite of passage.
- Revitalization: analyzing the process by which tradition is revitalized in response to external threats.
- Correlative thought (correlative thought): an approach grounded in the East's philosophical mode of thinking.

Research Method

- Detailed research sequence: analysis of prior research on modernity → identifying the conditions of indigenous modernity → comparative analysis centered on the View of Heaven, View of Earth, and View of Humanity → conclusion.
- Textual sources: analysis centered on the Donggyeong Daejeon (東經大全) and the Yongdam Yusa (龍潭遺詞) (Donghak), and the Jeon-gyeong (典經) (Daesoon Thought).

Theoretical Foundations of the Study



Correlative Thought (相關的 思惟, Correlative Thinking)

- ◆ An Eastern system of thought that first views the whole of all things and understands the parts within their context and relationships.
- ◆ Unlike Western analytical thought (Analytical Thought), a holographic (全息的) and holistic system of thought.
- ◆ A way of thinking from the whole to the parts, like writing an address starting from the farthest country name.



Liminality — Mechanism of Change

- ◆ The concept of the liminal zone of a rite of passage proposed by Victor Turner.
- ◆ Explains the process of transformation that occurs in the boundary space between before and after change.
- ◆ Unlike dichotomous Western thinking, it understands individual and social change through a third liminal zone.



Revitalization Theory (Revitalization Movements) — Mechanism of Continuity

- ◆ The theory of cultural response to external threats proposed by Anthony F. C. Wallace.
- ◆ The process of reorganizing a belief system by drawing on the strengths of tradition in times of identity crisis — Liminality
- if it explains the mechanism of change, Revitalization explains the mechanism of sustaining that change.

Conclusion and Outlook

Academic Significance of the Study · The Possibility of a Fusion of Civilizations

- Strengthening the contemporary status of Eastern philosophy and presenting an alternative to Western modernity.
- Rediscovering the distinctiveness and universality of Eastern thought through indigenous modernity.

- Presenting a model for the mutually complementary combination of Eastern and Western systems of thought.
- Seeking a new direction for civilization through a harmony of alternative rationality and ethics.

Value for Application to Modern Society · Directions for Future Research

- Presenting measures to overcome the environmental crisis through the integration of the View of Heaven, View of Earth, and View of Humanity.
- The possibility of integrating the East's correlative thought and the West's analytical thought.

- Expanding inquiry into the practical-philosophical dimensions of Donghak and Daesoon Thought.
- Research into the creative fusion of modern scientific-technological civilization and Eastern thinking methodology.

"The East's indigenous modernity provides a new system of thought and practice for overcoming the crisis of modern civilization."