

Comparison of History Courses Offered at Taihoku Imperial University and Keijo Imperial University (1926-1945)

Pi-ling Yeh

ABSTRACT

During the Japanese colonial era, the Taihoku Imperial University was established in Taiwan and the Keijo Imperial University, in Chaoxian. These two colonial universities both offered history courses. The history courses taught at Japanese universities comprised three areas, namely the history of Japan, the East and the West. However, when such history courses were offered in colonial universities, there were some changes made. The Taihoku Imperial University in Taiwan changed the course History of the West into History of Nanyang; while the Keijo Imperial University in Chaoxian replaced the course History of the West with History of Chaoxian. The lectures on History of Nanyang given at Taihoku Imperial University used to include Introduction to History of Nanyang, the learning of Dutch and Spanish languages, the Historical Relations between Japan and other countries of Nanyang, the Development of Europeans in Nanyang, the History of Taiwan and the Study of Books Specialized in Nanyang History. Over a period of 17 years (1928-1945), the faculty members included Iwao Seiiti, Yanai Kenji and Murakami Naojiro. There were 62 graduates, but only two, She-jie Ke and Liang-biao Zhang, were Taiwanese. Upon graduation, neither of them pursued further in related studies. On the other hand, at the Keijo Imperial University, there were also lectures on History of Chaoxian such as Historiography of Chaoxian, Historical Geography of Chaoxian, History of Xinluo, History of Gaoli, History of Chaoxian in Li Period and the Study of Books Specialized in Chaoxian History. Over a period of 19 years (1926-1945), the faculty members included Imanisi Ryu, Oda Syogo, Hujita Ryosaku and Suematu Yasukazu. Among 121 graduates, one-third (around 40 graduates) were from Chaoxian. Many of them continued research in fields related to History of Chaoxian, and made remarkable achievements. In sum, the number of courses, the size of the faculty and the

student population at the Taihoku Imperial University were all smaller than those of the Kejyo Imperial University. After World War II, the course on History of Nanyang was discontinued at the National Taiwan University while the course on the History of Taiwan under Dutch and Spanish rule was replaced by History of China, which has become the focus of research. Compared with Taiwan, Korea continued their research on history of Chaoxian with no interruption. Hence, Korea's achievement in the research on History of Korea, History of Sino-Korean Relations, and History of China was noteworthy in terms of both high quality and large quantity.

Keywords: Taihoku Imperial University, Kejyo Imperial University, Taiwan History, History of Nanyang, History of Chaoxian