A Study on Landscape Enjoyment through Sadaebu's Tea Culture in the 18-19 Centuries of the Joseon Dynasty: focused on 'Dasan Jeong-Yakyoung's tea poems'

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This research investigated the way of the landscape enjoyment of Joseon Sadaebu in the 18 and 19th century by examining the factors in landscape and the way of enjoyment appeared in the tea poems written by Jeong Yak-yong.

The landscape enjoyment with tea appears in variety in each historical background. Accordingly, this research studied the background of the 18 and 19th century, focusing on Dasan Jeong Yak-yong, who, as the contemporary intellectual, had led to the restoration of tea culture, having a wide knowledge and deep learning. It analyzed Jeong Yak-yong’s poems regarding tea for the research methodology, and utilized the contemporary poems and tea paintings as supplementary data in order to promote the understanding of the research.

First, it examined the trend of how the tea culture and the historical background had spread at the time of 18 and 19th century for the research. There appeared cultural revival, new philosophies, and knowledge exchange transcending the classes through the importation of the civilization from Qing Dynasty and Japan, and the dissemination of publication culture with the background of active urban culture in Joseon. Those social changes provided a starting point for the tea culture to be revived, which was weakened after it entered Joseon Dynasty. Second, it revealed its meaning to the contemporary Sadaebu and its relationship with the tea culture. Furthermore, it studied the tea-gathering which was a social meeting with tea, and the correlation between tea culture and landscape enjoyment culture. Jeong Yak-yong shared the contemporary tea culture with various human relationships by enjoying and savoring teas in magnificent landscape or other appropriate place.

The study confirmed the meaning of tea to him and his inner world through his life and philosophy. In addition, it examined the ideological landscape which he pursued and wanted to share along with tea. It categorized the types of tea poems into these three—pungnyu and cultural and philosophical exchange, physical and mind training, utilization of tea for medication—by poetic phrase and key words contained in the tea poems by Jeong Yak-yong. It confirmed that he drank pleasure contained in tea, and utilized it as a medium to interact with friends, to train and grow mind.

Based on the theoretical investigation, it set up analytic frame, and assessed the tea poem by Jeong Yak-yong. With theoretical investigation and the reference on the research subject, it analyzed and compared the factors of landscapes, which were presented differently by his intention to enjoy the tea through Mulkyung (object’s scenery) and JeongKyung (describing the landscape sensuously as if to draw painting) in each type of poem. It derived the characteristics of the accompanying behaviors by looking for factors and places in Mulkyung.

Jeong Yak-young had shown different behaviors according to his intention, purpose and place to enjoy
tea. When he enjoyed the landscape for Pungnyu and cultural and philosophical exchange, he often used Nujeongdae that was located in a high place of deep mountain where he did cultural and poetical activities such as drinking, writing poems, and play.

When he drinks tea and enjoys the landscape, he usually did in his private library and garden which was in his residence. This was a result from combining daily pattern of having tea, original intention of training mind and body, and a sense of place. It confirmed that his usual behaviors in the place were walking in the garden as a static activity, thinking or meditating while watching the surrounding objectives (gaining knowledge by the study of things), and attaining the mental status of ‘person and objective as one’.

By dividing the factors in JeongKyung into these three parts–the symbolic meaning in the poetic meaning, sensitivity, and the sensuous enjoyment obtained from natural phenomenon– and investigating them, it confirmed that he had taken different enjoyment approaches according to the way of the landscape enjoyment, the hidden meaning, his intention and purpose to utilize tea. Jeong Yak-yong used the surrounding objectives to gain realization by imparting special meaning to them according to their morphological, ecological, physiological characteristics. He had actively taken advantage of surrounding objectives, his five senses and natural phenomenon properly in his own landscape enjoyment.

Keywords: Tea Culture, Landscape Enjoyment, Dasan Jeong-Yakyoung, Tea Poems, 18-19C Joseon Dynasty