

Japan Academy Prize to:

Yoshihiro KAWACHI
 Professor Emeritus, Kyoto University
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for *A Manchu Dictionary*



Outline of the work:

In the first half of the 17th century the Manchus marched into China from its north-eastern frontier and established the Qing Dynasty (1636–1911). The Manchus conquered Mongolia, Tibet, and the eastern part of Central Asia, and became the rulers of a powerful state called the Qing Empire.

Manchu, the language of the rulers, became the first official language for the empire as a whole. However, since the empire was a multiracial-state, Chinese and Mongolian languages were used jointly as official languages next to Manchu. Almost up to the 1980s studies on the Qing Dynasty were pursued on the basis of compiled-materials written in Chinese. However, after the 1980s, the Manchu-language archives of the Qing Dynasty (*Qingdai-Manwen-dang'an* 清代滿文檔案), the primary historical materials on the dynasty, were put in orders and opened to the public. Their value and importance have gradually been duly recognized. Now many researchers of the Qing Dynasty recognize that serious study of the dynasty is impossible without studying the Manchu-language archives. The archives are estimated to comprise more than 2,000,000 volumes and they cover many subjects including administration, economics, diplomacy, and military affairs. In order to use these valuable Manchu materials, an adequate Manchu dictionary is necessary and indispensable.

After the Manchu-language archives of the Qing Dynasty were made available to the public, Dr. Yoshihiro Kawachi, whose specialty is the history of the Jushens (女真) and the Manchus, continued his philological studies on them with vigor. In the late 1980s, Dr. Kawachi decided to compile a high-quality Manchu dictionary. After more than two decades of hard work and diligence, he finished *A Manchu Dictionary* (Kyoto: Shōkadō-shoten, 2014).

The following characteristics highlight his original ideas and strategies for the Manchu Dictionary.

First, in order to prepare Japanese translations of Manchu head-words, Dr. Kawachi used Manchu translations found in the *Yuzhi-zengding-Qingwenjiang* (御製增訂清文鑑), a Manchu-Manchu-Chinese dictionary edited in the Qing period in the name of Emperor Qian-long (乾隆帝). This means that Japanese translations have a reliable foundation.

Second, this dictionary contains whole vocabularies found in five kinds of Manchu-Chinese dictionaries like the *Qingwen-zonghui* (清文總彙) and the *Daiqing-quanshu* (大清全書), which were edited in the Qing period. In addition the sources for each item of Manchu vocabulary are shown with their respective volume- and page-numbers. This dictionary relies on concrete sources and specifies source names. It means that thorough “*genten-shugi* (source-ism)” is attained in this dictionary and this principle bestows scientific objectivity on it. Other modern Manchu dictionaries lack such objectivity.

Third, this dictionary collects many vocabulary items as well as example-sentences from Manchu-language archives related to history such as the *Manwen-Laodang* (滿文老檔) and the *Manwen-Taizong-*

Shilu (滿文太宗實錄). Dr. Kawachi is himself the author of such a voluminous book as the *Translation and Explanatory Notes to the Part of the 2nd and 3rd years of Chongde* (崇德) *of Nei-Gushiyan-dang'an* (內國史院檔案) in the *First Historical Archives of China* (Kyoto: Shōkadō-shoten, 2010). He has enough knowledge about Manchu-language archives. Since this dictionary reflects his deep knowledge of them, it is a useful tool for researchers of Manchu-language archives.

Fourth, this dictionary turns out to be the best and the newest Manchu dictionary for foreign researchers who can understand Chinese. In recent years, several Manchu dictionaries have been published abroad. However they have shortcomings and Dr. Kawachi's dictionary greatly surpasses them in terms of vocabulary, example-sentences and so on. For example we should pay attention to the fact that Dr. Kawachi, who expected this dictionary would be used abroad, added original Chinese translations found in Manchu-Chinese dictionaries of the Qing period to every Manchu vocabulary item in this dictionary.

He is now preparing *A Manchu Dictionary. Indexes* comprising a Japanese index and a Chinese index. With the publication of these indices, utility of his dictionary will increase still more.

As one of the most excellent works produced by Japanese Orientalists, Dr. Kawachi's dictionary will certainly be used long hereafter by scholars in the world and it will contribute greatly to the development of the Manchu studies.