

Discussion

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A geographical name is an expression of the people's perception on their places, reflecting culture and history of the people and place. It is a representation of social subject's identity of the geographical feature located in a certain place. The same will be applied to the maritime feature *East Sea/Sea of Japan*, known consistently as *Donghae* to Koreans. Each of the three papers presented in this session delivers with a specified focus how the name as well as the feature occupies a crucial part of the Koreans' life; historical legitimacy by SOH and KIM, emotional ties by LEE and geopolitical ramifications by YI.

One of the new findings provided by SOH and KIM, very surprisingly, would be that *Océan Oriental* and *Mer Orientale* were translations of *Donghae*(동해) as an endonym. According to SOH and KIM, P. Briet, a Jesuit father, in 1650 and G. Delisle, first geographer to the king, in 1700, were commonly informed of the local name of the sea, *Donghae* meaning East Sea, and translated it into *Océan Oriental* and *Mer Orientale*, respectively, in their maps.

I believe this is a meaningful finding in that it confirms the practice of translating an endonym, not romanizing, is not a new trend. It supports the name *East Sea* as a translation of an endonym *Donghae* and confirms the validity of its use as an authorized exonym adopted by the Korean party. In this context, *Océan Oriental*, *Mer Orientale*, *Oriental Sea*, *East Sea* and *Donghae* can be regarded as names with the same etymology.

LEE's paper is interesting in that it introduces a series of myths, legends, poems and essays related to the sea and contained in the name *Donghae*(*East Sea*). What these pieces of work convey, I believe, is Korean people's emotional ties to this maritime fea-

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ture and its name. Emotional ties is a set of first perception on the naming object which includes the process of turning external space into internal place. The abundance of the cultural work on the sea which can trace back to earlier history does support the capability of the name being an intangible cultural heritage. I expect more literature and cultural works to be available to strengthen the name as an essential part of cultural heritage.

YI's paper provides a grand view of relating naming problem with geopolitical perspectives. Geographical names, unfortunately, became vulnerable to geopolitical situation. Figures 8 and 9 of his paper, two maps in 1944 centered on Japan, show this distorted fact very well: With Tokyo being located at the center of the world, they contain names and expressions, e.g. concentric circles, reflecting Japan's expansionism and militarism. I believe the diffusion of the name *Sea of Japan* or *Nihonkai* in the first half of the twentieth century cannot be separated with this move.

Korean's emotional ties to the sea and its name *Donghae* are so strong that it may well be recognized also in the international society. A survey to 1,500 ordinary Korean people, carried out in July 2013, shows that most of the Korean people feel a certain kind of place identity with the sea. Ranked at the top are such identities as place of fisheries and related industries, place of travel and tourism, object of environmental conservation, place with high value of resources, etc. With regards to this identity, more than ninety percent of people think it important to use the name *Donghae*. Seventy-three percent of people are influenced in their emotional ties to the sea by the use of other names, e.g. *Sea of Japan*. Of course, those people who feel stronger emotional ties respond more sensitively to the need of using their name.