

Study on Pre-Qin Confucianism and Mohism from the Perspective of Thought Units

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Abstract

The introduction of “thought unit” and its application to the study of Chinese philosophy will be divided into two parts in my presentation. In the first part, I will introduce this new method of studying Chinese philosophy, explain that the “thought unit” is the method of systematic reconstruction of philosophical thought and point out the function of the “thought unit” in the study of ancient Chinese thoughts.

Then, I will analyze the structure in the “thought unit” and related factors such as the mastery of the phenomenon, the positioning of the meaning, the anticipation of the development and the intent of the thinker. As such, I will divide them into three parts: situation construction, situation handling and situational harmony.

In addition, I will introduce the reasoning method of the “thought unit,” of which the “reasoning” can be divided into the “reason in accordance with” and the “reason depended on.” The “reason in accordance with” refers to logic, such as deduction and induction. The “reason depended on” refers to ethics, legal principles, psychology and reason of other theories.

In the second part, I will explore specifically the issues of human features and ethics through the research methods of the “thought unit” by taking Confucianism and Mohism as examples. I hope to illustrate Mencius’ “good humanness” and Xunzi’s “the evil features of human nature,” the similarities and differences between Confucius’

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“benevolence” and Mozi’s “universal love,” and point out the possibility of the integration of Confucianism and Mohism in the larger “thought unit.”

About the Speaker:

Prof. Hsien-chung Lee obtained his Ph.D. from the Fu Jen Catholic University, Taiwan. He is currently a professor in the Department of Philosophy, and the associate dean of College of Liberal Arts at National Taiwan University. Prof. Lee is also the Chairman of Chinese Association of Philosophy in Taiwan.

Prof. Lee’s major research fields are methods of Chinese philosophy, philosophy of pre-Qin School of Names, philosophy of Mohism, and Chinese logic. Prof. Lee has numerous academic publications in Chinese philosophy. His recent book, *Han Fei, Escape Quickly!*, which tries to explain the relationship between the theory of Han Fei and the modern world in an easy and humorous tone, is highly acclaimed in Taiwan.

從思想單位研究先秦儒、墨哲學

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摘要

「思想單位」及其在研究中國哲學上的運用，我將分為以下兩個部份說明：首先，介紹這種研究中國哲學的新方法，說明「思想單位」是哲學思想系統化重構的方法，並指出「思想單位」在研究中國古代思想的功能及作用。其次，分析「思想單位」內的結構，涉及現象的掌握、意義的定位、事態發展的預期以及思想者企圖作為的意向等相關因素；可分為：情境構作、情境處理及情境融合三面向。再者，指出「思想單位」的推理方式，其中所推之「理」，可分為「所依之理」及「所據之理」。「所依之理」是指邏輯，如演繹法、歸納法等；「所據之理」是指：倫理、法理、心理等各家理論本身之理。

第二部分，我將透過「思想單位」的研究方法以儒家、墨家思想為例，考察人性、倫理方面的議題，說明：孟子「性善」與荀子「性惡」思想；孔子、墨子「仁愛」與「兼愛」思想間的異同與關聯性，並在更大的「思想單位」中指出儒、墨兩家思想整合之可能。

講者簡介：

李賢中教授為輔仁大學博士，目前為臺灣大學文學院副院長及哲學系教授。李教授的研究領域為中國哲學思想方法、先秦名家哲學、墨家哲學，以及中國邏輯學，並著有大量哲學研究論文及專書。此外，李教授於 2016 年出版的《韓非，快逃！》一書，以輕鬆幽默的方式介紹韓非的思想及其與現代社會的關係，在臺灣亦有相當正面之評價。