



On the Etymology of Japanese “Toshokan(図書館,Library)”

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Abstract: The Chinese translations of “Library” in the *Ying Ji Li Ji Lue* (《英吉利紀略》, *A Brief Report on England*) and *Hai Guo Tu Zhi* (《海国图志》, *The History of Foreign Countries*), which were introduced to Japan in the mid-19th century, are “a large Shuguan(书馆)” and “Shuguan”(“书馆”). However, in the *Hai Guo Tu Zhi* (《海国图志》, *The History of Foreign Countries*) originating from *Si Zhou Zhi* (《四洲志》, *Global History*), The Chinese words “Shuguan”(“书馆”) were mostly translated from English words “school” or “university/academic” rather than “library”. Okataro Morita in 1860 and Seiryu Ichikawa and Machida Hisanari in 1872 successively created the word “書籍館/Shojaku-kwan or Shoseki-kwan”. The word of the Japanese “図書館/Toshokan”(“library”) first came from the library of Departments of Law, Science and Literature of the University of Tokyo in 1877. As the representative of this library, the name of the university library in Japan had appeared in this evolutionary path that first to convert “書籍/Shoseki” into “図書/Tosho” and combine them with other appellations of the building facility (such as “図書室/Toshoshitsu”), and then replace it with “館/Kan”. The words “Tushu”(“图书”), “Wenku”(“文库”), “Tushushi”(“图书室”), “Tushuguan”(“图书馆”) have emerged in ancient China. Only “図書/Tosho” originated from the ancient Chinese in Japanese, and the institution called “図書寮/toshoryō” appeared in the early 8th century in Japan which was also responsible for the management of national collections. There is no evidence that “図書室/Toshoshitsu” and “図書館/Toshokan” which were the Japanese translation of the term “library”, were taken directly from the ancient Chinese appellation.

Keywords: Library; Toshokan; Shojaku-kwan; Shoseki-kwan; Etymology; Japan; Library History

图书馆学、情报学十年来十大热点中文论文

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数据说明:

1.数据源:CNKI数据库,图书情报与数字图书馆类。

2.统计时间窗:2010年1月1日至2019年8月11日。

3.检索时间:2019年8月11日。

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