

A study on Huh-Jeon's(許傳:1797-1886) "Semui"(深衣) Theory

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"Semui"(深衣) which confucianists have usually worn, is the typical garment of Old Asia. It is made of 12 pieces of white ramie cloth. The pattern and the measure about "Semui" are briefly written in 「Yaegi(禮記)」. If it is made as written by 「Yaegi」, not only there is no waste of cloth, but also the whole body is wrapped up. Each part of the garment was based on the philosophical meanings. The round lower line of the sleeves symbolized a neat appearance and the squared neck-line means that the things were treated correctly. The seam down the middle of the back on the upper part and the skirt was joined with a vertical line from top to bottom, which means the country was governed honestly. The lower seam of the skirt was horizontal, which means one's mind was impartial.

From the Chu(周) dynasty in China, many kinds of "Semui"(Fig1.2) with a straight neck line(直領深衣) were worn and the typical garment was from Koryo(高麗) dynasty to the 17C in Korea. Since Korea studied Meta-physics more deeply than China in the 18C, the real government has been emphasized and the concrete reformation has been done. Therefore, Han Back-Kyum(韓百謙:1552-1615, Fig 3) and Park Kyu-Su(朴珪壽1807-1876, Fig 4) newly produced "Semui" with the squared neck line(方領深衣), but this is not suitable for the record written in 「Yaegi」. So, Huh Jeon(1797-1886, Fig. 5) presented the new "Semui" with the squared neck line. This was accepted by many confucianists because this was suitable for the record in 「Yaegi」. We can see them wear this garment in their portraits. The only bad thing was to spend lots of cloths when making the sop(a kind of lapel which is on the front part of the body)

Huh Jeon presented how to make the "Semui" in 「Sai(士儀)」 as follows.

This is made of 12 pieces, which consist of the piece of 2 choks(尺) 2 chons(寸) and the length of 4 choks 4 chons. The upper part of the body is made with the cloth of 1 chok 2 chons(about 2/3 piece). Each sleeve is made with the cloth of 2 pieces and is connected with 9 chons(about 1/3 piece) which are the remaining cloth after the body part is cut. The sop and the lapel are made with each 1 piece and the skirt is made with 6 pieces. The lower part of the sleeve is cut roundly and then the seam of the sleeves is equal to 1 chok 2 chons and the black line is put on this seam. The inner sop and the outer sop are put on the body part and then the upper size of the sop is cut into 4 chons, the lower size of the sop into 1 chok 2 chons and the length of the sop into 1 chok. The cloth of the lapel is cut into 2 pieces, which are the width of 8 chons and the length of 1 chok 7 chons and they are connected and attached on the lapel. The width of the lapel is 8 chons, the length is 1 chok 2 chons and the width is 2 chons. The skirt is cut into 6 chons from the narrow side and 1 chok 2 chons from the wide side and then this is attached on the body part and the sop by putting the narrow side toward the upper side. Finally, in the outer part, the inner part and the back part, all of each 4 pieces, that is, all 12 pieces are attached. In the lower part of the skirt, the black line(the width of 1/2 chok) is put. Noh sang ik's(盧相益, Fig 6) "Semui"like this is displayed at the museum of Pusan National University, but the size of this garment is too small because the measure is changed a lot.