

The Analysis of Differences Between Residential Space Elements According to Chinese and Korean FengShui Theories

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1. Introduction

Relying on the development of scientific technology, our life styles are becoming more and more diverse. Accordingly, the pattern of our lives is witnessing a big change as well. The way we define space by its usage, whether it is a living space, a working space, or even a cultural space, has stopped being ambiguous. The period in which we used to take the function of space unsophisticatedly is over, and we are heading toward a new period of time. Traditional culture is experiencing a huge advancement and it is gaining influence on people mentally. As a mystic part of traditional culture, FengShui has its effects on graveyard, building palaces, houses, temples and even on urban planning decisions. The FengShui theory has been explaining the relationship between people and nature by the decision and planning of the living space. The differences of cultural backgrounds and traditional customs have made the FengShui theories different from region to region. Therefore this analysis will discuss the FengShui theory from concept to practical use and analyze the space elements by contrasting Korean and Chinese approaches.

2. The concept and meaning of FengShui





FengShui is the combination of two Chinese letters, Feng(wind) and Shui(water), which are 2 essential parts of nature. And by using these, the ecological environment and living environment can be mostly utilized. This theory was made by GuoPu in China during the period of DongJin(AC 314~402). He put the Yin & Yang, then topography & earth energy together to get help for the people's lives. Modern Chinese FengShui scholars divided FengShui into XingFa and QiFa. XingFa is the way to choose the topography or the position of a front garden. And QiFa is the way you arrange the space to use the environment energy perfectly.

Korean professor Changjo Choi says there was a local FengShui theory in Korea and the Chinese theory was later introduced in Korea. There is no big difference between the Chinese FengShui and the Korean, but Doseon FengShui which is part of the Goryeo national history is Koreans local FengShui theory, according to Choi. Doseon FengShui is different from the Chinese one by the sense of Complementary Temple and Pagoda. The land or earth is alive, and if there is something wrong there, you'd better fix it before you use it. This kind of thinking is a characteristic of local native FengShui theory[1]. FengShui theory improves the relationship between people and nature and gives people help in their lives. In Korea, there are a lot of examples that show that you have to fix the problem of the soil before using it, mostly because there are many mountains in Korea. So it is necessary to have some FengShui theory elements when you are building a house or something.

3. The space elements of Korean and Chinese living space

First, the FengShui theory accepts the way nature is, and we human beings are part of nature. Second, how we human beings can get benefits from nature is what decides how we use the FengShui theory.[2] If the space is perfectly matched with the FengShui theory, people can not only get rid of the physical hardships but also the mental ones. This is why the FengShui theory tells people the elements to build a "good" house. First, the space has to be properly associated with the geographic environment. The word FengShui refers to two natural geographic elements, wind and water, so the geographic elements are the most significant ones. As we said, land or earth is important. Second, the importance of direction. The direction of FengShui is based on the theory of the Yin-Yang School and the Eight Trigrams. For example, to get more sunshine, the houses are normally built heading to the south, which is a good direction. Third, the people. Taking people in the first place is very common in modern knowledge. However FengShui theory has used this kind of concept from the old days. People use FengShui to communicate with nature in their living space. Foregoers used FengShui theory to describe the relationships between human beings and space, and nature. Forth, one's mind. The way people feel inside decides the way we live, how we sense or whether we are happy or not. People chase different kinds of goals, so oneself's mind is a significant element on deciding if the space is good or not. In conclusion, the FengShui meanings between China and Korea, and space elements are like this as showed below.

[Table 1] The FengShui meanings between China and Korea

Region	Image	position	Methods of FengShui	Meaning	Space elements
China	 [3]	The city of Eight Trigrams Xinjiang Province China	XingFa (形法)	Understanding the relationship between city and topography makes the human beings' lives more comfortable. This is how XingFa works	Geographic Environment, Direction, People
	 [4]	Jiangshicitang Anhui Province China	Qifa (氣法) XingFa (形法)	Shrine is a place that the dead foregoers and the living juniors can be there together. So there are QiFa and XingFa.	
Korea	 [5]	Leekijong Pusan Korea	XingFa (形法)	Even though you are in the house, you can still see the scenery outside. This is XingFa FengShui.	Geographic Environment, Direction, People, Mind
	 [6]	Jookseolhyeon Naju Korea	Qifa (氣法)	Using the topography energy to make the people who lives there feel goo inside . This is how QiFa works.	

4. Conclusion

This analysis shows that the FengShui Theory is not only used to find a better place for the descendants' happiness, but also to understand the relationship between human beings and nature. People will be happy if they understand the relationship that are discussed above. This point can be proved by Professor Yonghoen Jo and Professor Changjo Choi's works. Then if the living space is well matched with Chinese and Korean's geographic environment, direction, people and one's mind, it will be quite good living space. Although there are some other traditional habits, under the same cultural background, we share the same elements of FengShui Theory. By this view, we can tell that the way we set our living space in the future will take human beings in the first place, meanwhile considering the nature and geographic environment.

5. References

[1] <Korean's FengShui Culture>, "Korean Local Native FengShui's Characteristics" Written by Changjin Kim, Changjo Choi etc., p.42
 [2] <Korean's FengShui Culture> Written by Changjin Kim, etc., p.205
 [3] <http://roll.sohu.com/20120711/n347853291.shtml>
 [4] http://difang.kaiwind.com/anhui/ahfg/201310/15/t20131015_1148234.shtm
 [5] Yongheon Jo , Yongheon Jo's Baekgakihaeng, , "Leekijon Pusan Korea"
 [6] Yongheon Jo , Yongheon Jo's Baekgakihaeng, , "Jookseolhyeon Naju Korea"