

## The role of Chosun Peninsula in introducing Kanji into Japan

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### Abstract

This article is about to discuss the possible route of the introduction of Chinese character to Japan is from Chosun Peninsula other than from China. The existence and the usage of the Kanji“塩” ,that is the variant form of Chinese character “鹽”(salt) , from epigraph, wooden tablet and Buddhist scriptures of the ancient Chosun 4~8 century (The Three Kingdoms Period will mainly be focused) will be discussed. In general, Chinese character was believed to introduce into Japan through Japanese envoy to Tang dynasty (or through Japanese envoy to Sui dynasty ). However , the variant form of Kanji“塩” was not use in China in the late 8<sup>th</sup> century ,existed in the handwriting of Japan Emperor Syoumu. From this fact, it shows the importance of another route of spreading Chinese character – through Ancient Chosun Peninsula. Under the influence of Chosun culture, Chinese characters gone through certain changes. Therefore, not only those original Chinese character, but also some variant form of Chinese characters ( including popular character and general character of that time) spread into Japan through Chosun. Therefore, the proposal of this article is to find out the relationship between Chosun’s and Japan’s Chinese character. The variant form of Chinese character from Ancient writing materials of Baekje (百濟) and Silla (新羅) ,where are believed to have close relationship with Yamato Kingdom and Nara Kingdom, will mainly be discussed.