

Textual criticism in the study of the history of wasan
— The reconstruction of Seki Takakazu's *Shūi Shoyaku no Hō*

Abstract

This paper presents a method for textual criticism of Seki Takakazu's works that have been handed down as manuscripts. In textual criticism, the dependencies between manuscripts are first clarified, and if two sets of manuscripts have a relationship of ancestor and descendant, the descendant is excluded from consideration. Next, where there are discrepancies in the numbers represented by Chinese numerals or counting rods, mathematical accuracy and the majority rule are used to determine which description is closer to the original. If there is an error common to most of the manuscripts, it is determined that the original also has the same error. If there is an error only in some of the manuscripts, it is determined that the original is correct. The manuscript with the fewest mathematical errors and the least tampered with is then used as the base for the restoration.

Using this method, we conducted a textual criticism of *Shūi Shoyaku no Hō*. After collating six manuscripts from different lineages, we found that the manuscript closest to the original was Okamoto MS 6, followed by Sekisan Kōden 9. On the other hand, *Katsuyō Sampō* Vol. 2, which was used as the base text for the *Complete Works of Seki Takakazu* published in 2023, was altered, and manuscript T20-179, held at the University of Tokyo Library and whose facsimile was included as a reference in the *Complete Works of Seki Takakazu* was full of errors and altered. In this paper, we reconstructed the entire text of *Shūi Shoyaku no Hō* using Okamoto MS 6 as the base text and Sekisan Kōden 9 as a cross-reference.

Key Words : textual criticism, Seki Takakazu, *Shūi Shoyaku no Hō*