

On 「Huangbanxian (黄半仙)」 Which was Performed by Liu Baorui (劉宝瑞)

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「Huangbanxian」 is a story of Dankou Xiangsheng. Dankou Xiangsheng is a kind of verbal entertainment performed at Chaguan in which a lone storyteller humorously plays multiple characters, and the story always ends with a narrative stunt. It is similar to Japanese Rakugo, except that the Storyteller stands on stage. Liu Baorui is a famous entertainer in Dankou Xiangsheng. He played an active part from the 1940s to 1960s, but after the late 1960s, he was dragged into the Cultural Revolution and died of a disease in 1968. He died at the age of 53.

「Huangbanxian」 is Liu Baorui's favorite story. The language in 「Huangbanxian」 includes many words of an old Beijing dialect, so this language is different from standard Chinese. I guess the language in 「Huangbanxian」 is Beijingguanhua, which was spoken in the last years of the Qing age. Moreover, 「Huangbanxian」 is a story which is passed from a master to his pupils, and is likely why it has been kept intact to the present age. I studied 「Huangbanxian」 which was performed by Liu Baorui from a linguistic point of view. The results of my study are as follows:

1. The vocabulary such as 〈别〉 〈来着〉 〈给〉 in 「Huangbanxian」 coincides nearly with the vocabular feature which Dr.Tazuo Oota specified in a thesis on seven features of Beijing dialects.
2. 「Huangbanxian」 is rich in vocabulary which Dr.Tazuo Oota picked out from his research on a Beijing dialect. Accordingly, I highlighted this vocabulary of a Beijing dialect in this thesis.

There's another thing I have to say. Dankou Xiangsheng is a kind of traditional art of storytelling. However, it is unknown to Japanese people, so I thought I would take advantage of this opportunity and introduce 「Huangbanxian」 of Dankou Xiangsheng to them. Therefore, I placed the original text and Japanese translation of 「Huangbanxian」 in this thesis. As for the Japanese translation, I used the Osaka dialect because I was born and brought up in Osaka, and I am very familiar with the Osaka dialect. Moreover, I thought it was better to use the Osaka dialect for translating. Please, pardon me for this selfish idea and let me add a few words in conclusion. Lastly, I'll be glad if this thesis arouses your interest in Dankou Xiangsheng.