

Imagination, Return and Reality : Homeland Imagination and Cultural Identity in Works of an Overseas Chinese Poet Chu An Ming from Korea

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The overseas Chinese who have immigrated to Korea long before have usually imagined the Republic of China (ROC) in Taiwan as their homeland. Two things explain this homeland imagination. One thing is that Korean government has adopted a policy of discrimination against foreigners due to the Cold War and Korean Conflict after World War II. This policy made the overseas Chinese who have lived in Korea over 100 years stay there as a status of foreigners since 1948. The other thing is that the government of ROC in Taiwan aggressively planned and held many activities related to Chinese education and culture in Korea in response to the policy of discrimination against foreigners by Korean government. These two aforementioned things got the overseas Chinese in Korea transfer their homeland imagination from China to the government of ROC in Taiwan. Moreover, such a transfer of homeland imagination made them strongly identify the government of ROC in Taiwan and thus attach themselves to this government.

For the overseas Chinese having lived in Korea, their identification with the government of ROC in Taiwan and its culture, however, has been seriously affected by the localization happening on the island of Taiwan in the 1980s, which caused the divergent identities of national consciousness. Thus, their national and cultural identity was shaken by such an impact, and they could not avoid feeling depressed, thinking about the question of where their homeland is.

The poet Chu An-Ming, who has grown up in Korea, has come to Taiwan for studying since 1977. He is a creative poet and an editor-in-chief in the magazine of INK. He published his poetry collection *A Heart Intoxicated with Sorrow* in 1985 and *The Road Southbound* in 2001. He offered an in-depth description of strong identity and love to his homeland in his poetry collection *A Heart Intoxicated with Sorrow*. Also, he used a biographical method to describe the experiences and dilemmas he encountered in the changing process of the society and politics in Taiwan. In his poetry collection *The Road Southbound*, he provided deep reflective thinking and

criticism for the society and politics in Taiwan after its localization.

The current study aims to explore the homeland imagination and cultural identity of the overseas Chinese poet Chu An-Ming by analyzing his two poetry collections on the basis of three stages of his growing-up in Korea, his coming back to Taiwan, and his undergoing the localization in Taiwan. It is hoped that the strong national and cultural identity of the poet Chu An-Ming is able to be further understood by investigating his life experiences and works. In addition, the current study hopes to enrich the investigation of the national and cultural identity of the overseas Chinese immigrating to Korea.

Keywords : Chu An-Ming, the overseas Chinese in Korea, homeland imagination, cultural identity, political identity, localization