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Module Code: SICH5011	Student number: 2000015
Module title: Sinological English I: A History of Chinese Classical Scholarship (SICH5011)	
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The Differences and Similarities Between Hanxue Shangdui and Shulin Yangzhi

Word count:1336

1. Introduction

The two book Hanxue Shangdui 漢學商兌 and Shulin Yangzhiwas 書林揚鱗 were written by the famous scholar Fang Dongshu 方東樹 who is known as the defender of Song learning in Qing dynasty, Fang Dongshu wrote these two book in purpose to defend the Song learning of Confucian classic study, and through criticizing the approaches and attitude many scholars had, he blamed that this is caused by the trend of neglecting the Song learning while supporting the Han learning which were very popular among the great classics scholars at that time.

The book Hanxue Shangdui is famous for the learner of Chinese classics history, and the book Shulin Yangzhi would be less famous, but it is still an important book that also shows the different attitude that Fag Dongshu has, and we could also see the change of Song learning had at that time, and this is exactly the value Shulin Yangzhi has. This essay is aim to have a discussion about the comparison of differences and similarities of Hanxue Shangdui 漢學商兌 and Shulin Yangzhiwas 書林揚鱗.

2. The Differences

2.1. The Purpose and Attitudes

The purpose of Hanxue Shangdui is to criticize the Han learning and defend the

Song learning, and the words or theory Fang Dongshu used are somehow radical and emotional. Although the name of this book sounds very calm and rational which means to have a consideration about the Han learning, and Fang Dongshu himself also claimed that he wrote this book aimed to ‘fix the mistakes that Han learning has through collecting the arguments with the knowledge I barely know about’(就知識所逮, 掇拾辯論, 彌縫其失)¹, but it just like an scholar wrote in his essay: ‘If we would ever read a little the Hanxue Shangdui, it is not difficult to discover that the calm attitude that Fang Dongshu showed in his introduction were not able to carry on in his context. If he was just calmly discussing about how to take both Han leaning and Song learning to fix the mistakes that Han learning made, then it is hard for us to explain the emotional words and personal attack throughout this book.’² For example, he insult Dai Zhen 戴震 was doomed to have no children after death which is definitely not a coincidence since Dai Zhen criticized Cheng Yi 程頤 and Zhu Xi 朱熹. (故毛大可、李剛主、程綿莊、戴東原皆身滅嗣絕, 此殆未可以為偶然也)³. So, although Fang Dongshu said the purpose of Hanxue Shangdui is to taking both Han and Song for academic reason, but scholars nowadays would more prefer the idea of he wrote this book to attack Han learning and defend the Song learning.

As for the Shulin Yangzhi, it is considered that it was written by Fang Dongshu at the same time with Hanxue Shangdui, since both book quoted each other in the text. Unlike the emotional text Fang used in Hanxue Shangdui, Fang Dongshu has

¹ Zhang Shuhong 張淑紅, ‘Hanxueshangdui Yu Qingzhongye De Hansong Zhizheng 漢學商兌與清中葉的漢、宋之爭’, *Nankai Xuebao 南開學報 (哲學社會科學版)*, 1001-4667 (2004) 01-0037-09, p.38.

² Original text: ‘但我們稍讀《漢學商兌》就不難發現, 方東樹在《序列》中表現出來的這種理智似乎並沒有貫徹於他的著述之中。如果他只是理智客觀地從治學角度上兼采漢、宋以救宋學之失, 那麼我們就很難解釋充斥整個《漢學商兌》的偏激的怒火, 我們就很難理解那些俯拾即是的憤慨之詞乃至人身攻擊.’ From Zhang Shuhong 張淑紅, ‘Hanxueshangdui Yu Qingzhongye De Hansong Zhizheng 漢學商兌與清中葉的漢、宋之爭’, *Nankai Xuebao 南開學報 (哲學社會科學版)*, 1001-4667 (2004) 01-0037-09, p.38.

³ Zhang Shuhong 張淑紅, ‘Hanxueshangdui Yu Qingzhongye De Hansong Zhizheng 漢學商兌與清中葉的漢、宋之爭’, *Nankai Xuebao 南開學報 (哲學社會科學版)*, 1001-4667 (2004) 01-0037-09, p.38.

changed his opinion and attitude in Shulin Yangzhi. Although he still criticized the Han learning, he had also criticized the attitudes that many scholars had then: ‘Scholars today lack basic knowledge and attitudes. They often try to write a book even they got nothing to say nor concept to propose. When they find out that they could write nothing, while age grows, they would take other’s opinions and plagiarize or criticize other’s opinions in a ridiculous way. When they done the book, they ask someone famous to write an introduction for the book, then use it to brag with the family and others.’⁴ (今之學者，根柢淺薄，用心尚桷蠹，無所欲語，而強欲著書。苟為難能，又迫以歲月速化，取家人筐篋中物，剽襲抄輯，駢駁舛漏。或矜尚新奇，支離穿鑿，或吹久訛之焰，承謬種之傳。既成，索巨子序而名之，遂居之不疑，負其意氣，內以傲其父兄，外以驕於一世)He also quoted many theory from Zhu Xi to support his idea, and emphasized the importance of having a correct attitude to write a book. This idea not only show the attitude of Song learning, but also warned the contemporary scholars with a higher view. After emphasizing the attitude of writing a book, then Fang said: ‘If you want to write a book for the gain the fame, not because you are unable to express yourself, then there is nothing you can achieve. Although you choose a theme to discuss, still it is useless. For example, correcting the classic text through philological way is the most important thing, but it is nonsense if you do not have excellent concept or theory. Explaining the text through interpretive way is also most important, but it would be the collection of nerds’ talk at countryside, if you simply stick on the former scholar’s idea and can not improve it.’⁵ (凡著書，若非不能已於言，而徒欲搏名，無一是者。雖擇題而為之，終外強中乾，如考訂經義最為大題，然非精詣，卓有獨見，則亦陳陳相應，剽說販稗而已。講論義理亦為大題，然呆衍宋儒語錄，多拾前人緒餘，不出里塾拘墟之見，則亦老生學究腐談) I think it is not hard to tell that Fang Dongshu finally taking what he wrote in the introduction of Hanxue Shangdui which is to taking both Han

⁴ Shi Zhewen 史哲文，‘Lun Fangdongshu Shulinyangzhi Zhijianbai 論方東樹書林揚鱣之建白’，Suzhou Daxue Xuebao 蘇州大學學報（哲學社會科學版），1001-4403(2015)06-0189-07,p.191.

⁵ Shi Zhewen 史哲文，‘Lun Fangdongshu Shulinyangzhi Zhijianbai 論方東樹書林揚鱣之建白’，Suzhou Daxue Xuebao 蘇州大學學報（哲學社會科學版），1001-4403(2015)06-0189-07,p.192.

learning and Song learning, and the comment he made here is also very objective, since this phenomenon happened both in the scholars of Han and Song learnings, and it is a wrong attitude in academic learning of that age.

3. The Similarities

3.1. The Style Between Two Books

The style Fang Dongshu often used in *Hanxue Shangdui* and *Shulin Yangzhi* is pretty same. Fang usually quote a former scholar's saying at the beginning of a paragraph, and express his idea to support the saying or criticize it. Both book would make critic comments when a theory refers to the Han learning.

3.2. The Contribution Two books made

One thing we have admit is that although *Hanxue Shangdui* and *Shulin Yangzhi* are different at the text, the idea and the purpose the author actually expressed, but both books made the same contribution for the fusion of Han and Song learning. Fang attacked some Han learning scholars personally, but he also praised them, and admitted their achievements, which influenced the following scholars to consider the possibility of taking both learning since Fang would make such surprising idea if you consider how radical he talk about Han learning.

4. Conclusion

The argument about Han and Song learning has continued for a long time, and scholars do believe that it is wrong to only choose one of them, because the academic learning also can not leave the doctrine of mean. Still, we could make such

judgement because we are stand on the shoulder of the former great masters, and the change and process of their mind is very worthy to study.

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