

Abstract (in English):

This thesis deals with the Korean reflection and the creation of a national hero from the historical figure of Admiral I Sun-sin (李舜臣; 1545 - 1598), who successfully led naval military operations against the Japanese during the Japanese invasion of Korea in the late 16th century. His contribution to the victory of the Korean army earned him the title of Korean national hero. This thesis then outlines the development of the symbolism that his name carries with it, through the post-war centuries. A brief biography of him is presented within the framework of available primary sources, which are discussed in the second chapter. This is followed by a posthumous appreciation of his meritorious achievements, including the first works recording his person during the Japanese invasions and the memorials dedicated to his person. Within the subsequent chapters, the person of admiral is presented in the context of the period at the turn of the 19th and 20th centuries, highlighting the national awareness of Admiral I Sunsin among the Japanese population and through historical and modern literature. Other follow-up periods include the period of Japanese occupation, when the changing symbolism of the admiral's name is presented. There are other examples of literary works, in which the admiral is portrayed, especially during the period of colonial rule. After the end of the Japanese occupation, the thesis deals with the newly transformed symbolism of Admiral I Sunsin, and lastly with the period of President Park Chŏnghŭi's rule. The aim of the thesis is to bring the contemporary symbolism of Admiral I Sunsin into focus and depict the (re)interpretation of his biography in the context of the times.