

## 論文の英文要旨

論文題目 Weights and measures system in Vietnam during the Colonial period  
— Its regional diversification and the situation of French rule—

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The purpose of this study is to clarify the regional diversification and its background through analyzing the weights and measures system and policies, and the real way of using units in each province. This study also aims to elucidate the state of French rule and Vietnamese social and cultural background.

The following points are the largest problems in researching about weights and measures in Vietnam: The systems that were used in each period and area are so diverse that the actual operation can only be assumed from fragmentary descriptions; there are not enough methodologies and historical material to be systematically weighed against each other. In addition, translations of weights and measures terms in classic Chinese historical materials, in Vietnamese and in European languages are not standardized, furthermore, the conversion of the amounts equivalent to each unit differ depending on the point of view of the researcher or investigation. That is, no standardized point of view has been established yet.

The first step of the methodology is to study by using not fragmentary, local cases but a homogeneous, and systematic historical materials that allow for objective and rational comparisons. This study worked on this issue by using the units for measuring rice in monthly commercial statistics of each province and the series of circulars relating the weights and measures which was drawn up by each governor of each province with the same purpose during the same period.

Chapter 1 captures the history of formation in weights and measures' laws and systems from the 15<sup>th</sup> century. As to the colonial period, the timing of the Metric system's introduction to Vietnam was put into practice in earlier stages than other countries. It also can be pointed out that the formation of weights and measures' law was enforced by the Governor Generals in Indochina who were well-known for their unique and peculiar policy.

Chapter 2 analyzes more than 2150 examples on rice measurement units of each province. The result of this chapter's analysis is as follows.

1. The beginning of the 20<sup>th</sup> century was the transition period from the traditional

system to French (Metric) system, and the traditional way of measurement had been particularly influential in Vietnam at the time.

2. It has become clear the regional characteristics of Tonkin, Annam and Cochinchina were still strongly based on of their historical background in each area such as agricultural patterns, community relationships of villages, immigrants, economic and trade relationships...

3. There are 3 cultural blocs in Vietnam, the dividing cultural lines are on Ha Tinh province and Cho Lon province. The 2 dividing lines are different from the administration division.

The purpose of chapter 3 is to argue the changes and regional features of the opinions of each provincial governor in Tonkin using the series of circulars about the unification of weights and measures system. The results are as follows.

1. The area where the Metric system had been commonplace was very limited in the active commercial transaction area between Vietnam and China or foreign countries.

2. The situation that almost all governors expressed disapproval of weights and measures' official approval suggests that Vietnamese people didn't have its official certification system throughout history. In addition, it also indicates that there was still not the firm and homogeneous basis to reign and administer.

3. French colonial Government made an effort to understand the real situation in each province and formulated weights and measures policy gradually and partly. Namely, it should be noted that French rule was not necessarily oppressive toward Vietnam.

Chapter 4 focuses on the local surveys of each province about weights and measures and set the purpose to clarify the difference in time of units' unification between length, surface, weight and capacity. The results are that: in official documents, units of length and surface were unified throughout Tonkin but they still maintained the various system and units of weights and capacity. On the other hand, milk-cans had been considerably popular as a capacity unit approximately from 1910. It means that the unit and measures which can be easily obtained and are convenient and durable, propagated rapidly and overall. In addition, people in the centre, rural areas, commerce activities, ordinary private citizens, and the government and administration use suitable units and measures differentiae from each other with their own profit and demand. In other words, Vietnam at the colonial period was the one space where different types of society and community were permitted and coexisted.

Except for the result mentioned above, as touched upon previously, this study also

set the purpose to elucidate the state of French rule and Vietnamese social and cultural back ground. The findings about these topics is as follows.

a) After promulgation of laws, local administration kept groping for the best way to carry them out. It can be said that the power of restraint from these laws and ordinances was not so strict and local government was entrusted to execute these regulations.

b) To unify the weights and measures system, there was a considerable amount of exchange between the Governor General in Indochina and the governors in each province. However this matter also shows that nobody took action positively and directly. It clearly shows the way of French colonial management which didn't want to spend a large sum of money and the bureaucratism which nobody wanted to take responsibility for.

c) Ordinary people could not find the advantage and necessity to unify the weights and measures system. Almost all French governors concluded that these Vietnamese people's consciousness was caused by the negative aspects such as ignorance or immaturity. However, this study examines the possibility of influence from the unique and affirmative aspect like the Vietnamese village culture, habit of commerce, custom of transaction which was clarify with the result of a field study.

There is no doubt that weights and measures systems had a strong relation to Vietnamese historical and economic background, however, to re-examine generalization by using concrete examples and analysing in detail would possibly be of value to re-construct a historical view because it is more difficult to prove generalization than to find new specific phenomenon. It can be said that this study attempts to clarify the whole weights and measures system in Vietnam and to find new perspectives about the situation of society, economy and French rule through analysing the weights and measures system in detail.