On Zhang Taiyan "language originated, said" the content and meaning of the times

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ABSTRACT

Why a horse is called “horse”? Why a bull is called “bull”? This article will explain the reason based on the article “The Origin of Names” wrote by Chang Tai-yen, and it will discuss the epochal significance of this article. Chang Tai-yen proposed the concept of “root” in “The Origin of Names” and explained the origin of names from the aspect of root. We will discuss the epochal significance of the article from 3 viewpoints. First, Chang integrated the issue, his discussion of “the origin of language,” with western linguistics. Second, Chang combined Chinese phonology, historical semantics, and linguistics together. Third, the theory of Chang’s origin of names can represent Chinese tradition. From these three angles, we can see Chang’s epochal significance in two ways: “summarizing traditional Chinese Linguistic ” and “running towards modern Linguistic.”

Keywords: Chang Tai-yen, Linguistic, Root, Chinese, Origin of Language