

NECCT 5 (November 2016)
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 The Two Mencian Schools

Handout



1. Mencius and his successors are **not philosophers**, but proprietors of a plan for state government and world conquest.
2. The Mencius Text (see Brooks and Brooks in Chan Mencius 2002)
 - a. Most of the text is **not by Mencius** (for whom see the authentic half of MC 1), but consists of later writings
 - b. Those later writings stem from **not one but two schools** (southern, MC 2-3, and northern, MC 4-7)
 - c. The schools developed in **parallel** (albeit differently) and were in touch with each other
 - d. The northern school explored the **individual** side of Mencius' theories; the southern school, the **political** side
 - e. For their **closeness** at their respective ends (MC 3 and 7), see Manyul Im (WSP v1 p158-159)
3. Stylistic Analysis (BIRD: the Brooks Index of Rhetorical Difference) **clarifies and extends** these philological conclusions
 - a. **Style** (carried by articulatory particles) differs from content (carried by substantives).
 - b. Style can be **measured** by observing the behavior of high-frequency particles
 - c. The style of two passages can be **compared** by superimposing their usage profiles and measuring the difference (D)
 - d. D is **not an authorship test**. It suggests what the author had in mind: his own previous paragraph or something else.
 - e. D values of **0.50 or less** indicate significant similarity of style, and help to show what the writer is thinking about
4. A BIRD Overview of the Mencius (by half-chapter; calculations courtesy of Mary Cleary)
 - a. Read along the **long diagonal** to see if consecutive chapters closely agree. In MC 4-7, this is true only of MC 6-7).
 - b. In addition, some chapters agree closely with earlier but **nonconsecutive** chapters. We call this the "lookback."
 - c. In the northern school, those earlier chapters tend to look back to **4A** (the first northern chapter) or **1A** (home Mencius)
 - d. Then one thing that is going on as the schools evolve is that they gradually discover an **identity** for themselves
 - e. The full **crosstable** is the following:

	1A	1B	2A	2B	3A	3B	4A	4B	5A	5B	6A	6B	7A	7B
1A	~	0.60	0.48	0.45	0.61	0.62	0.42	0.50	0.52	0.38	0.72	0.37	0.49	0.38
1B	0.60	~	0.72	0.66	0.57	0.53	0.85	0.66	0.68	0.70	0.77	0.77	0.71	0.66
2A	0.48	0.72	~	0.42	0.75	0.62	0.34	0.33	0.64	0.69	0.84	0.58	0.40	0.62
2B	0.45	0.66	0.42	~	0.67	0.61	0.53	0.36	0.51	0.54	0.77	0.49	0.52	0.61
3A	0.61	0.57	0.75	0.67	~	0.79	0.57	0.71	0.49	0.67	0.63	0.62	0.79	0.61
3B	0.62	0.53	0.62	0.61	0.79	~	0.88	0.53	0.80	0.61	0.76	0.69	0.64	0.64
4A	0.42	0.85	0.34	0.53	0.57	0.88	~	0.54	0.56	0.51	0.67	0.45	0.41	0.46
4B	0.50	0.66	0.33	0.36	0.71	0.53	0.54	~	0.65	0.55	0.60	0.48	0.46	0.53
5A	0.52	0.68	0.64	0.51	0.49	0.80	0.56	0.65	~	0.57	0.66	0.46	0.55	0.49
5B	0.38	0.70	0.69	0.54	0.57	0.61	0.51	0.55	0.57	~	0.57	0.45	0.53	0.29
6A	0.72	0.77	0.84	0.77	0.63	0.76	0.67	0.60	0.66	0.67	~	0.44	0.61	0.48
6B	0.37	0.77	0.58	0.49	0.62	0.69	0.45	0.48	0.46	0.45	0.44	~	0.41	0.42
7A	0.49	0.71	0.40	0.52	0.79	0.64	0.41	0.46	0.55	0.53	0.61	0.41	~	0.42
7B	0.38	0.66	0.62	0.61	0.61	0.64	0.46	0.53	0.49	0.29	0.48	0.42	0.42	~

5. Stylistic Suggestions. Following on the above general remarks:
 - a. MC **1B** (full of forgeries of embarrassing genuine interviews, eg the Yēn fiasco) has no close stylistic contacts
 - b. MC **3AB** have almost no close stylistic contacts, and form a corpus by themselves within the Mencius
Despite the fact (see Im 2010) that MC 3 and 7 are in close contact otherwise. It is an intimacy of feuding brothers
 - c. Consecutive: MC **2AB** are close, and probably by the same school head. So also MC 6-7
 - d. Identity: The lookbacks of both southern (MC 2) and northern (MC 4-7) chapters are to the **defining MC 1A**
This trait is especially prominent in the **B** segments (as that particular compositional effort is reaching its end)
 - e. The northern chapters also conspicuously look back to their beginning, **4A**. They have a unity **within** Mencianism

6. Date. It may be useful to locate MC 5, and all the Mencius, within contemporary events and ideas.
 - a. Mencius died in c0303
 - b. His disciples disputed his heritage, forging spurious “Mencius” interviews (now in 1A and 1B) for the next few years
 - c. The new reign in Chí (0300) was an opportunity to construct a joint platform, and this was done (MC 2A3-2B1)
 - d. The compromise did not hold. The northern school split off from the southern; both continued until suppressed in 0249
 - e. Within the time available for the northern school, MC 5 seems to occupy the span c0282-0275
The tensions accompanying the expulsion of Chí from Sùng (0284) may have inspired the composition of MC 5.
Chí was in disarray, and the whole question of the structure and function of government was thus raised.

7. Authorship. This is merely a sentimental question, but sentiment has its place, and some suggestions are possible.
 - a. It is not the custom in Warring States texts to refer to living superiors or equals by name
 - b. Gūngsūn Chǒu is first mentioned in 2A1 and frequently by both schools thereafter.
He was probably the leader in the immediate post-Mencius period (c0303 onward), but died early, respected by all
 - c. Wàn Jāng is first (and frequently) mentioned in MC 5, and respectfully in 7B37 (萬子); he asks a dumb question in 3B5
He is then probably the founder and remembered leader of the northern school, and presided over the writing of 4AB
 - d. For the author of MC 5, we need a plausible character who is first, and respectfully, mentioned in MC 6
There is no such candidate.
 - e. For the authors of MC 6-7 and MC 3, we have only their own work as evidence. No names can be presently suggested.