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History, current situation and specifics of Yangming studies in Russia (Based on the concept KNOWLEDGE)

Abstract

The article presents the history, the current situation and the characteristics of the spread of Wang Yangming's concept in Russia. The aim of the paper is to perform linguistic and cognitive analysis of the concept KNOWLEDGE in the studies of Russian philosophers devoted to the Neo-Confucian teachings of Wang Yangming. The works of Russian philosophers of the 20th century who focused on Confucianism and Neo-Confucianism in China were taken as the material for this study. Comparative method is used to interpret the lexical meaning of the term “knowledge” in dictionaries and in quotations from Wang Yangming's works. The hypothesis of the study is the possibility of determining the additional meaning of the concept KNOWLEDGE in the works of Russian philosophers. The conclusion is made that the Chinese philosopher of the Ming era associates KNOWLEDGE with the movement and the heart, refers it to the inner world of a person. Wang Yangming singles out «intuitive» knowledge, due to which it is possible to reach the truth. The additional significance of appealing to the inner essence of a person and not only to the consideration of external reality distinguishes Wang Yangming's philosophical views from generally accepted tendencies. The study can be continued by a more detailed consideration of the notions related to the concept of KNOWLEDGE – “advantage”, “good” and “evil”.

Keywords: Ming era, Neo-Confucianism, concept of KNOWLEDGE, concept of IGNORANCE, notion, lexeme, seme, sememe, additional meanings

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