

## A Study on Alternation of Morphemes and Domain of Morphology

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In this thesis, questions are posed about the conditions of morpheme alternations and their controlling factors in Middle Korean. It is proved that there were only two kinds of conditioning, i.e., phonological and morpholexical conditionings for the conditions of morpheme alternations. Morphological or grammatical conditioning differs little from the traditional morphological conditioning, which leaves no room for syntactic conditioning. It is clarified that automatic alternation belongs to the phonological domain and morphophonological alternation belongs to the morphological domain for the alternant controlling factors. This provides the theoretical and practical solution: the *p-*, *s-* final verbs in Middle Korean were not regular verbs but irregular verbs which are to be explained by means of morphophonological alternation. It is particularly claimed that the alternations of *k*-initial endings and *h*-initial endings in conjugations belong to morphophonological alternations and the honorific ending *-si-* and its variation *-sya-* also belong to the same alternations.