Many years have passed since research started on the peerages (e.g. General) granted by Chinese emperors to monarchs of Koguryo, Baekje, and Yamato and their retainers to elucidate the regime structures of these states. The titles granted by Chinese emperors, such as General, were considered important, especially in Baekje and Yamato, whose monarchs not only requested the titles of King and General for themselves but also often asked for the title of General for their retainers. In Baekje, King Gaeru aggressively requested the title of King of Baekje. Externally, he intended to have his kingdom's international independence endorsed by the Song Dynasty to diplomatically contain Yamato, which had persistently asked the Song Dynasty to justify its military domination over Baekje. Domestically, he intended to use the titles conferred on him, especially the title of General, to grant royal authority to his retainers. In other words, he used the title of General given by the Chinese dynasty to establish a hierarchy among his retainers.

Subsequently, Baekje was brought to the verge of extinction with its capital, Hanseong, falling to Koguryo. King Dongseong, who ascended the throne during this crisis, asked the Nan Qi emperor to grant the title of General to his retainers while he himself conferred domestic titles to them. He bestowed the titles of King and Marquis to royal family members and nobles who had been appointed as Third- and Forth-rank Generals, respectively, and the title of Governor to Chinese bureaucrats who had been appointed as Third- and Forth-rank Generals. Thus, in Baekje in the late fifth century, the Chinese title of General was considered as an important means to involve Baekje nobles and Chinese bureaucrats in the royal hierarchy.

Key words: Baekje, late fifth century, Song Dynasty, Nan Qi Dynasty, title of general, title of king, title of marquis, title of governor