

가설과상상총서 ①

1. Introduction

The Fundamental Questions of the AI Era and the Need for New Modes of Thinking

AI시대 상관적 사유와 화쟁을 통한 인류의 생존전략 · 최원혁

Four Modes of Correlative Thinking



The AI-Era Question Is About the Human

- The greatest AI-era question is about humans, not tech
- Humans must re-explain "why do I matter?"
- Humans form relationships, meaning, and shared responsibility
- Correlative Thinking sees connections, not fragments

1.1 Singularity and the Place of the Human

- Hyperconnected era: AI enters creativity and decisions
- Awe and anxiety: "what makes humans special?"
- Risk: from choosing beings to those chosen by algorithms
- An existential crisis, not mere technological adaptation

1.2 Limits of Analytical Thinking

- Analysis, specialization, linear planning show their limits
- AI amplifies inequality, expertise crisis, loss of meaning
- Correlative Thinking: holistic, relational reasoning
- A practical survival strategy, not nostalgic return

1.3 Purpose and Method

- Four-stage framework: ipche, sunhwan, gonggam, yunghap
- Rooted in Daoism, Buddhism, Confucianism, Abrahamic faith
- X and -X mark directions of thought, not formulas
- Consilience of Eastern and Western thought

1. Introduction

Feature	Analytical Thinking (mainly Western)	Correlative Thinking (mainly Eastern)
Primary mode of reasoning	Reductionist, bottom-up	Holistic, top-down (or whole-first)
Relation of part and whole	Understanding the whole through the parts (sum of parts = whole)	Understanding the parts within the whole (the whole is greater than the sum of its parts)
Treatment of causality	Linear, direct cause-and-effect	Networked, resonant, mutual influence
Treatment of context	Analysis in separation from context	Context-dependent; context defines meaning
Use of logic	Formal logic; deductive/inductive logic	Analogical logic, metaphor, symbol
View of change	Linear, predictable (or exponential)	Cyclical, transformative, spiral
Attitude toward ambiguity	Preference for clarity, avoidance of ambiguity	Acceptance of ambiguity, embrace of paradox
Primary goal	Prediction, control, efficiency	Harmony, appropriateness, balance
Key associated concepts	Scientific methodology, data analysis, objectivity	Yin-yang, the Five Phases (Wuxing), resonance (感應, gam-eung), qi (氣), Dependent Origination (緣起, yeon-gi)
Strengths	Precision, clarity, capacity to solve specific problems, driving force of technological advancement	Understanding of complex systems, creation of meaning, adaptability, long-term perspective, ethical insight
Limits in the AI era	Vulnerability to systemic problems, ethical dilemmas, loss of meaning, and human alienation	Difficulty of quantification and immediate prediction; traditional difficulty of scientific verification (currently seeking points of contact with modern science)