

## **The melodic linearity and its analytic practice of A. Halm and H. Schenker**

**NISHIDA, Hiroko**

This study aims to examine the melodic linearity and its analytic practice between German-speaking music theorist contemporaries August Halm (1869-1929) and Heinrich Schenker (1868-1935), by reading their letters exchanged between 1916 and 1927, and the mutual references made in their publications.

Although Schäfke tells us that Halm and Schenker were founders of the 'Energetik,' i.e. the 'Musikalische Gesetzeswissenschaft' (1934), their approaches have been strongly contrasted (Rothfarb 2005). Different from Köhler's (1996) attempt to correlate Halm's 'Linie' and Schenker's 'Urlinie,' I examine their linear concepts, not by restricting them to 'Linie' and 'Urlinie,' but by tracing the development of these theorists' melodic thoughts.

The analogy of Halm and Schenker can be found in that both considered melody the 'Diminution' of a musical 'Ursprüngliches': it had been conceptualized as the scale progression by Halm already in the 1910s, and by Schenker from the 1920s. They were also principle-oriented toward melodic laws; that is, they reduced the melody to the line. But then, Halm exhibited ambivalence by questioning such a theory of primordial laws and criticizing Schenker's 'Urlinie.' However, Halm continued practicing the linear analysis for the identity in different thematic appearances, because it served to reveal the unity in the style of fugue, while the competing forces of two themes in the sonata could never demonstrated by it. Schenker had the similar thematic 'Linie' in the 1910s, but it had been gradually replaced by the whole continual melody through a musical piece, namely Urlinie.

This step by step discrepancy in melodic linearity was derived from the differing views of these men of what is variation: for Halm, variation is one of the musical forms and concerned with a melodic theme as part of the musical piece. Schenker regarded the whole musical work as a variation of a single primordial 'Figur,' not figures.