

## **Bancha - a Study of Tea for Ordinary People**

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### **Summary**

We cannot clarify the relation between tea and the lives of ordinary people by researching Sencha or Maccha, because even though these two have been popularized today, the former was an exclusive tea upper classes. On the other hand, ordinary people had Bancha, which was made in each family.

I would like to define Bancha as “daily-used tea produced by traditional processes in respective areas, not as a merchandise”. Then by researching the uses for Banch which remain in some areas in Japan, and studying folk customs on it, I clarified the following: Banch has been a foodstuff as well as a drink; accordingly it can be a symbol of housewifery where housewives engaged in food; and besides drinking tea means a kind of courtesy of going over various borders.

In addition, the processes and uses for Bancha in Japan are similar to those in East Asia. The concept of Bancha will greatly help to compare the tea cultures in all East Asia.