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Author	今野, 諒子(Konno, Ryoko)
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Why the concept of the force pops up in Leibniz's philosophy: A brief thought on the phenomena of the body and the motion

Ryoko KONNO

I aim to interpret Leibniz's theory of phenomenon in this paper. There is a disagreement concerning the main features of Leibniz's theory of phenomenon: the body is merely a phenomenon, or the body has something to do with the substance. I don't think Leibniz entirely deny the existence of the body. The key to this interpretation lies in my view that Leibniz conceives the reality of the body to be in the particles - primary elements of the actual body -.

Leibniz often refers to the aggregate compared with the substance - the soul or the spirit -. On my view, his main point is to capture the unity gradually in the body. He maintains that the body and the motion are phenomenal and well founded. They are grounded at the metaphysical level of actual substances. The motivation for his position stems from his dynamical theory. He elaborates the concepts of the form and the matter in his dynamics.

Leibniz explicitly defines the form and the matter as the active force and the passive force, furthermore he divides these force into the primitive force and the derivative force. It is this dualism that acts as the basis for his theory of phenomenon.