　　　　　　　　　　　　　　　　　　　　　　　　　　　　　September 6, 2019

　　Competing Imperialisms in Northeast Asia:

　　 Contested Histories and Histories of Contestation

(At Queen's University of Belfast, UK)

Media between Imperialism and Nationalism in Northeast Asia

Reiko TSUCHIYA

In global history of media, Northeast Asia was a peripheral area where publishing of newspapers and magazines were brought into with technology of metal type printing by Christian missionaries through colonies of Britain and the Netherlands in mid-19th century. When Japan began to construct its own network of telegraphic service connected to international telegraphic system with cable lines between Shanghai and Nagasaki, and Nagasaki and Vladivostok, three major news agencies had divided international news market for their exclusive profit, as Reuters dominated the Asian market since 1870. Each news agency represented its empire functioning as media to connect Suzerain state and its colonies. Any Asian media had to learn from and contest with such imperial media which made standard way of modern communication.

Media technology including type printing, telegraphy and radio broadcasting invented in advanced industrialized countries became not only an integral asset of each empire but also international public goods which formed a base for international public opinion and mutual understanding among peoples in 1920's. Especially English-language media had hegemony in Asia, although nationalism in Northeast Asia developed media system and cultures based on languages with histories different from European and American countries. Most of media in Northeast Asia had been owned or controlled by the state government, though only Japanese media developed commercial and industrial success based on national market of large readership domestically for building a nation-state and integrating various peoples in Japan, but internationally were used for political and diplomatic appliance to appeal Japanese assertion and protect its interest along its imperial expansion.

In 1930's, Japanese ambition to replace British Empire in Asian media system was not a simple daydream. The ambition grew from both nationalism and imperialism because Japanese felt media imbalance that Asia was news colony of Anglophone media and thought that other Asian peoples share the same understanding. Assimilation policy the Japanese Empire took in Asia came from the deliberate confusion of nationalism and imperialism and it appeared in Japanese propaganda toward Ainu people, Koreans and other ethnicities saying that to become a Japanese is to be a civilized person and make an individual happy. After the Japanese defeat, nationalistic policy in media was adapted and most foreign media were excluded from each nation-state country in Asia including China, Taiwan, Korea and Japan respectively. Since then histories of media in Asia have been organized as a part of national histories, but media are essentially a part of global and international history which we try to find out today.