



The Reality is Hybrid yet Colonial

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In this session, we focused on the migration of Korean-Chinese, Filipinos and Okinawans who are considered to have a readiness to move around the world. By analyzing their migration, we detected "something" that "normal" residents who do not move from their place cannot perceive; the migrants experience cultural dynamism.

The culture generally is regarded as tradition that is inherited generation by generation, so that migrants maintain their original culture and national identity even after they move to foreign countries. This kind of interpretation of culture and migrants is often demanded by the nationalism of their original country. However, the migrants know well that nationalism sometimes limits the possibility to enhance their network which contributes to their survival and success in other countries. It is quite rational that the migrants try to create bonds among non-compatriots who may possess different

kinds of character, as they would form an important "resource" for their social life. Consequently, the migrants interact with different kinds of people and get culturally hybrid characters absorbing a diversity of cultures. Although they may not be aware of their hybridity, they are open-minded to cultural diversity.

The "normal" residents also may experience cultural dynamism, but they tend to close their eyes in front of the facts that they would not like to admit. For the nationalist, national culture should not be varied because it is the base of their identity, excluding those who belong to other nations. In this case, the national linkage functions as criteria to divide the people between nationals and non-nationals. On the other hand, for the migrants it often works to build linkage with strangers.

However, we should not idealize the migrants' open-mindedness to other cultures, as it may be a consequence of their colonial history.