

Completion Report

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Subject of Research Project :
Study about relation between Japanese Woman writer and Indonesia Women group

The results of the research are discussed as follows.

There were several roundtable discussions between Japanese women writers and Indonesian women's and girls' associations, as evidenced by wartime newspaper articles and writers' books. In the case of Fumiko Hayashi, round-table discussions were held in East Java (February 1943), Jakarta (February 1943) and Borneo (January 1943). Koyama Itoko's roundtable discussions with Sumatran women intellectuals showed that she came into contact with Sumatran women from different social classes. Last, Sata Inako also described her meetings with Sumatran intellectual women in her work. Of the three women, Fumiko Hayashi clearly stated the propaganda of women's role in the war, while Itoko Koyama and Sata Ineko simply described their observations on the situation of local women and social problems related to women.

In addition to the writers, there were several round-table discussions between Japanese and Indonesian women, and between the Propaganda Department and the Indonesian Women's Association. The aim was to mobilise women to form 'Fujinkai' organization in Indonesia.

The contact between the Japanese women writers and the Indonesian women was not at all mentioned in the post-war works, so I conclude that the Japanese women writers at that time made a contribution to the war not only as "writers" but also as representatives of "Japanese women" who were sent to the Japanese-occupied land.

The Indonesian women's associations that participated in the roundtable could be described by the names of two groups. These were the Muslim women's association "Aisyiyah" and the liberal nationalist "Putri Budi Sejati" organization. Both were women's associations founded in the 1920s. The Indonesian women's movement could be categorized into two factions: the liberal nationalist and the religious reformist. Aisyiyah and Putri Budi Sejati were representation of those two groups of Indonesian Women movement.

During the Japanese occupation, the Indonesian women's movement was disbanded and united under the "Fujinkai" Organization, which was administered by the Japanese military. Fujinkai was founded in August 1943. Most of the roundtables mentioned above were held between December 1942 and April 1943. They may have been held in preparation for the establishment of the Women's Association.