

COMPLETION REPORT

Department of Anthropology, University of the Philippine – Diliman
Carlos Pena Tatel, Jr.

【Subject of Research Project】

Japanese Anthropology in The Philippines: Knowledge Production, Academic Tradition, Institutional Memory

This is an bibliographic study of published materials that aims to address two identified gaps in knowledge production on the Philippines: the first one is the marginalization of Japanese publications and research outputs in the usual survey of ethnographic literature on the Philippines; the second one is the gap in the history of the knowledge production, which historically privileged Western-origin (i.e. American, British and Australian) sources and paradigms when dealing with foreign contributions. The former has something to do with the vague understanding of Filipino academics regarding the role of Japanese scholars in the construction of *Philippine Studies* — the overarching paradigm embracing all knowledges on the Philippines — thinking that they only wrote in their native language or published in their own country. The latter concerns with the tendency of Filipino writers and intellectual historians to generally leave out non-Western foreign production including those Japanese and other Asian researchers conducting studies on the Philippines which can be reflective of a strong Western colonial bias in the Philippine academia.

The study compiled and annotated sources were arranged chronologically so that there can be historical evaluation of knowledge production. To enrich this, both face-to-face and online interviews had been conducted with selected Japanese academics, scholars, and researchers who have done significant ethnographic activities in the Philippines. There are three aspects that may characterize the quality of Japanese knowledge production on Philippine anthropology, ethnology and ethnography: first, people; second, networks; and third, ideas. The first aspect refers to the Japanese scholars themselves most of whom had come to the Philippines in the 1960s after the diplomatic visit of the Japanese imperial couple to the Philippines and the institutionalization of the Monbusho scholarship program. The second one points to the interconnectedness of Japanese researchers, and their respective institutions, among each other which translated to their collaborators and contacts in the Philippines. The third one is about ideas or schools-of-thought or specific methodologies associated with Japanese research activities. The bibliographic survey demonstrated that their researches employ a long-term fieldwork approach in a specific area and focused on diverse topic across the past six decades.

Overall, the study allows for an objective appraisal of Japanese contributions to Philippine ethnography based on results of studies disseminated in the English language. We can now see the underlying patterns of themes, factors and forces shaping knowledge production such as the personal backgrounds

and circumstances of researchers themselves, the networks that link people, institutions and organizations, and the flow and exchange of ideas which fuel and sustain research. The study affirms that the shared history by the Philippines and Japan — such as experience with American colonialism, the Second World War, and the state visit of Japan's imperial couple during the Post-War, has a lot to do with the resulting character of Japanese contributions to Philippine ethnography. This also sheds light to the challenges that Japanese researchers early on had to face while conducting field visits and immersions. In the course of their fieldwork, as they further engage the community, as they become more familiar with their informants, and as they speak the local language better, the Japanese scholar ceases to be solely an objective researcher but becomes something else in the process: a collaborator for a local cause, a bonafide member of a native artistic group, a partner to an NGO or PO, and a friend to the common people.

Publication of the Results of Research Project:

Verbal Presentation (Date, Venue, Name of Conference, Title of Presentation, Presenter, etc.)

No specific plan yet. Currently looking for an appropriate conference to disseminate the results of the study. Will notify the Sumitomo Foundation if there is any specific activity in the future that the results of the study may be shared or presented.

Thesis (Name of Journal and its Date, Title and Author of Thesis, etc.)

No specific plan yet. Currently looking for an appropriate journal to disseminate the results of the study. Will notify the Sumitomo Foundation if there is any specific activity in the future that the results of the study may be shared or presented.

Book (Publisher and Date of the Book, Title and Author of the Book, etc.)

No specific plan yet. Currently looking for an appropriate journal to disseminate the results of the study. Will notify the Sumitomo Foundation if there is any specific activity in the future that the results of the study may be shared or presented.