

## Acceleration and Efficiency of Informational Labour in Colonial Taiwan, 1918-1930

Cheng She-Wo Institute, Shih-Hsin University      Hsiao Hsu Chih

In general, the informational society established in 1970s in terms of computer based network. However, the telecommunication began from 19<sup>th</sup> century, the telegraph gave birth to the tele- and informational communication with speed and distance. Revolutionary perspective of communication history, technological determinism almost synonym, prefer the scientific and technological innovations in the field of electromagnetism and wireless. With the typing machine, the sound based telegram was transformed to the coded telegraph. For the beginning there is the machine and word, where is the 'labour'? From media ecological point of view, the analogy and digital information technology would not be essential different in body technology. From the sociological point of view, the telecommunication based of society should be considered in the frame of human condition and interfaced machine. The aim of this essay is to figure out the realistic way of informational labour in 1918-1930 colonial Taiwan.

The colonial modernity would be one kind of construction of print capitalism in Benedict Anderson's term. The sweet, rice and other raw material would be other perspects in Tadao Yanaihara's term. From World War I, Japan more and more involved into the world economy system. Taiwan, Machu and Joseon became sit of the spatial fix of over accumulation. Transportation and Transmission depended on the system of relay as well as multiple passages combined of walk, automobile, railway, ferry and wire. Related historical material and social history of colonial Taiwan presented the problematics of the informational technology around 1918-1930 in colonial Taiwan are not only the introducing Japanese typewriter or high speed telegram machines, but also acceleration and efficiency of informational labour from soul to body, including the brain, ears, eyes, hands, pencil, writing, and so on. The essay will show the telegram training, coded and bilingual translation, human-machine interface in the epoch. In the comparative approach, the docile and technical body became possible without harsh strike of unionism would be the concern too.

Through the several periodical magazines in official and semi-official, like *Taiwan*

*Telecommunication Associated Magazine*(臺灣遞信協會雜誌), *We and Telecommunication*(我等と通信), *Taiwan Raliway*(臺灣鐵道) and *Enterprise Taiwan*(實業の臺灣), the essay will re-examine the informational labour in colonial Taiwan from 1918 to 1930. The issues of acceleration and efficiency were revealed from the documents, descriptions and criticism. The acceleration of informational flow drove the operators' body technology, forced self diligence and enhanced productivity. As human-machine, the the efficiency and tiresomeness toddle side by side with maginal effect diminishing. Between 1918-1930, telegram operators faced the critical situation whether they could survive their dialy life and over loading work. Life became suffered and some tumult increased. In the aftermath of disturbance, de-skilled labour and automata machine replaced the bodily technology as a whole. What a informal labour formulated by erase the human labour.