

## **Reporting Materials and News Interviews of *The Taiwan Minpao*: Journalist Career of Ng Ong-seng**

Sheng-chuan Chuang

### **ABSTRACT**

Through tracing the journalist career of Ng Ong-seng and his participation in and observation for the operations and developments of *The Taiwan Minpao*, this article explores the meaning of such a press that was born out of anti-colonial movements. *The Taiwan Minpao* had three characteristics: anti-colonial consciousness, modern press and colonial nature. Mechanisms behind the production and dissemination of reporting texts in *The Taiwan Minpao* are also discussed.

Anti-colonial consciousness contained in *The Taiwan Minpao* had aligned the rise and fall in business of the publishing house with ups and downs of anti-colonial movements. Nevertheless, major setbacks of such movements sometimes became the turning points for survival of this colonial press. For example, the split of the Taiwanese Cultural Association and the forced disbandment of the Taiwanese People's Party accidentally contributed to the permission from the Taiwan Governor-General Office for *The Taiwan Minpao* to move back to Taiwan and to issue daily newspaper. With the accumulation of experiences and personal networks in the movements, *The Taiwan Minpao* need not compromise with the Governor-General Office and managed to issue daily newspaper with pure Taiwanese capital.

As a modern press, *The Taiwan Minpao* institutionalized the publishing model as an organization to support the "timeliness" of regular publications. Ng Ong-seng had good network relationship through his education, rich experience in article writing and journal editing as well as high linguistic competence in colonial Hanwen, making him an attraction and asset. Division of work and adjustment in organization of the publishing house brought promotion opportunities and also increased responsibilities for Ng.

Colonial nature of *The Taiwan Minpao* would imply deficiency in journalistic

professionalism and interference in news reporting and censorship from the colonial regime. Therefore, Ng could only rely on his own explorations and experiences to establish multiple sources for reporting materials. Following the restrictions on interviewing and reporting imposed by the Governor-General Office in the aftermath of the Hsinchu Commotion Incident, Ng attempted to report on the process and trial of the incident from various sources, bringing into full play the “contemporary nature” that closely linked *The Taiwan Minpao* with colonial Taiwan.

**Keywords:** Ng Ong-seng, *The Taiwan Minpao*, Colonial Modern Press, Anti-colonial Consciousness, Report Materials, Hsinchu Commotion Incident