

## Diary of Japanese Sinologist Momiyama Ishū

Shih-chia Hsu

### ABSTRACT

With reference to the diary of Japanese Sinologist Momiyama Ishū, a journalist of Taiwan Daily News (臺灣日日新報) from 1898 to 1904, this paper tries to analyze and reconstruct the daily life of a Japanese journalist living in the city of Taipei in the colonial era; in particular, his social relationship with the Governor-General of Taiwan (Taiwan Sōtokufu) and Taiwanese gentry.

Examining Momiyama Ishū's writings and financial exchanges revealed that ethnic differences posed no hindrance to the social interaction between Japanese and Taiwanese. Instead, collaborations and business partnerships were established under mutual interests or common social networks. The personnel changes noted down in Momiyama Ishū's diary also reflected the chaotic condition when the Governor-General of Taiwan took control of Taiwan Daily News. In addition, the diary records of Japanese's daily life in Ko-tei Sō (古亭庄) area offered a glimpse of the particular heteroglossia and hidden hierarchy inside the Japanese circle.

The above analysis exposed the shifting relationship between the ruler and the ruled as well as the changing power structure under the colonial system. There were times when sacrifices, exchanges and power restructuring had to be made for the sake of mutual benefits or to achieve a greater goal or advantage. In the process of such, transient interruption to the sovereignty and vulnerability of those in power might arise.

**Keywords:** Momiyama Ishū, Japanese in Colonial Taiwan, Social Interaction, Colonial System, Power Structure