

***Japan Academy Prize to:***

Hiromu SHIMIZU  
Professor Emeritus, Kyoto University

for *Grassroots Globalization: Cultural Practice and Life Strategy in a UNESCO World Heritage Village*

***Outline of the work:***

Dr. Hiromu Shimizu, the author of the book *Grassroots Globalization: Cultural Practice and Life Strategy in a UNESCO World Heritage Village* (Kyoto: Kyoto University Press, 2013) based on the penetrating fieldwork in a remote hill village (namely Hapao) of indigenous Ifugao in northern Luzon, Philippines. The village like other areas, has been influenced by globalization particularly last 10–20 years. The book discloses how the people confronted with such influence from outside. What effects have been taking place actually in what ways and direction. He found the local power (the villagers) had no small strength. They take the influence from outside in a way, an opportunity to a new way of life. At the same time, paying strong concerns with their native elements reforming it into new styles.

The author's fieldwork in this village was carried out in 1998. At the same time, indebted by his two long friendly acquaintances: Lopes Nauyac, a native of the village, worked for several years in Baguio city, but later realized the importance of the forest development of his own village, and he returned and became the active leader of forest and social development. Another long-term friend was the film producer, Kidlat Tahimik, who was born into an elite family in Baguio city with a total western education, later even served in the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) in Paris. Later he came to realize the nature of a true Filipino. In search he finally found Nauyac as a respectable person. He made a series of documentary films with Nauyac as the subject spanning a period of 20 years. Through Nauyac's talks with Kidlat films, the author's understanding of last two decades of the village which helped enormously his actual fieldwork.

Part I of the book deals with detailed life and work of the two rare persons. Their opinions and attitudes are also touched often in the following discussions.

Part II. Explanation for important background materials which help understanding of the present Ifugao. One is the preceding publications on Ifugao. They are numerous, as Ifugao people have been known as they maintained their traditional custom and culture most among indigenous peoples in the Philippines. Many anthropological researches have been carried out during the American period.

In this part the author presents a historical sketch of the Philippines encountered foreign powers: Spanish, American and during the Second World War. Including tragic defeat of Japanese army which happened in the Ifugao area and after independence by Marcos to the present, during each period one way or other Ifugao were also affected.

Part III dealt with economic life of villagers in the following three topics. (1) Traditional agriculture on terraced fields. (2) Wood carving dolls as souvenir for visitors, which is the easy way for them to get cash income. (3) Oversea works: 10% of the village population is engaged, and scattered to 27 countries. It has an

interesting contrast with the globalization from outside, as they throng from inside to outside. Interesting phenomena were also found while overseas workers increased the local symbolic feasts are developing in a new form.

Part IV. Discussion on the issues faced by the anthropologist who had to commit himself to be a helper or collaborator on actual works of the people who are the subject of his study.

As a whole, the author's alignment and interpretation on the tremendous data he collected are well taken. It reveals as one of the best products of the contemporary social anthropology. The reason to be able to produce such a result can be attributed to his long years of experience since 1970's having constantly worked one or other in Philippine field, which gave him perception in depth and width on the people and society. This is also the reason which makes us to be understandable the relations of the village with neighboring areas, and the position within the Philippines at large, which normally missed by an individual fieldworker engaged in a small community. Further, it should be mentioned his stance facing with the people of his study is in the equal footing, rather than the subjects and the researcher. This is why he could scoop out their individual conviction of life and inner desire.

Lastly, additional merit of this book also deserves to be mentioned. Although this is a research on an Ifugao village, through the entire discussion of this book, it helps us to infer in a way the Philippine (people and society), which is not easy for us to realize, as it consists of various language groups, and with the history of experiences of successive different foreign powers.