

Strategic Young Researcher Overseas Visit Program for Accelerating Brain Circulation

Dispatch Report

Year: 2013

Place of fieldwork: Main Library of Jamaat-e Islami, Pakistan

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- Research background

The aim of this study is to trace the history of the Pakistan's language and the expanse and development of publishing culture, which is strongly related to Islamic thought, in Pakistan. Islamic theologian and politician Maulana Saiyid Abu al-Ala Maududi (1903-1979) and his publications are chosen as the subject matter of this research. Maududi was a controversial 20th Century Islamist thinker working in South Asia. He founded the religious party Jamaat-e Islami in 1941 in Lahore and wrote over 150 books and pamphlets in Urdu.

- Research purpose and aim

Analysing the diction and theoretical contents of these materials will reveal how he used the publications and what ideas he wished to spread. His word choice in these books—in Urdu, Persian, or Arabic—will uncover the relationship of religion and the Urdu language. Thus, this research will explore the character of Islam in Urdu media.



Photo 1: Head Quarter of Jamaat-e Islami

- Results and achievements by fieldwork

This year, I had a meeting for my visiting research programme. I visited my supervisor for this programme, Prof. Dr. Rafi' uddin Hashmi, who was formerly a professor at Punjab University. The purpose of this visit was to present my research topic and course of study, and discuss my plans for investigation. Prof. Hashmi was one of the leading experts in the published works of Maulana Maududi. He advised me on materials and the research situation in Pakistan.

I also visited some Jamaat-e Islami groups for the first time: a women's union, a students' union, and the department of foreign affairs.



Photo2: Entrance of Women's Union's Office



Photo 3: Conference of Students' Union at Punjab University



Photo 4: Meeting with Director Foreign Affairs Department

- Implications and impact on future research

The main purpose of my next visit in the summer is to survey materials in the library. There are original editions of books and journals written by Maududi, which are hard to find in Japan. I will use the academic connections I hope to have built by this time to survey the publishing office of Jamaat-e Islami and also private bookshops around the headquarters. Private bookshops are especially important as they may have reprints of significant religious books.

Moreover, I will visit the Oriental College of Punjab University in Lahore, the International Islamic University in Islamabad, and branch offices of Jamaat-e Islami in other cities. It is my aim to exchange views on a wide range of issues with researchers and members of this society.