Contextualization through Network: Music Publications for the Youth of 1920s in Korea

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Historically, there is no doubt that printing is an epoch-making technology. From the innovative aspect, mass production for music publications was huge change that enables people to enjoy their musical lives. Around 1900 in Korea, at the early stage of music publication, it started with the purpose of education and enlightenment by missionaries, but publications thereafter had to be submitted for censorship controlled by Japanese occupation.

After the 3·1 movement for the independence of the country in 1919, music publications increasingly exploded. Some of them were for the youth including women and children. For the country, women had to be learned to teach their children, both of them became essential members in the society for the future. In this period, music publications could encourage people with several songs by lyrics, making them “be aware” through self-control and overcoming the destiny of the country. These publications reflect the social consciousness that continuously interchanged between people as consumers and the material itself as products. Even though the publication-related persons played leading roles in the society, their network was also undiscovered.

This paper is a research focusing on network from music publications for the youth of 1920s in Korea, and an attempt to contextualize how the social consciousness manifested itself and how publications could be the hub among people and the society. And it reveals that publication is not just a repository of music, rather a multi-dimensional field of transcending time and space, leading contextualization in digital age.