
Globalization and the national social science in the discourse on the SSCI in South Korea

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Abstract: This paper discusses the changing knowledge production in Korea in the era of globalization, revealing the misconception of the SSCI in the discourse on quality of research papers in Korea. Both the Korea government and universities conceive the SSCI as representing quality of paper internationally recognized. Contrary to that perception, the SSCI simply represents the citation index produced by the private information company to sell information as commodity. Furthermore, the SSCI used by the English speaking world does not report research outcome of non-English speaking world. Emphasis on the SSCI misconceives that “the social” is significantly varying according to temporal and spatial dimension of society. Therefore, social science does not pursue unity of science as a philosophy of science. Without reflecting the very nature of social science, the discourse on the SSCI distorts the national knowledge production in the periphery.

Key words: globalization, social science citation index(SSCI), knowledge production, unity of science, academic hegemony

I . Globalization and social science

As globalization has been a ghost hovering all over the world in the 21 century, national institutions and customs in South Korea have been experiencing drastic change to cope with demands and pressure from globalization. They include a wide range of regulatory system of production and distribution of goods, service and knowledge. National response to globalization has been more conspicuous and drastic in non-Western countries than Western countries, since Western countries play leading role in promoting globalization to non-Western world. Conceived globalization as a threat as well as destiny of the future world, the government tried to respond to the challenge of globalization that is assumed to be equivalent to permanent competition and the survival of the fittest in the market.

One of the most drastic changes due to globalization has been observed in an area of knowledge production. A system of knowledge production in non-Western countries has been experiencing fundamental transformation mainly due to the national response to globalization. For example, many universities in South Korea introduced a new system of evaluation of knowledge produced by researchers and faculty members, incorporating the Social Science Citations Index (hereafter, SSCI) as a criterion of judging quality of research papers. By the new system of evaluation of knowledge, the SSCI can play a key role in certifying only some knowledge produced by scholars as legitimate scientific knowledge and gives them advantages over others in case of evaluation of academic performance. Rapidly expanding discourse on the SSCI in Korea reveals a particular way of viewing social science and a hidden assumption of hierarchal system of knowledge between Korea and the West. The hidden code of discourse on the SSCI transforms rules and customs in the university, reshaping

attitude and behavior of researchers.

This paper addresses ideological and political issues embedded in the discourse on the SSCI in the process of evaluation of knowledge produced in South Korea. The next part discusses the nature of the SSCI as simple bibliographical information produced by the private corporation for researchers and librarians. It shows that the Institute of Scientific Information (ISI) and later ISI Thomson becomes a transnational corporation monopolizing information industry. The third part analyses how discourse on the SCI and the SSCI in Korea has developed in response to globalization in the 1990s, showing that the discourse on the SCI and SSCI was relatively new and that misconception of the SSCI is so serious that a basis of national social science is getting weakened. The fourth part deals with an ideology of the SSCI in South Korea, arguing that the SSCI, in general, dismisses national and local knowledge of peripheral counties in the non-Western world. Although majority of the people in the world have its own system of knowledge production and distribution, the SSCI organized by the English-speaking world marginalizes and eventually extinguishes national and local knowledge in the non-English-speaking world. I also argue that emphasis on the SSCI also obscures epistemological difference between natural science and social science or humanities with an assumption of unity of logics of social science and natural science. De-contextualization of social events and social phenomena makes knowledge produced in the English speaking world universal knowledge, rejecting 'the social' deeply rooted in the national and local history and culture peculiar to each country.

II. What is the SSCI?

The SSCI has been made by a private company, Institute for Scientific Information (ISI) and later Thomson ISI¹, to provide bibliographic information to researchers and scholars in America since 1958. The SSCI is unique in that it includes all the cited references (footnotes or bibliographies) published with each article it covers. Article's cited reference list gives useful information about the current state of research in subjects, so that researchers effectively find out related information from the SSCI. It also provides a citation database in which citation of author or work can be retrievable. With the Science Citations Index (SCI) that was introduced first in 1963 and Art & Humanities Citations Index (A&HCI) that was introduced in 1978, the SSCI proves to

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1. Eugene Garfield started the ISI in 1958 in Philadelphia as a company for providing information service. He got a BA in chemistry and MA in Library Science at Columbia University and Ph. D in structural linguistics at the University of Pennsylvania. Working on projects providing citation index and content-page information to researchers in chemistry, pharmaceutical field and management, Eugene Garfield set up a company called Documentation Inc. to produce and sell information of references and contents in 1958. The Documentation Inc. changed its name to the Institute for Scientific Information in 1961. ISI already proved to be a profitable company with 300 employees, of whom 52 had Ph. D in 1974. For a story of Eugene Garfield and ISI until 1974, see Lazerow (1974). The transnational media corporation Thomson took over the ISI in 1992. Thompson Corporation based on US expanded its business in various industries such as North Sea oil production, information and publishing industry, legal service and leisure travel. As newspaper market declines due to the development of the Internet, Thompson began to move to e-information industry with acquisition of the ISI in 1992 and sold regional newspapers in UK, USA and Canada in 1995-1996 so as to concentrate on a newly emerging information industry (<http://www.thomson.com/history/history.html>).

be an effective and indispensable tool for information handling in libraries and research institutes in the English-speaking world. The ISI made the SSCI available in 1973. The ISI published *the 1956-1965 Social Science Citations Index* in 1973 and *the 1969-1995 Social Science Citations Index* later in book format and produced *Social Science Citations Index* on CD-ROM format in 1988. Now *Social Science Citations Index* is available on the Internet from Web of Science managed by Thompson Corporation.

In the 1950s the ISI has selected a small percentage of journals to provide citation information. Citation information is unique to the information sold by the ISI. Based on the Bradford's law², it has scanned the most significant journals in social science disciplines. Since citation results are supposed to show exponentially diminishing return, coverage of social science citation literature should not be comprehensive to cover all journals. Instead, core journals may suggest sufficient information about important articles for disciplines. It has been assumed that "frequency of citation implies scholarly acceptance or at least acknowledgement of important utilization of others' work."³ The impact factor, quantitative measure of frequency of citation, is considered as an indicator of scholarly importance or contribution. Thus, citation index of core journals becomes important information of assessing impact of an article on the field.

The SSCI has been used to find out reference material for research in social science, assuming that papers in some journals

2. It describes how the literature on a subject is scattered across journals. It means that there is a diminishing return in trying to find new references. Samuel C. Bradford formulated this law in 1934: to compile a bibliography of on any subject, only a small group of core journals accounts for a substantial percentage (1/3) of articles on that subject or discipline. See Garfield (1980). But the same pattern does not take place with the humanities or the social science because objective truth is so much harder to find there.

3. <http://scientific.thomson.com/knowtred/essays/journalcitationreport>.

have higher scholarly value than others. Articles published in major or core journals have more impact on research than others since they will be cited more frequently than others. Researchers in most universities in USA use the SSCI to get information of the past and current research of other researchers or institutions. Citation statistics that the SSCI shows indicates which research papers are mostly cited and that might be used for the direction of new research. Thus the SSCI has been a useful research tool for individual researchers and institutions in America and later in English speaking world. In short, The ISI Thomson as an information business provides research information and evaluating all research activities in academic institutions by selecting limited journals in the list of the SSCI.

However, academic contribution of individuals is not evaluated solely by the SSCI because frequency of citation does not exactly show quality of works of individual researchers. Quantitative measures did not sufficiently reflect scholarly contribution of articles because frequency of citation is highly correlated with the number of researchers in a field. As Eugene Garfield already showed, psychology dominated the list of highly cited papers for impact factor analysis for 1956-1965, simply because at that time psychology was one of the largest disciplines in American social sciences.⁴

From the beginning, ISI was a private business company. In 1974, Samuel Lazerow, Vice President of ISI stated that “[I]n terms of its operating philosophy, however, ISI is very much businessmen’s business.”⁵ ISI is a private information company that sells academic information to researchers and librarians for mak-

4. See Garfield (1989: 281-282).

5. Samuel Lazerow, a vice president of ISI, frankly wrote that “ISI from the beginning has been unabashedly and successfully commercial.” See Lazerow (1974).

ing profits. Thomson ISI found out that academic information industry became much more profitable than media and travel industry with the advent of information society and emphasis on scientific research in universities and research institutes. Other companies also began to provide academic information on the Internet. Unlike other companies, however, Thomson ISI provides citation information as well as full text information. Thomson ISI and other companies are competing to seize the information market that has been expanding ever faster than before. Thomson's buyout of ISI reveals two things. First, scientific information itself became a valuable commodity as scientific research began to play an important role in profit making. Information of the past and current research becomes indispensable resource for researchers to conduct new research. Information of research has been exploding with growth of new journals and new research institutes, so that there is an increasing demand of information database that can be easily manageable. In addition, research information becomes valuable source for government and corporate as well as academic since an application of scientific research in government policy making or product lines becomes more frequent and important. Second, the CEO of Thomson showed shrewdness in managerial decision making with divestment in newspaper industry and new investment in science information industry. He will be considered as a man of entrepreneurship in a rapidly changing global capitalism.

III. Globalization and the discourse on SCI and SSCI in South Korea

Until the mid 1990s research of professors had never been emphasized in universities in South Korea. Authoritarian regime demanded university professors to do some role in controlling student movements for democratization. Even under the military

rule university professors were enforced to act to prevent student demonstrations in the campus. Some university organizations were responsible for reporting student activities and even cooperated with the police and security agency of the military regime to monitor student activists and oppress student organizations. Universities were parts of groups of the vested interest, allied with the military regime. Therefore, academic achievement in the process of recruitment and promotion of faculty members were not considered as an important factor for university professors. Professors who were not critical of the military regime were guaranteed for their jobs until the age of retirement. What was required for a university professor was docility and compliance to the military regime.

Democratization has totally transformed the major issue of discourse within university. The most urgent issue among new issues was democratization of management of university. Participation of students and faculty members in the decision-making was regarded as one of the most important things to be achieved. In addition, abolition of surveillance system within universities was demanded and eventually disappeared. Associations of ordinary professors were set up among almost all universities in the late 80s and early 90s. Association of ordinary professors exercised significant roles in changing the governance structure of university. Direct election of president by faculty members was introduced in both national universities and private universities. A National Association of Professors Promoting Democracy (NAPPD) was founded in the late 80s became an influential organization in promoting democracy in the university as well as in the politics.⁶ University reform in the late 1980s and early 1990s

6. National Association of University Professors for Democracy started in June 26 1987 in the midst of mass struggle against the military dictatorship. It has played a significant role in leading social movements for political demo-

meant democratization of governance of university and abolition of the legacy of the military rule.

Globalization more deeply affected the university reform from the mid 1990s. The most important factor to change the role of universities and professors was globalization with ever increasing competition in the global market. Globalization became more conspicuous with the collapse of the Eastern European bloc in the late 1980s and early 1990s and the formation of the WTO in 1995. The WTO replaced the GATT, which was established right after the Second World War and functioned as a guideline in the international trade in the Cold War period. After the collapse of the state socialism in East Europe, the capitalist market economy became a dominant form of worldwide economic system. In response to emerging global capitalism, since 1994 newly elected president Kim Young Sam in South Korea pursued a policy of *Kookjehwa* (internationalization) and later *Sekeyhwa* (globalization) as a key policy orientation of the new government as a national response to global capitalism. Suddenly *Sekeyhwa* became one of the most popular word in mass media and academics in South Korea. Globalization was not considered as a process of social change occurring at the global level but a policy goal to achieve. Instead, globalization advocated by the state was an expression of aggressive nationalism by emphasizing a march into the international market more aggressively and thus it became a state's catchword for political mobilization (Shin 2000: 430-431).

Discourse on globalization transformed parameters of political and academic discourse in university as a higher education system. Competition and meritocracy began to replace democratization in academic discourse in and outside universities. Major media and the government began to emphasize competitiveness of

cratization as well as university reform in South Korea. Now it consists of almost 5,000 professors.

Korean universities in the world. They began to criticize universities as a system of education most reluctant to upgrade its system. Furthermore, one newspaper began to evaluate universities and departments from 1994, as the *US News and World Report* did in the United States of America.⁷ Major conservative newspapers voiced in common in criticizing universities and professors for lack of competitiveness in research and education. Due to public condemnation of universities, presidents of major universities began to emphasize competitiveness in research and education of the faculty members. In recruitment of new faculty members and promotion of faculty members, basic requirements were strengthened. Revision of the rules related to hiring and promotion of faculty members was a fashion among universities in Korea from 1994.⁸

At the same time, national newspapers began to report rankings of Korean universities in the world.⁹ They blamed South Korea university system for low international competitiveness revealed by lower rankings of major Korean universities in the

7. As a part of 36th anniversary of its establishment, Chung-Ang Daily Newspaper conducted an evaluation of universities and departments across the nation since 1994. It produced a list of rankings of universities and departments. Regardless of arbitrariness and incompetence of the newspaper in evaluating universities and departments, it has exercised power of media organization in making rankings of universities and departments. Many universities have been so sensitive to the results that they have lobbied to get some favor.

8. Chung-Ang Daily, March 29, 1994.

9. For example, *The Times Higher Education Supplement* in Britain reported World University Rankings on November 5 2004. According to its report, there were no universities ranked within 100 in South Korea. Seoul National University was ranked in 119th. Yonsei University and Korea University were not ranked within 200 universities. Shanghai Zaotung University reported the 500 World University on September 9 2003. Major universities in South Korea were ranked lower than 200th among the world universities.

world. While those universities enjoyed the status as the most prestigious universities in South Korea, they turned out to be poor quality universities according to the international standard. The rankings were based on the number of articles published in journals on the list of the SCI and impact factors. University suddenly became the target of open criticism for low competitiveness in the 90s, whereas it was appraised as the site of democratic struggle in the 70s and 80s.

For the first time, citation of the SCI appeared in a national newspaper in 1990. Donga Daily Newspaper reported that while science and technology became more important in economic growth, R & D expenditure and science education in Korea was far lower than that of the advanced industrial countries in terms of a number of papers in the journals listed in the SCI. As a result of low expenditure of R & D, the number of research papers produced by Korean scientists was smaller than other Asian countries.¹⁰ The core issue of this article was a low level of R & D expenditure, not university system.

Since 1994, the discourse on the SCI began to be associated with college rankings and academic performance, as college rankings based on number of per capita articles listed in the SCI were reported in Korean newspapers. The Ministry of Education (MOE) and The Ministry of Science and Technology (MOST) as well as other universities reported the world college rankings based on the SCI. The MOST announced that the total number of research articles published in international journals was 2,997, 27th of the all countries in 2004.¹¹ Media regularly reported the

10. On the Day of Science, April 21 1990, Donga Daily Newspaper argued that scientific research and education should be emphasized to continue economic growth. Labor intensity economic growth should be transformed by development of technology intensity industry. South Korea showed the lowest rank among four Asian tigers with regard to papers per 10,000; Singapore (19), Hong Kong (33), Taiwan (44), Korea (60).

rankings of universities based on the SCI each year. The total numbers of research articles in general and research articles in the area of science and technology across countries were reported annually and also the rankings of universities according to the number of articles reported in the SCI, SSCI and Arts & Humanities were also published. The SCI became a mundane term to deal with the state of the Korean higher education with low competitiveness of universities and it provides justification of its reform in the age of globalization in the late 1990s.

As globalization proceeds, competitiveness of higher education becomes a key issue of the government education policy and university management. The government that has controlled higher education continues to grip power to intervene in administration and management of universities. The MOT, later changed into The Ministry of Education and Human Resources Development (MEHRD), has still exercised power to control private university as well as national university as a legacy of the developmental state. Although the MOT does not have enough power to control private university as before, it still has rights to investigate university management. It began to adopt new strategies to enhance competitiveness of Korean universities by providing pecuniary incentives to researchers and universities.

Gradually research fund provided by government has been chosen by competition in the 1990s. Competition has double edges. In one sense, it partly contributed to democratize government agency and university that was reflected an increasing transparency in the distribution of research fund. As research and development became more important, the government strengthened The Korean Research Foundation (KRF)¹². The

11. Hankeyrae, January 26, 2004.

12. It is established in 1979. The role of the Korean Research Foundation has been changed several times with the change of the political regime. Appoint-

KRF began to play a major role in distributing research fund in the 1990s. Old guards in academics, who had strong tie with the government officials and political leaders in the past, began to lose power in controlling the process of allocation of research fund. Now competition becomes the most important rule of game in Korean academics. In another sense, competition among researchers can be an obstacle for democratic consolidation when the nature of competition is not valuable and the state intervenes on its own purpose. University governance not fully democratized can be used to oppress the demand of democratic reform of the university.¹³ Competition can be another way of controlling the university by the state and controlling faculty members by the university.

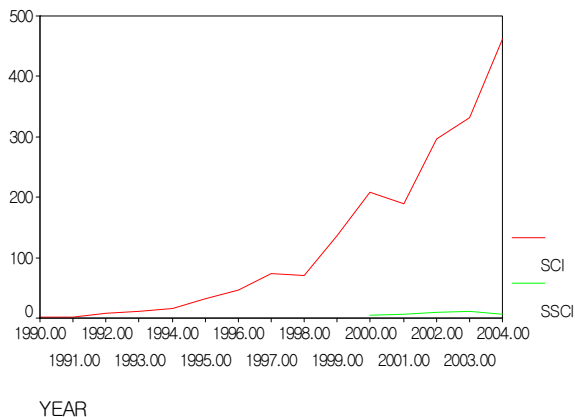
The KRF affects the direction of research and behavior of researchers by controlling academic journals. As a new rule, The KRF introduced a system of registration of journals that classified and graded journals. Research papers published in journals that are not registered in the KRF are not counted as proper research papers. Academic journals that published research papers from critical perspectives were largely regarded as non-academic

ment of directors of the KRF had been considered as a political decision of the political leaders until mid 90s. As a result, scholars involved in the business of the KRF were conservative and supportive of the authoritarian regime. In the late 1990s the Korea Research Foundation monopolized all information about researchers as well as research fund for humanity and social science of the government.

13. More than 80 percent of university in South Korea is private university. Owners of the private university sometimes exercise power to influence the process of recruitment of new faculty members and appointment of university officials. Some faculty members criticized the behavior of owners and the owners reacted by dismissing those faculty members in several universities in the 1990s. They became causes of chronic campus disputes with engagement of students.

journals and those who published in those journals should willingly be subject to disadvantage in the job market. It became the most important discouraging factor for young scholars as well as professors to publish research papers in those journals. Since universities mostly consider research papers recognized only by the KRF, The KRF influences universities' decisions on whether to hire a new faculty member or promote an already tenured professor.

Figure 1. SCI and SSCI in newspapers



Source: The original data base is the digitalized newspapers archive of the Korea Press Foundation.

Along with the shift of government policy, universities began to revise rules for recruitment of new faculty members and promotion of the faculty members. As the job market for new Ph.D. was getting tighter, job competition was intensified in social science from the early 1990s. In the process of hiring new faculty members, academic performance becomes more important factor than before, significantly affecting the final outcome. However, universities have not equally treated academic papers of

applicants. There have been three categories differentiating the level of quality into three categories.¹⁴ The first rate research papers in Korean social science are papers published in the journals listed in the SSCI. The second rate research papers are papers published in the journals recognized by the KRF. The rate third research papers are papers published in journals other than journals listed in the SSCI or the list of the KRF. These papers have not been counted as research papers in an evaluation of academic performance of applicants as well as faculty members. Each university gives preferential treatment to applicants who published research papers in the journals listed in the SSCI. Most universities also introduced a new rule for promotion similar to the rule for recruitment. Regardless of the real quality of the papers, the journals where the papers were published were considered to represent the level of quality of the papers.

As we can see in <Figure 1>, compared to the SCI, the SSCI was less known to the government, university officials and mass media in South Korea. While there has been increasing discourse on the SCI in terms of competitiveness of science and technology, there has been few with regard to the SSCI. The SSCI began to appear in newspapers as lately as 2000 in the public discourse. However, universities and funding organization has applied a rule to evaluate research papers in social science associated with the SSCI from the mid 1990s. Revising the rule of recruitment and promotion, most universities already adopted a principle by which research papers published in journals listed in the SSCI were considered to be more qualified and valuable than others.¹⁵

14. Based on the quality of journals, some universities adopt four categories of grade of quality of papers. The quality of papers is simply equated with the quality of journals.

15. A paper published in journals listed in the SSCI is counted as equivalent to 1.5 or 2 papers published in Korean journals. For example, Yonsei University codified that papers published in the journals listed in the

Publication in journals listed in the SSCI has been encouraged by giving special bonus or extra salary to those who published in the journals of the SSCI.¹⁶ Papers published in the journals listed in the SSCI receive much larger credits than papers published in national journals or local journals. In addition, government officials and mass media also point out the fact that university professors in South Korea show poor performance in producing papers cited in the SSCI.

Competition becomes a new rule of game in the university not only for getting jobs but for getting research funds. The most important factor determining the outcome of competition is quantity of research papers, not quality of papers. Compared with papers published in journals in Korea, papers listed in the SSCI have been weighted by 1.5 times or twice in evaluation of academic performance.¹⁷ In addition, universities as well as the government accentuate publication of research output in the journals listed in the SSCI, giving advantage to those who published in journals listed in the SSCI. The number of papers in journals in the SSCI is considered as a measure of the prestige of researchers or universities. Without considering the nature of social

SSCI would get extra points up to 100 percent. See <Appendix 3> Grades of Academic Journals associated with the provision of Article 27 for evaluation of research performance at Yonsei University(<http://165.132.13.12/you/intro/rule/append/append03.html>).

16. onggook university in Seoul stipulated a rule that the university provides 10 thousands dollars to a faculty member who published his or her paper in the journals out of the SSCI. *Daily Economy*, March 25 2002. Other universities also introduced similar rules to encourage publication in the journals out of the SSCI.
17. In the Brain Korea 21 program in 2006, the MOT's largest funding program for graduate departments, one paper published in a journal listed in the SCI is considered as equivalent two papers published in journals listed in the KRF.

science, the discourse of the SCI in Korea was simply extended to the discourse of the SSCI in and out of university.

IV. Critique of the Discourse of the SSCI

Discourses of the SSCI in Korea are intertwined with globalization in that international competitiveness of social science research becomes a major concern of the government and university. University reform projects initiated by the government intend to concentrate resource to a small number of universities to enhance research performance of those universities. During the Kim Dae Jung government the Ministry of Education has allocated financial resource according to the reform that each university carried out. Roh Moo Hyun government that succeeded to Kim Dae Jung government also pursued university reform for enhancing competitiveness. The Ministry of Education has regularly conducted evaluations of universities and reported the result by grouping universities into three categories: excellent, very good and good.

The discourse of the SSCI in Korea shows three characteristics that are related with serious misunderstanding of the SSCI and nature of social science in Korea in particular and the non-English speaking world in general. First, it assumes that the SSCI represents the major trend of social research in the world. In fact, the SSCI does not cover research in social science all over the world. The SSCI only reports research papers written in English. It dismisses research output produced in the non-English speaking world. It represents disproportionately research papers of American and British social scientists. Thus, it is quite natural to observe that American universities and British universities are ranked highly according the total number of papers listed in the SSCI. Research produced by scholars in many other countries than the USA and Britain tends to be underrepresented or not

represented by the SSCI at all. All most of all research in social science in Korea, China, Japan, Middle East countries, many African and Latin American countries are not reported in the SSCI. Language biases in the coverage of the SSCI should be fully recognized. This is the reason why many other countries try to make their own social sciences citation index system by themselves.¹⁸ The KRF also introduced the Korean Citation Index in autumn 2005. However, it still discounts papers written in Korean

Second, it assumes that there is unity of science in that social science searches for universal laws as natural science does. In fact, emphasis on the SSCI is based on a wrong perception of the nature of social science. 'The social' in the peripheral countries is different from that in the center, so that it can not be fully comprehended by generalization of the theory developed in the center. However, research papers dealing with 'the social' in the periphery seem to be difficult to get attraction from researchers in the center. Mostly they deal with 'the social' different from that in the center. Unlike natural science, social science deals with subjects that are deeply rooted in the history and culture of each society. Social science does not attempt to find out universal laws that govern all societies and are applicable to any places in

18. In China, the Chinese Social Science Citation Index was developed jointly by Nanjing University and HKUST in Hong Kong. The CSSCI is the first citation index to articles in core Chinese language periodicals in the humanities and social sciences. It covers over 400 periodicals published in the mainland as well as some periodicals from Hong Kong and other regions. Other countries such as Taiwan and Poland also developed their own social sciences citation index. Netherlands also set up its own scientific information service system merging of six existing institutes in the area of providing scientific information, called the Netherlands Institute for Scientific Services (NIWI), which is an institute of the Royal Netherlands of Arts and Science (KNAW) in September 1997.

the world. It implies that research issues could be specific to each society. The SSCI heavily reflects the research interests of American and British social scientists, dismissing issues that are urgent and important in South Korea. For example, while regionalism in South Korea may be one of the most important characteristics to understand Korean politics and can be considered as an important topic of research among Korean social scientists, it is not an interesting subject for American social scientists at all. Papers on regionalism written in English will be difficult to get chance to be published in the journals listed in the SSCI. The journals listed in the SSCI mainly reflect the interests of mainstream American social scientists that have been changing too.

Third, it assumes that impact factors provided the SSCI indicates the quality of the paper and the number of papers published in the journals listed in the SSCI indicates the competitiveness of social scientists. The SSCI simply reports citations index to be used by researchers and librarians. The SSCI is an information service and Thomson Corporation sells the information to get profits. The SSCI provides very simple criteria to select journals listed in the SSCI.¹⁹ Among others, however, citation analysis is a critical process in selecting journals as journals on the list of the SSCI. Frequency of citations depends on the number of researchers in the field and popularity of topics among researchers. Thus, research in a peripheral country is inevitably marginalized in the SSCI. It also promotes tendency to follow the mainstream research because non-mainstream research is not fre-

19. The ISI Thomson suggests that timeliness of publication, English language article titles, abstracts and keywords, international diversity of authors of articles and cited articles and citation analysis are important criteria for selection of journals. Only 10-12 percent of submitted journals are selected according to the criteria. Even some criticizes the process of journal selection in the SSCI, showing that it is inconsistent and ideologically biased. See Klein and Chiang (2004).

quently cited in mainstream research papers (Hjørland and Nicolaisen 2005).

Discourse on the SSCI in South Korea shows a serious misunderstanding of the ISI and misconception of social science research. Nevertheless, it strongly affects the attitude and behavior of social scientists in South Korea. Furthermore, it also alter the way in which graduate students and faculty members carry out their research because their research outcomes must be considered in accordance with evaluation system of their research performance. Discourse on the SSCI in South Korea reveals serious misunderstanding of the nature of social science. It results in self-selected asymmetric academic relationship between South Korea as a peripheral country in academics and the Center. Self-negation of national and local knowledge production will end up with the complete loss of academic autonomy of social scientists in South Korea. Relying on the current of social science research in America or Britain, social scientists in South Korea will not be able to raise research questions pertinent to their own experiences and national or local history. As English extinguishes local languages, the dominance of the SSCI will make indigenous social science wither away.

V. Concluding Remarks

In response to globalization, Korean government and universities are eager to reform higher education system to enhance competitiveness of researchers. Strengthening requirements for promotion and an introduction of competition for research funds were major changes affecting attitude and behavior of researchers. However, the new evaluation system of academic performance for hiring and promotion displays a serious misconception of the nature of the SSCI and the nature of social science. Simple extension of the logic of the natural science to so-

cial science obscures the ideology of the new evaluation system in which the SSCI is considered as a global standard to evaluate national and local research.

The SSCI became a hegemonic word influencing the government's policy for a higher education and university reform in South Korea from the late 1990s. Policy makers, university administrators, government officials and mass media share some misconception of the SSCI in common. The SSCI is simply a private corporation that provides cited references that help researchers find out information they need to conduct their research in social science. Thus the SSCI is a business in information industry selling information as a commodity in English-speaking world. Researchers as clients purchase and consume information service provided by the SSCI.

Misconception of the SSCI generates serious academic problems, distorting institutional rules and behavior of individual researchers in South Korea. Universities are experiencing restructuring based on the misconception, implicitly accepting academism of the USA as superior to that of Korea and writing in English as showing academic excellence. As a result, there is a possibility of withering of the indigenous social science or Americanization of social science when there is no attempt to change the situation. Uprooted social science will not be able to escape from the hegemony of USA even in academics.

Discourse on the SSCI reveals academic Orientalism in which academicians and policy makers in South Korea commonly accept the SSCI as a guiding light of social science and devalue research papers written in Korean. Self-selected colonial mentality pervasive in the discourse on the SSCI should be noticed and criticize. The SSCI itself is a valuable information source in the English-speaking world. However, it should not be considered as a hegemonic rule of the new regulation of production and distribution of knowledge in social science. If necessary, there should

be some national institutions that translate research papers written in Korean into English so as to promote research information worldwide.

We should consider other ways to enhance social science research in South Korea. Subordination of the Korean social science to the American and British social science does not contribute the development of social science in Korea. We need institutional rules and customs to encourage creative research by allocation of research fund based on competition and to encourage more rigorous research by introduction of peer review system. We don't need to encourage social scientist in South Korea to write research papers in English so as to promote social science research. In order for social scientists in South Korea to contribute to the progress of society, they should be encouraged to write research outcome in Korean, so that that should be shared by larger social groups that include policy makers and concerned citizens as well as professional researchers. That is a way to enhance the impact of research papers on society as well as academics. Then, government's research funds derived from tax can be utilized for public goods.

It must be a good way to write research paper in English to communicate with other researchers in other countries. In particular, English might be a useful tool for researchers in East Asia where each country has its own language. However, it is one thing to encourage social scientists to write research papers in English to share their research outcome together with foreign social scientists. It is another thing to consider papers published in the journals out of the SSCI as much superior to papers written in national languages other than English. English language as an instrument for communication should not dominate the substance of research in social science in non-English-speaking world.

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