Study of History of Ideas of ARASE Yutaka: Principle of Criticism of Journalism

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This article examines the ideas of ARASE Yutaka (born in 1930) from the viewpoint of journalism and the history of journalism. It questions the meaning of studying journalism and its history. This is the first study to examine the formation of the ideas of ARASE Yutaka, who was a researcher on the history of journalism, and his theory and criticism of journalism.

Chapter I, "Formation of Ideas" follows ARASE, who was a college student and a journalist of Asahi Shimbun at the Niigata branch before he spent his life as a researcher at the Institute of Journalism and Communication Studies, University of Tokyo, and how he developed his consciousness of "connecting reality and the academic world" in those days. While analyzing the "Philosophy of Okesa," which discusses folk songs of Niigata, this chapter determines the location of the problem consciousness of ARASE.

Chapter II, "Theory of Journalism" stresses the importance of the fact that ARASE understood journalism not just as a subordinate concept of mass media but studied the tense relationship between them, by referring mainly to the journalism theory by TOSAKA Jun and HAYASHI Kaori. This chapter clarifies that ARASE understood the concept of journalism as an ideological message facing the reality with critical thinking, and delves into the critical role specific to journalism.

Chapter III, "Criticism of Journalism" studies ARASE's criticism of journalism in history. ARASE read the process of separation of "freedom of speech" demanded by journalists from the "movement for liberation" in the Rice Riot, and observed the "abandonment of consistent speech" in connection with the responsibility of journalism at times of war. This chapter reexamines ARASE's analysis of journalistic discourse just after defeat in war to indicate clearly that his method of criticism of journalism is based on a complete logic.

Finally, after addressing some remaining tasks, this article presents the theory that the practical critical thinking of ARASE, who sneaked through popular ideas with a sense of distance from intellectuals and sensibility to sarcasm and wit, was the principle that connected his self-image as an intellectual and the ideas of journalism.

Keywords: History of journalism, Journalism, Tense relationship with mass media, Responsibility of journalism at times of war, Critical character of ideas