This Study explores how military experiences of Koreans under Japanese colonial rule was succeeded to South Korea (Republic of Korea) after the liberation, focusing on military experiences of Koreans who served in Manchukuo Imperial Army in the colonial days and after the liberation.

Previous studies of Koreans in Manchukuo Imperial Army have examined the organization, activity and actual status of the military academies and the corps to which Koreans belonged. However, the facts below have not been clarified by the previous studies: the fact that the number of newly enrolled Korean students in the military academies were systematically limited: those who did enter the military academies were only a small number of Koreans, like the persons who had grown up in a special environment or the privileged elite who had been brought up in an economically good environment: the Koreans in the Korean Corps, "Kantō Special Corps" (関東特設隊, J. Kantō-Tokusetsu-Tai) which was founded in Manchukuo Imperial Army learned the slaughter technique of Imperial Japanese Army and made use of it in Republic of Korea Armed Forces after the liberation.
The study proposes the following hypothesis: their military experiences under Japanese colonial rule and after the liberation have a continuity in three points: 1) the commanders of military operations which are accompanied by slaughter; 2) the existence of authority for "summary executions" (slaughter on the spot) at site commanders' discretion; 3) the ideology of slaughter (the slaughter technique) that military should consider civilians who resist as "communist bandit" (共匪: J. Kyōhi) and slaughter them.

As a result, the study reveals that there is a continuity in their military experiences under Japanese colonial rule and after the liberation on the three points mentioned above. Those findings also suggest that when one understands the continuity, the following points must not be missed: the aspect of exclusion of Koreans and the structure of colonial rule which functioned, "subsuming" only the small number of Koreans, in Korean man and a desire to rise in the world, aiming to succeed in life and to escape from the discrimination from Japanese in their colonial days, the actual state of affairs in Manchukuo Imperial Army let them down. That was one of the biggest reasons why they showed an excess of loyalty to Japan, as they devotedly followed the slaughter manual of Japanese Imperial Army and carried out the "summary executions" of civilians.

After the liberation, in South Korea under USAMGIK's rule, they joined forces with USAMGIK and showed excessive loyalty to the U.S. this time, whilst the founding army movements of Koreans were violently destroyed by USAMGIK. Their loyalty to the U.S. was based on the logic that they wanted to escape from the guilt about their military experiences in the Japanese colonial days and from the suspicion of being on "the left wing." In South Korea after the liberation, the slaughter technique of Japanese Imperial Army that Kim Baeg-il (金白一) and other Korean members learned in Hēbēishèng luánxiàn sījízhèn (河北省濤縣司集鎮) in Japanese colonial days, was used again for civilians who aimed for the unification of North-South Korean peninsula and resisted. Their military experiences in the colonial days were not atoned, but rather utilized and succeeded after the liberation.

The importance of this study is to open a new viewpoint of research which focuses on the continuity of the military experiences of Koreans in Manchukuo Imperial Army under Japanese colonial rule and the succession of those experiences in South Korea after the liberation, because previous studies have only separately analyzed their military experiences in the colonial days and after the liberation. On the top of that, compared with the previous studies, there are three contributions in this study. First, it reveals the both aspects positively, of the exclusiveness in the military
academies and the discriminatory structure in Manchukuo Imperial Army, which existed as the background of their military experiences. Second, regarding the process of entry into South Korean Constabulary of Police Reserve (南朝鮮国防警備隊)/ Republic of Korea Armed Forces by Koreans from Manchukuo Imperial Army after the liberation, this study made it visible that their entry was made under the situation in which the founding army movements of Koreans was violently interfered by USAMGIK and that they were affected by the situation of the North-South division of Korean peninsula, which was not dealt with by the previous studies. Third, it clarified how the slaughter technique of Japanese Imperial Army was succeeded to South Korea after the liberation, which has not been explored in the previous studies.

For these contributions, the study distinctively proves how military experiences under Japanese colonial rule was succeeded in Republic of Korea Armed Forces, through structurally analyzing the history of under Japanese colonial rule and after the liberation of Koreans in Manchukuo Imperial Army.