

TOWARD THE LIVING SYSTEMS ANALYSIS OF TWO KOREAN RELATIONS

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Abstract

Recently, two Koreas try to improve relations with each other in many subsystems. The exchange of matter-energy and information in non-political areas appears to have developed significantly in recent years. This development is very significant to take a close look at the subsystems that process the energy and information in the current relations between South and North Korea. The main objective of this study is to examine the efficiency in living systemic analysis of two Korean relations to overcome the predominant frameworks in South Korea. And it is to suggest the merit of living systemic analysis of two Korean relations data

Keywords: Subsystems, matter-energy, information, living system theory, South-North Korean relations

1. The Efficiency in Living Systems Analysis of Two Korean Relations

It is true that the existing various findings on South-North Korean relations have greatly contributed to the improvement of South-North Korean relations and the South-North Korean cooperation, thus making it possible for South and North Koreas to approach the reunification a step further. But with the passage of time, some limitations are seen in the analysis of South-North Korean relations, since such relations are diversified and made complicate. In particular, the methodological limitations in the analysis of South-North Korean relations emerge, since the study of such relations is affected by the theoretical scarcity in the field of international politics. In this regard, it is required to approach the study of South-North Korean relations in interdisciplinary terms. Specifically, it is necessary to improve the South-North Korean relations and contribute to the establishment of unification policies by applying the living system theory from natural science.

In the meantime, South and North Koreas mass-produced vast amounts of data and information through exchange, cooperation and dialogue. In particular, South Korea has had the Ministry of Unification take the initiative in building the information regarding South-North Korean relations in database under a certain category. Such information has been classified and analyzed mainly according to issue area. Specifically, the information has been separately built under the categories, such as politics, military affairs, economy, society, culture, education, academic affairs, science, technology, tourism, religion, press, publishing, arts, health, trade, import & export, transport & clearance, economic cooperation, and talks. This has made it difficult to build the information that is not limited to a certain category and to find out the South-North Korean information hidden in various categories.

South-North Korean relations were very fragmentary and linear at the beginning, but appear very complicated recently, making new problems emerge. The South-North Korean relations are led by the exchange and cooperation in organizations (government, businesses, academic organizations, institutions, vocational organizations, local governments, etc) as well as issue areas (politics, economy, culture, sports, etc). However, as relations are made more and more complicated, new issue areas and organizations emerge. This makes the solutions based on the existing issue areas and organizations not valid any more. Regrettably, south-North Korean relations are classified and explained by the analytical framework of the governmental body recognized to be most authoritative in the analysis of South-North Korean relations on the basis of such issue areas and organizations.

However, if the elements indispensable for every living thing are set as the categories for South-North Korean relations and the ensuing construction of information, it is possible to overcome the narrowness of information system, establish the consistency of such system, and discover the hidden knowledge not found by the existing methods.

The existing realist, multilateral and globalist paradigms have their own many merits. Especially, the realist paradigms have been most used to explain and analyze South-North Korean relations, and are still most dominant. The multilateral paradigms will be a basic analytical framework in the limelight, as South-North Korean relations and systems are diversified in the future. Still, it is somewhat insufficient to analyze the international relations in the post-Cold War era and to understand the South-North Korean relations in the context of the whole international order. This is because realism is difficult to overview the development of such relations and multilateralism limits the major actors in international relations to nation, enterprise, international organization, civil organization, etc. Accordingly, the conquest of such limitations requires the living theory paradigm that sees South-North Korean relations as living organic activities.

Putting more stress on the whole than parts, the living theory perspective contains system thinking, being a keyword of the 21st century new science. The living system as complex system follows the contextual and procedural basic thinking. Specifically, the most intrinsic characteristics of system, derived from the correlations between parts, are the overall ones parts do not have. Emergent characteristics hidden in parts emerge in the process of the interaction in which parts are integrated into the context of the whole.

It is possible to divide 20 subsystems of the living system characterized by complex system into the basic actors in South-North Korean relations. In addition, it is possible to find hidden patterns and to draw out the emergent information hidden in data by the flow of energy, information, etc between subsystems on the contextual and procedural basis of interaction. Such active use of complexity science will enable policy decision-makers to analyze and overlook South-North Korean relations more scientifically and in the long or short term, and to select policies more easily. Moreover, it will prevent analysts from intervening in the analysis of South-North Korean relations by approaching such relations more scientifically and metrically.

2. Overcoming the Predominant Frameworks and Living Systems Analysis of Two Korean Relations Data

First, the predominant frameworks for data and analysis of South-North Korean relations show that there is no consistency in the construction of data and the category

of analysis and that data is built and analyzed mainly according to issue area. In particular, the unification of categories is lacking in the South-North exchange and cooperation systems that focus on the data regarding human exchange and trade.

The category of South-North Korean relations data analysis remains in the level of analyzing the data on human and material exchanges and on issue areas such as politics, major personalities, diplomacy, administration, economy, science, and broadcast. In particular, the interviews with the Ministry of Unification officials showed that such category is treated as a major category for the analysis of South-North Korean relations. Such category is effective for the linear and static data analysis of South-North Korean relations, but such relations develop more complicatedly, it is highly likely that analysis is limited to the categories by the existing issue areas due to the data building by the mutually exclusive issue area. This will make it impossible to accurately analyze the South-North Korean relations that get more complex day after day, thus disabling policy makers to make a best policy selection. Such worry may be eliminated by the expansion of manpower for study and analysis, but basic problems remain unsettled. Therefore, it is fundamentally necessary for deciding the best policies and for saving the time and manpower required to build and analyze data to maintain the consistency of categories in building and analyzing the data of South-North Korean relations.

The living system theory assumes that all of cell, institution, organism, group, organization, society, supranational system, etc have 20 subsystems as the fundamental characteristics of life. Beginning with cells, the higher levels of the living system have emerged in the fray-out process.

The eight phase living system has evolved through the fray-out process for 3.8 billion years, sharing the basic trait as a system from cells to the supranational system. Every living system has 20 important subsystems and maintains its own life, performing its own functions and roles. In general, the system of higher level is a suprasystem of the lower-level systems that have their own components, and is composed of the subsystems each of which performs one of the acts indispensable for all living systems. Composed of many components complicatedly related to each other, the higher-level systems have emergent structures and processes that are not seen in lower-level systems.

This concept of emergency suggests that system is not composed of components, but creates an autonomous order according to the interaction between components. Accordingly, there is a feedback process hidden between levels. Components are continuously revised, reassembled, and rearranged, as conditions change and actors learn, adapt, and evolve. The more components exist in a structure, the more opportunities are provided within the class level and the speed of evolution is increased. In particular, self-organizing is driven by the complimentary action of counterbalancing and amplifying feedbacks. It is necessary to harmonize the both with each other. Also, stability and instability and order and disorder are mixed with each other, thus enabling to present the images of macro-level types that are emergently caused by inartificiality. Like this, the complex system may cause emergent results not predicted at all, if even a small accident combines with casual environment at the turning point.

Like this, the living system characterized by the complex system maintains the state of energy thermodynamically through the continuous interaction with environment within its own boundary. The input and output between matter-energy and information is indispensable for the living system. The metabolism of information is also indispensable for the survival of the living system. The input of information from

environment enables the living system to orient itself in time and space and to adapt to the changing environment. In addition, such input enables to find food and mates and to accept the feedback on the results of living systems' acts. Furthermore, the information on the state from all the components of a system enables the system to adapt to internal stress. Eventually, information comes from environment and every subsystem and is used for the guidance, control and coordination of living systems.

Like this, the living system characterized by complex system indispensably requires matter-energy and information for survival. Consequently, it is necessary to reconstruct the information and data regarding South-North Korean relations in 20 subsystem categories and to scientifically analyze the short and long term trends on matter-energy and information exchange between South and North Korea. In other words, it seems more scientific to analyze the major institutions and organizations in South and North Korea that correspond to 20 subsystems of the living system and to apply the results to the analysis of South-North Korean relations.

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