

社会文化研究会，頁1-3。

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In memory of Michio Suenari sensei

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(Translated by ONG Chiew Hong)

For me, Suenari Michio sensei, was a great shisho (master) from whom I learn anthropological research methods. Although not directly my (dissertation) advisor, we were both students (“disciples”) under Professor Nakane Chie (中根千枝). For my doctoral dissertation, we walked together to temples, ancestral halls and interviewed the people in Hongkong. In 1987, when we collaborated in research in mainland China, we walked together around villages in Chaozhou and Meixian in Guangdong province. It was for me, an opportune time to master fieldwork methodology from the expert field researcher himself, Suenari sensei.

Whether it is in Japanese or Chinese language, Suenari sensei is not talkative, but with his humble innocence, was able to lead his informants to open up to him, disclosing accurate information. That skill was probably honed from his many years of experience working in aboriginal or Chinese societies in Taiwanese, or villages in Korea and Japan. When he transited to research on Vietnam, his such skills are clearly attested in his excellent publication *Social life and Ancestors in a Vietnamese village on the outskirts of Hanoi* (『ベトナムの祖先祭祀：潮曲の社会生

活』。東京：風響社，1998)。

From our many meetings in Japan over the years and our joint field research in Hong Kong and China, I have learnt many things from Suenari sensei. Here, I wish to specially highlight two instances that have left an unforgettable impression on me.

At the end of a hot summer day of fieldwork in Chaozhou, Suenari sensei advised: “On a day like this, a hot shower will help take away the fatigue.” Just a casual remark at the end of dinner in our lodging, this glimpse of the warmth of his humanity has remained in my memory. On another occasion, at the evening drinking party at the end of a seminar in Tokyo, he uttered “Those who practise good interpersonal relationships in daily life in their native land will similarly succeed in field work in foreign lands.” This reminder of our responsibilities as a social being, not just to a researcher, is another snippet from Suenari sensei which I will never forget.

I wish to deeply thank Suenari sensei, my teacher of life. I am sad at his passing.