

Analysis on Candidate Selection Method

- Case Study on “Democratization” of Candidate Selection Method-

きむ どんふあん

Kim Dong-hwan

The purpose of this paper is to find out the “party leadership” on candidate selection process by analyzing the “democratization” of candidate selection method in Democratic United Party (DUP) of Korea and Liberal Democratic Party (LDP) of Japan.

Political parties in democracy aim at coming to power through competitions in election and candidate selection. Therefore, the political party’s Candidate Selection Method is one of the most important actions for achieving the fundamental purpose. Recently, candidate selection process has been “democratized” in Korea and Japan. Who can be a party’s candidate, who can select candidate is expected to influence the relationships between party leader and other members or branches.

In chapter 1, I pointed out problems of previous research on candidate selection method in Korea and Japan. And I argued what “party leadership” in candidate selection method is, and how powers could be used.

In chapter 2, I examined the effects of introduction of the New Candidate Selection Method by analyzing candidate selection process of the Jejusi (second) district. This chapter has two research questions are; (1) what is Democratic United Party’s (DUP) open primary system? And (2) what is an incumbent legislator’s strategy for acquisition of party nomination of parliamentary candidate? This chapter analyzes the DUP’s new open primary by discussing issues of decentralization and inclusiveness of Candidate Selection Method in Korea. In conclusion, DUP adopted not fully opened candidate selection method, and DUP Candidate selection Method caused the intraparty competition and intraparty split, and it brought role of local politicians to increase.

In chapter 3, I examined the supporting structures in constituency level of the candidate selection process of a South Korean presidential election. In conclusion, “democratization” of a candidate selection process brings the following change. (1) A member of national assembly and a member of national assembly candidate will support a different candidate for president. (2) It appears that relationship between a member of national assembly and a local assemblyman became in competition.

In chapter 4, I examined the constituency level candidate selection processes of Japanese Upper House elections. The purpose of chapter is explaining political change in Japan by focusing on the local organization of LDP and relationship between Members of the House of Representatives and local assemblymen. In conclusion, “democratization” of a candidate selection process brings about the following changes. (1) Change of candidate selection method results from power relation. (2) “Democratization” of candidate selection process was controlled by political “party leadership”.

These analyses reveal that the DUP and LDP adopted not fully opened candidate selection method and “democratization” of candidate selection process was controlled by political “party leadership”. These results suggest that “democratization” of the candidate selection method was performed under control of power.