ペーパーのタイトル:

Transformation of the meaning of graduation ceremonies in Japanese youth subcultures and the reciprocal relationship with the background society –Focusing on the reciprocal relationship with society and the members of gyaru and gyaru-o who have graduated-

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The subject is the tribal member of youth subculture called gyaru and gyaru-o, and those who graduated from the subculture. We will clarify the transformation of the society of youth subculture in Japan and examine the relationship with modern Japanese society that is in the background.

For 5 years the author was a participant of the tribe of gyaru and gyaru-o, who have club events on the street. The author became a leader of a famous group that has a territory in Shibuya Center Street and graduated from that group. After that, he conducted qualitative research mainly consisting of participant observation for 9 and a half years as a researcher and was led to the following knowledge.

They have “immoral” values such as use their sexual relationships, engage in antisocial behavior within the realm of not getting arrested, get the attention of others in a sensational manner, behave in a delinquent manner, and base their lifestyle on those values.

They are also aware that their “immorality” will connect to their future social self-realization. They also have the self-realization image that their ability in both moral and immoral aspects will make them successful in society.

Unlike youth gangs in foreign cultures, some of the Japanese youth subcultures with high rates of departure have the characteristic of graduation. The subject of this research is also a tribal group that belongs to this genealogy of youth gang and has the ritual of graduation.

In the past in Japan, there was a tendency that youths that belonged to a tribe with immoral elements, such as “motorcycle gangs” would graduate from the youth subculture and calm down to have a moral life.

What supported this was a Japanese society that indicated a life course centering on jobs and marriage, as well as sexual roles and age standards. In other words, there was a borderline of discontinuing an immoral lifestyle and transitioning to a moral lifestyle. However, the background of Japanese society that premised this has been changing drastically.

The result of this research showed that the members view the immoral ability as a respected individual trait as long as they are not arrested, and this is viewed as something that is useful in society. Therefore, they continue this immoral view after going through the formal graduation. They also believe that there is a reciprocal relationship between themselves, who continue this immoral behavior, and modern society.

Socializing while projecting that “immorality” that was previously only permitted to youth who had not graduated will lead to future social self-realization after graduating, and the continuation of this behavior after graduation. This is new knowledge in the research of socialization of Japanese youth subcultures.

Key words: gyaru, gyaru-o, socialization, youth subcultures, youth gangs