An Analysis of Zainichi Koreans in Japan

Youngchoon Cho

Abstract

Zainichi Koreans in Japan, who have lived in Japan feeling like outsiders of society for a long time, have also been facing identity crises as Koreans at the same time. They live in an unique and unnatural society created by surroundings. The Japanese government, the Korean peninsula, and Zainichi Koreans themselves are the causes.

I would like to reveal the mechanism of the process needed for creating today's awkward situations where Zainichi Koreans live. I would like to validate the history and the present situation of Zainichi Koreans, and from these elements, I also would like to elicit the possibilities that can be considered for Zainichi Koreans in Japan.

Next, I will focus on each generation of Zainichi Koreans in Japan with three questions to reveal what happened to them and what has transcended from generation to generation. Each generation seems to have had different sufferings, however, basically the roots are the same.

Finally, this paper suggests the transcendence from the postcolonial framework and the current nationality system. Only facing honestly their own identities, Zainichi Koreans in Japan can escape the crisis of extinguishment of their identities.

THE ATTRACTION OF JAPANIMATION: WHY DOES MIYAZAKI'S ANIME ATTRACT PEOPLE AROUND THE WORLD?

RUI FUJIWARA

Abstract

Long ago, it was said that Japan was a closed country. However, this stereotype has been overturned today. Much of Japanese pop culture has spread out worldwide, and a lot of people in other countries have great interest in them. Among this pop culture, Japanese animation has taken the spotlight. When I was just a little girl, I used to watch lots of animated television shows and movies such as Doraemon, Sailor Moon, Crayon Shin-chan and so on. My parents gave me a lot of films and occasions to see Japanese anime. Especially, I kept watching Miyazaki Hayao's work till I could remember parts of the film. Since then, I have been a big fan of his anime, and even though now I am a 23 year-old adult, I am still interested in his works. Generally, cartoons or animation are recognized as being for kids; however, his works attract grown-ups as well. Moreover, his films are shown with dubbing into other languages. His works are loved by not only Japanese like me, but also thousands of people in the world. Especially the work that he created in 2001, Sen to Chihiro no Kamikakusi (Spirited Away) has been watched in many countries such as Germany, France, the U.S, Australia, and China etc. This film won a lot of awards. Why does Miyazaki's anime attract people? To answer this question, I researched about him with a historical point of view first. From his history, I consider three of his films; Warriors of the Wind (Kaze no Tani no Naushika), Princess Mononoke (Mononoke Hime) and Spirited Away (Sen to Chihiro no Kamikakushi) in this paper.

Barack Obama and New Media: A New Way of Doing Politics

Rie Furui

Abstract

This research paper focused on why young supporters chose the African American candidate, Barack Obama, as their new President in 2008. This is the first time that the United States selected a non-white President. To answer my research question, I looked at the way of Obama used new media for the 2008 Presidential election. The types of media used were MyBo, TV, YouTube, The Great Schlep, and Facebook. These web technologies led Barack Obama to be the President because those media allowed Obama to connect to his supporters directly. It is not exaggerated to say that technology played an import part for the 2008 Obama's election campaign.

The Voice of the Soul: a Historical Analysis of West Indian Music in Britain

HARUNO KANDA

Abstract

An island country, the UK is now known as a multi-ethnic country. However, a question always remain, "How has the isolated yet powerful country become both a multi-ethnic and multi-cultural influential country?" Britain cannot answer this question without emphasizing the history of immigrants and their hardships. West Indians, known as "Wind rush", particularly, contributed toward overcoming the obstacles in history and helped British society to step forward to find better understanding of other ethnic minorities. It may be important to use the power of the authority to solve social issues. However, entertainment also could have a huge power upon citizens to recognize important aspects. Music does not force people, but attracts, communicates and involves. Music from the West Indies was loved by both West Indians and the British. From one point of view, it could be said that music softened the friction between two or more different groups within Britain. Having been discriminated against for a long time, West Indians like other immigrants kept improving as well as music. Considering the history of immigration, Britain cannot ignore the sacrifice of immigrants. However, under severe conditions, the development of social understanding improved with the help of music.

The Possible Risk of the Logic of Numerical Strength

Midori Ito

Abstract

In this paper, I would like to explore how logic of numerical strength affects capitalism, democracy and mass media, and how people have formed opinions.

Taking up an example of problems of globalization, this paper will develop a framework for the analysis of media coverage about actual policies and the comparative difficulties of acquiring permanent residence status in Japan.

As is often the case, one's will has no connection with whether the person belongs to the majority or the minority. For example, ethnic Japanese people who have Japanese nationality comprise the minority in Japan, whereas, ethnic Koreans are the minority, not by any decision of their own.

It could be easier for the majority to change society because of majority rule. On the other hand, it is more difficult for a minority to effect change. Furthermore, the majority often fails to recognize the plight of minorities.

The majority cannot recognize its majority status on other occasions. Here, I argue that a society cannot allow the appeasement of the majority at the sacrifice of a minority.

A Confrontation over Internet Freedom: Google vs. China

Keiichiro Kawakami

Abstract

In recent years, the Internet has made daily life especially convenient. We can obtain whatever information we want to know immediately on Yahoo or Google. The Internet has become an essential part of life. However, Google withdrew from the Chinese mainland on March 22, 2010 where the flow of information became too strictly regulated. In this case, both Google and the Chinese government maintain they had been acting in the best interest of the people of China. This case is an important issue involving the respect for freedom of information. That is, "Which opinion should be respected, Google's or the Chinese government's?" To answer this question, I referred to a book Justice: What's the Right Things to Do? The author, Michael Sandel, considers justice from three points of views which are happiness, freedom, and virtue. After considering his three aspects, I came to the decision that Google's freedom should be respected. This is because the Chinese government just thinks of protecting communism. In my view, communism focuses on near-term benefits and neglects the long-term benefit, which is the individual's right. China needs to remain more closely aligned with the global community if they want to continue accelerating economic growth and achieve a more important status as one of the world's front-runners.

Brazilians and Japanese: How do We Achieve a Japanese Multicultural Society?

Eri Kitaguchi

Abstract

These days, more and more foreigners are living in Japan. Especially, this paper focuses on Brazilians living in Japan. They migrated to Japan as a worker, and the number of them has kept increasing over the past twenty years. However, as the number of Brazilians living in Japan increase, problems between them and Japanese people become increasingly serious. For example, Brazilians do not obey rules of throwing rubbish away, so Japanese people are perplexed with their attitude. The purpose of this paper is to think about "living together" through such a problem. To think about "living together", this paper analyzes some texts of communication problems and cultural problems between Brazilians living in Japan and Japanese people, and also problems of Brazilian children living in Japan. Through analyzing, this paper reveals mainly three things. Firstly, Brazilians living in Japan and Japanese people feel communication gaps when they are talking. Secondly, they mutually experience culture shock in their daily life. Thirdly, nonattendance and juvenile crimes of Brazilian children living in Japan are caused by a lack of Japanese skills. On the basis of these results, this paper leads to conclusions that Brazilians living in Japan should learn Japanese, and Brazilians living in Japan and Japanese people should understand the other's culture when thinking about "living together". By providing opportunities to learn Japanese for Brazilians living in Japan, and then by making places where Brazilians and Japanese people can communicate with each other, they will be able to live together more harmoniously than present situations.

Women in the Workplace: Gender and Race Discourse in Globalized Societies

Yukiko Matsubara

Abstract

The history of gender inequality reveals how women have always been kept in the home, regarded as being less capable compared to their male counterparts in the workplace. Likewise, people have been rather dismissive of the importance of the routines which is mostly done by women in everyday life. In 1970, the Canadian state implemented multiculturalism. Being pulled by the global market demand, immigrants have been welcomed by one of the world's biggest host countries. What are the situations of immigrant women then? Immigrant women or visible minorities in Canada are confronted with the harsh realities and oppressed with sexism and racism. The history of accepting immigrants is not long though; Japan is now in a serious need of more workforces due to the low birth rate and the increase in the number of the elderly, and has opened its door to foreigners. While being exposed to the world standards and values, there are certain groups of people who find the dominant ideologies are weighing heavily on their shoulders. There are notable features to be examined in order to interpret the present world. This paper will examine gender and race discourse in the globalized world regarding women in the workplace.

ARGUMENTS OVER THE COVE: IS THE COVE ANTI-JAPANESE?

Yuki Mizushina

Abstract

The Cove is an American documentary film which has won several awards in the world. It is centered around the dolphin hunting industry in Taiji and soon after caused arguments in Japan over this controversial topic. There are both positive and negative opinions about The Cove. In this thesis, I introduce The Cove and the process of these arguments, and I analyze the opinions about The Cove in terms of the documentary, the way of filmmaking, and the necessity of screening. Finally, I conclude this thesis by answering the question "Is The Cove anti-Japanese?".

An Influential Artist in Today's World: Why Has Lady Gaga Attracted So Much Attention from the Public?

Ayumi Niinuma

Abstract

Lady Gaga is now a big pop star all over the world. It is very interesting to know how she succeeded. She is often compared to other pop stars in the 80s such as Madonna, Cyndi Lauper and Michael Jackson but she has something different from them that causes her to stand out in a crowd. Otherwise, she could not have attracted attention from the public. It seems that she enjoys getting responses from people and that she does not care whether those responses are good or bad. Probably most people already have heard her music and have seen her fashion somewhere. They are too unusual that anyone else cannot imitate. Lady Gaga's works are sometimes difficult to understand, however, one can enjoy a number of different views and interpretations in her unique music and style. Questions arise; What does Lady Gaga want to express to the public? Why is the public attracted to Lady Gaga? This paper attempts to answer these questions.

Identities Threatened by European Standards: Cultural Influences on African American Women's Hair

Hiromi Ohashi

Abstract

What does "good hair" mean? European standards seem to have been dominant, while, the world has been getting more diverse and accepts diversity in people. European standards also have been influential in images of beauty. African American women have the opposite physical features from the ones considered to be good by Europeans standards, and their identities have been historically and socially influenced by European standards. Many African American women actually straighten their hair because it is socially accepted or considered to be better hair than natural African American hair such as Afro and dreads. The notion has been deeply rooted for a long time and accelerated by the media. Their hairstyles mean not only choices of hairstyles but also how they are regarded in society, especially in terms of political scenes and business. The movie Good Hair (2009), a comedy documentary, focuses on the situation of the hair issue. It throws light on hair products, hair business, and what African Americans think about the hair issue. The movie also tells us the importance of being who we are and what good hair truly means. I would like to consider the importance by viewing this movie in my thesis.

The Diffusion of New Communication Technologies: A Comparison between the Cell Phone and the iPhone

Shoko Okaue

Abstract

In 2007, Apple Inc. launched the iPhone in the U.S. and it was imported into Japan the following year. It soon became extremely popular in Japan and the number of iPhone users continues to increase at a sharp rate. When the iPhone came out in 2008, Softbank Mobile dominated the Japanese smart phone market. Smart phones enable people to access PC web sites smoothly and cam be synchronized with their own PC. Recently, other Japanese cell phone companies have also come out with their original smart phones following the iPhone. It can be said that the current cell phone market is shifting from general cell phone to smart phone. This trend of innovation can change people's daily life greatly as the cell phone did in the past. In this paper, I will examine and compare the spread of cell phones in Japan which occurred around the 90s to current the iPhone movement, which is the pioneer of the smart phone market. At the same time, I will trace the change in people's communication styles caused by the spread of the cell phone and iPhone. Through these processes, the tip of iPhone population as a new communication tool and the movement within the smart phone market from now will be explored. Through examining the above, this paper hopes to illuminate upon the reasons for the popularity of the iPhone as the newest communication tool and the future direction of the smart phone market.

The Effects of Developing Services: What is Appropriate Service?

Aika OSHIMA

Abstract

In these days everything has become convenient and we can order anything we want or get many convenient types of services. While there are positive effects of services such as existence value or promotion of efficiency of work, some negative effects are also happening as services develop. Relative deprivation, apathy, lack of interpersonal skills, monster parents, customer-like employees are some of the negative effects. I would like to analyze why these effects have been caused and answer the research question; what we should do in order to avoid negative effects of services by comparing Japan with other countries.

African American Superstars and America: Has the NBA Contributed to the Harmony among Races?

Shogo Ozawa

Abstract

I examined the connection between the NBA and American society in this paper. The population of African Americans in the NBA is 80% and they dominate the NBA by their numbers and their performance. On the other hand, in American society, the population of African Americans is only 12%, and they have often been discriminated against for a long time. The sporting world seems to be irrelevant to racial discrimination at first sight. Moreover, the sporting world such as the NBA gave African Americans a chance to succeed. Can we say that the NBA has contributed to the harmony among races in reality?

I have two research questions in this paper. RQ1 is "What is the influence of the NBA on American society?" and RQ2 is "Has the NBA contributed to the harmony among races?" The superiority of African Americans in sports has brought them positive gains; however, it has also brought people in the U.S. negative influences. There are controversies over racial discrimination, stereotypes, and differences in physical ability.

In this paper, I will deliberate not only on racial problems but also on economic disparities and the media. Finally, by researching the connection between the NBA and American society, I would like to suggest the way that African Americans flourish not only in the sporting world but also in various fields in American society.

Child Care in Japan: Stereotypical Roles of Men and Women in Child Rearing and Implementation of Government Policies

Aiko Shinoda

Abstract

Child rearing has long been thought to be the mother's job in Japan. Even though many things have been changing in Japan, this gender role seems very hard to change. Therefore, it is difficult to balance the increase of women wanting to work outside the home and men wanting to raise children. The revised Child Care and Family Care Leave Law took effect on June 30th, 2010. However, despite the creation of this law, the actual implementation and practice of it is still far from actualizing. There are many reasons that Japanese birth rate stays low. This paper reveals the real causes of dissatisfaction with child rearing, what the reality of the workplace is, and what is needed to support parents. Online arguments are analyzed and other policies and figures of different countries are used for the reference. Even though it is almost impossible for fathers to take paternity leave in Japan, they should realize that child rearing is also the father's job. There must be some way for fathers to make more time for their families, and others should respect it. This paper confirms that the Japanese employment system should be changed and people should seriously consider the future of their country, not only profit.

The Dispute over Cultural Property: A Case of the British Museum

Akiko Watanabe

Abstract

After colonized countries progressively gain independence from suzerain power, have colonial problems become a matter of past history? I think that the influence of colonial administration is still in existence. This thesis focuses on the issue of cultural property as one of the influences of colonialism on the present. I refer to the controversy over requests for the removal of the Parthenon Sculptures and the Rosseta Stone, which are displayed at the British Museum.

The root source of this issue is a difference in perception of cultural property. In other words, it is the conflict between the universalism and cultural relativism. Renowned museums are proud of protecting many cultural treasures from the battle lines and do their best to pass them down to other generations. On the other hand, the third world countries have the common understanding that the colonized condition truly comes to an end when looted cultural property are returned to them. I examine both perceptions and try to answer my research question "Should the British Museum comply with the demands for return of the Parthenon Sculptures and the Rosseta Stone?"