

Comparison Study of the “Meaning of Death” between Old Age and Adolescence

Using a “Meaning of Death” Scale

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The purpose of this study was to investigate the “Meaning of Death” in terms of old age and adolescence, and the connection with the experience of bereavement and the consciousness of one’s own death. For this study, 92 elderly people and 271 university students answered the questionnaires, and five elderly men and women and two university students were interviewed. As a result of the questionnaire investigation, it was revealed that elderly people are more conscious than young people of these factors: the “meaning of death,” “death liberates suffering,” “indifference to death,” and that “the world after death enables one to accept death.” The interviews revealed that old people talked of “death liberates suffering,” “indifference to death,” and that “the world after death enables one to accept death.” Meanwhile, on the other hand, young people did not talk about these three factors. However, it was revealed that both groups talked about the “meaning of death.” Therefore, this study identified the consciousness of four factors that enable humans to accept the experience of bereavement and one’s own death in old age.