

Research on the Cultural Identity of Intercultural Children with Japanese Ancestry

– Using a Nine-in-One Drawing –

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The present study explores the cultural identity of intercultural children of Japanese ancestry (one parent being Japanese, the other non-Japanese) using the Nine-in-One Drawing Method. The research analyzes the drawings of six participants in their 20s, three living in Singapore and three residing in Japan. The results of analysis employing M-GTA are as follows: 1. Cultural identity consists of three key factors, namely “environmental factors,” “self-realization factors,” and “interpersonal factors”; 2. “Environmental factors” are concrete, visible, and phenomenological—the participants in Japan chose this factor to pass on to the next generation in twice as many pictures incorporating themes such as “peace and cleanliness” than those from Singapore. 3. “Self-realization factors” are psychological and abstract related to personality, taste, and temperament—the drawings in the study are diversified based on the subjectivity of the participants; 4. “Interpersonal factors” relate to communication including attitude, language, and expressions; for example, the drawings by the Singapore participants emphasize self-expression, which seems to be influenced by the host culture. The Nine-in-One Drawing Method facilitates rich representations embodying the emotions and interests of the participants, which can elucidate the type of psychological support necessary for intercultural children.