

The Feeling of the *Ibasho* Change Process in Youth

– Focusing on communal friendships and functional friendships –

DOHI Masako

Graduate School of Science for Human Services, Ritsumeikan University

Keywords: *ibasho*, communal friendships, functional friendships

This study intends to clarify the process of the realization of *ibasho* in youth by focusing on *ibasho* in friendship. The author considers this a chance for a means of support for people who experience no *ibasho*.

For this study, semi-structured interviews were carried out with six fourth-year university students that have experienced *ibasho*. The resulting narrative was divided into communal friendships and functional friendships. M-GTA was used for analysis.

The results reveal six categories and 14 concepts regarding communal friendships. These categories are: 1) surface connection, 2) close interchange, 3) deepening of understanding, 4) internal connection, 5) unchanging relationships, and 6) distance. Functional friendships saw processes categorized as: 1) feeling unfamiliar, 2) compatible organization, 3) passive sense, 4) change of awareness, 5) acting independently, and 6) active sense.

The results showed that it was possible that *ibasho* feelings can spark a change in the persons in question, with their relationships and locations involving three of the changes. *Ibasho* feeling change is a process through which relationships are established. The study suggests working relationships as a stage of the process, in addition to *ibasho*.