

Psychological Traits of Adolescent Females That are Enthusiastic for Subculture

– Focusing on the fans of “Visual Kei” bands –

YOKOI Kazane

Graduate School of Science for Human Services, Ritsumeikan University

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One form of Japanese subculture involves “Visual Kei” bands. This study discusses the relationship between the adolescent psychological traits and experiences of fans of such bands. In this study, semi-structured interviews were held with three working females who had experience being fans of such genre. The interviews were conducted conversationally with one respondent at a time. Focusing on family relations, friendships, fan experiences, and self-consciousness, the interview data was arranged chronologically, and then storylines were created and then conceptualized. The results show that “Visual Kei” bands provided something akin to a refuge, with out-of-the-ordinary experiences and self-conscious feelings by the respondents also being part of the package. The function as a “refuge” refers to a place that played the role of an escape from both reality and ordinary life, with the traits of being a fan coming in the form of seeking an independent refuge. The out-of-the-ordinary experiences helped the respondents develop their own self-understanding and ensured psychological stability. As students and as fans of “Visual Kei” bands, self-conscious feelings emerged.