

Examination of the Concepts of *Ibasho*, or, “A Place of One’s Own”

An example of one university student’s research

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The idea of *ibasho*, or, a “place of one’s own,” appearing as a place or as a group of people, has been attracting attention in various fields. This study classifies the types of *ibasho* and examines their determinant factors and self-consciousness regarding one’s *ibasho*.

In this study, I performed surveys and interviews with 23 university students. The results show that most people are conscious of the *ibasho* in their lives. In addition, *ibasho* not only embodies "positive elements" but also "negative elements," as a place itself, and as a group of people gathering in such a place. This idea functions differently between one as a place and one as a group of people. People who are not conscious of *ibasho* consider their relationships with their "family," "friends," or "library" as "special" in “place” or special in “relationship,” obtaining the same kind of psychological influence that *ibasho* offers, in a way similar to how people who are conscious of *ibasho* feel. This study raises the following arguments: supporters need to offer "a safe space" for participants, and a change in support is necessary to elicit the spontaneity of participants toward independence. I hope more studies will be presented regarding the concept of *ibasho*.