

# Ethnic Identity of Young Korean Residents in Japan who Take Korean Names

## Describing Experiences and Emotions in Detail

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Since the 1970s, it has been pointed out that the ethnic identity of young Korean residents in Japan has become diversified. However, there are only a few studies that focus on macro-factors, such as family, society, and the nation, all of which influence ethnic identity. The purpose of this study is to describe in detail the ethnic identity of young Korean residents in Japan through their experiences and emotions regarding when they introduce themselves to others, especially other Japanese people. The author attempts to reconsider their ethnic identity in different ways, without focusing on their diversity. In addition, this study focuses on: 1) these macro-factors, and 2) the subjects' actions and inner resolve when in challenging circumstances. The results of six interviews with subjects who take a Korean name in daily life were analyzed, as one's name is closely related to ethnic identity. This study reveals that these people sometimes resist Japan's negative reactions and misunderstandings, that they try and most often fail to help Japanese people understand what being a Korean special long-term resident in Japan means, and that they avoid conflict with Japanese people. It is argued that independence is important when considering ethnic identity. This indicates that society, the nation, and especially history are reflected in their experiences. It also indicates that their families are affected regarding both their names and their lives. These findings advance our different understandings of ethnic identity.