The Glorious "Embroidery" of Women

- Ownership and solidarity regarding life stories -

KIJIMA Yuka

Graduate School of Science for Human Services, Ritsumeikan University **Keywords:** marginalization, ownership, women's advocacy

This study intends to focus on feminism and the social status of women. Women have been socially disconnected and separated from each other, and have remained marginalized throughout history.

In this study, "I" is used as the subject of the story. "I" is written in the perspective of the first person in order to relay truth so as to form the solidarity of "We-ness" with other women without falling into the trap of objectivism. It has also the purpose of raising women's voices toward social transformation.

Drawing on my three personal notes, I arranged some thoughts on paper describing the most important experiences in my life, in chronological order. I also applied some remarkable historical facts regarding women's rights into the text. Then, the text became amplified by those events and changes in society, which seem relevant to female history, and all of this was complemented by interviews with seven women.

The result suggests that women are cut off from society and other women, and that they still remain marginalized even today. However, it also reveals the importance of the awareness of being personally involved, with the practice of advocacy for women involved as well. Being personally involved functions as a passport that helps women overcome their estrangement, an energy that allows them to understand themselves and others and to create solidarity, corresponding to diverse communication. It is much like the emergence of glorious "embroidery." This is how women in isolation are empowered through "encounters" and "connections."