Drawing and Living

From interviews with participants who have been drawing pictures since childhood

TAKADA Satoko

Graduate School of Science for Human Services, Ritsumeikan University Keywords: drawing pictures, self and others, development

This study aims to clarify what kind of experiences in one's internal life history cause an individual to enjoy drawing pictures.

In this study, the researcher conducted semi-structured interviews with four adults who have been drawing since childhood. Their responses were analyzed, paying attention to the relationship between "drawing pictures" and "living daily life," and parts of the responses were reorganized as personal narratives by extracting what could be evaluated and what fit well in the theme of the interviewee's internal life history.

The results show that drawing pictures functioned at one time as a medium for relationships with others, while for others it served as a form of emotional support amid life's challenges. Drawing pictures also implied that meanings were not fixed but changed according to the stage of inner development. Furthermore, the participants seemed to be aware of the existence of others that evaluated his or her works. Thus, it became clear that the participants were influenced by others when drawing pictures. This study concludes that drawing pictures is done amid internal and external realities and between the self and others.