

The processes of creating meanings from experiencing participatory creations in cosplay

Based on In-Depth Talking between those persons
called layers

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This study explores ways of self-consciousness through analyzing processes of creating meanings from cosplay focusing on relationships between cosplayers (layers) and characters. The author, who is also a layer, conducts one-on-one interviews using In-Depth Talking with eight layers. The results of a category analysis show layers are raised to spaces to do cosplay and experience actualities different from everyday life through the *Utsushi* of work worlds. It suggests the spaces are in intermediate areas between inner realities and external realities and are carnival worlds that can do performances beyond everyday life. The results also show the layer spins a multi-layered self from I that lives in everyday life, I as a layer, and I as a character. It suggests: 1) multi-layered and actual self-dialogues enable creations of multi-layered meanings in experiences centering on play as purposes to means for building relationships, maintain everyday life, respect for and diversification of self, and self-understanding; 2) enable creating multi-layered selves including possible selves and self-understanding opened to the future. This study concludes the processes of creating meanings from experiencing participatory creations called cosplay which are closely related to creating self and its understanding.