

外 国 語 要 旨

学位論文題目 Shiro Kawada's Idea of "Danjo-Byōdō (The Equality between Men and Women)" and
Concept of Gender

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The purpose of this paper is to consider the idea of "Danjo-Byōdō" as developed over the lifetime of Shiro Kawada (1883-1942), an economist and scholar of social policy who was active from the end of the Meiji period to the beginning of the Showa period. The aim is to clarify the historical significance of the idea of the Equality between Men and Women.

Past research has focused, to some degree, on Kawada as a person who created a model for the liberation of women in modern Japan. However, it is fair to say that this research did not go beyond fragmented considerations within certain periods or fields. This paper focuses on Kawada's way of thinking about the equality between men and women from a viewpoint that includes his concept of sex, and considers that Kawada's idea has not been fully clarified up until the present time.

A viewpoint of this study is the critical insight of socially constructed difference between men and women. Based on this viewpoint, this paper considered his concepts of sex in various arguments, such as the family system, a social problem, and a social policy.

This paper clarified four meaning of Kawada's idea.

The first point is that Kawada denied the immutability of sex and indicated an awareness that suggested the dismantling of the family system. Kawada described the family system as a "biological structure," perceiving it as an impersonal organization that adhered to gender-specific notions of men and women. From this, he was aware that sex would be perceived as immutable as long as a family system existed.

The second point is that Kawada, while negating the power relationships between men and women in the family system, was critical of the prevailing norms and laws related to sex. He developed a new theory of civic education that cultivated women to be the main agents in political and economical fields. This clearly indicates that Kawada's viewpoint did not include a belief in the theory of gender-specific characteristics, which limits the roles of women.

The third point is that Kawada proposed a new concept of sex. He divided the difference

between the sexes into the two distinguishable differences: “biological difference” and “social difference”. Moreover, he pointed that the latter has been socially constructed.

The fourth point was the discovery of social categories in his social policy theory. He thought that the concept of social categories, which is a concept of social composition that includes sex and race, was the fundamental concept for social policy. This can be understood that Kawada’s belief that capitalism produce inequalities not only between capitalists and labours, but also between the sexes and races, expresses his clear awareness that social policy is required to address these inequalities. Thus, his social policy theory was a pioneering attempt to take on the challenge of asserting the liberation of women that went beyond theories of monism.

From the investigation in this paper, Kawada’s idea can be understood as emphasizing equality that spans the public and private spheres. As a result of examining Kawada’s idea, the following significant two points were identified. First, this paper clarifies that his concept of sex has a clear awareness that the fixed concept of men’s roles and unique qualities was itself a type of discrimination in the historical context of modern Japan. Next, this paper is having shown the social composition concept which analyzes the aspect of various discriminations. The results show that, Kawada’s concept of sex and social concept of social composition can be positioned as the pioneering work for today’s concept of gender. Therefore, the conclusion of this paper is having positioned Kawada’s idea of “Danjo·Byōdō” in the origin of the idea of gender equality in today.