

ABSTRACT

Study of factors influencing the formation of ethnic identity of Japanese-Brazilian youths growing up in Japan

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As the Immigration Control and Refugee Recognition Act was amended in 1990, the number of Japanese-Brazilian people coming to Japan to work has increased sharply. Along with that, the number of Japanese-Brazilian children who came to Japan with their families or were born in Japan has also increased. Although the length of residency of Japanese-Brazilian families has been prolonged in recent years, there are few studies on the ethnic identity of Japanese-Brazilian children. The aim of this research was to examine the formation of ethnic identity and the factors influencing this identity of Japanese-Brazilian youths who grew up in Japan. This paper has total of 7 chapters. Chapter 1 and Chapter 2 reviewed materials related to the theme, chapters 3-6 focused on empirical studies, and the last part, chapter 7, presented a comprehensive conclusion of all of the results.

Chapter 1 was about the data and related research on the current situation of Japanese-Brazilian children in Japan. These data suggested that Japanese-Brazilian children have problems in their identity formation. Chapter 2 covered a study trend of identity and ethnic identity. The findings suggested that their cultural environment and returning temporarily to Brazil influenced the formation of the ethnic identity of Japanese-Brazilian children. Based on the above findings, I show research questions.

In Chapter 3 (research 1), a quantitative survey was conducted for Japanese-Brazilian students enrolled in junior high schools and high schools in Japan. As a result, the following four types of the students' ethnic identity were revealed: "Brazilian identity," "integrated identity," "marginalized identity," and "Japanese identity." Furthermore, the relationship between their ethnic identity and the family life environment and the experience of returning to Brazil for a short period of time was examined.

In Chapter 4 (research 2), I conducted semi-structured interviews with Japanese-Brazilian youths having had Japanese elementary and junior high school experience. The results with regard to their experiences were classified into four categories: "experience at home," "experience at school," "experience at workplace," and "experience of a temporary return to Brazil." The results showed that various life experiences had an impact on the formation of the self-awareness

of ethnic identity.

In Chapter 5 (research 3), a case study on the process for forming the self-awareness of ethnic identity of Japanese-Brazilian youths was conducted. The analysis results with regard to the self-awareness of the subjects' current ethnic identity were classified into three categories: "Brazilian identity," "Bicultural identity," and "Japanese identity." The results suggested that the process for forming the self-awareness of ethnic identity was different and diverse for each subject.

In Chapter 6 (research 4), the following factors influencing the self-awareness of ethnic identity were considered from their experiences and the case study: the parents' culture, parent-child relationships, recognition of ethnicity by others who knew the subjects, the presence or absence of the experience of returning to Brazil, the length of time being in Brazil before returning to Japan, and self-determination to return to Japan. Of these factors, the following three were revealed to form the self-awareness of ethnic identity: 1) recognition of ethnicity by others; 2) a good parent-child relationship, which had a positive effect on ethnic identity as Brazilian; and 3) length of stay in Brazil before returning to Japan and self-determination to return.

In Chapter 7 I made a comprehensive discussion of all these results. These results suggest that the recognition of the ethnicity by others who knew these youth is an important factor in the formation of the ethnic identity of Japanese-Brazilian youths who grew up in Japan. The data also suggest that their ethnic identity was transformed and fluctuated by time and place.