
ABSTRACT

Comparison of “self” association in Japanese and Finnish children

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The present study, involving Japanese and Finnish children, compared and examined their “self” association, using the Image Association Method. The subjects were Japanese and Finnish elementary and junior high school students ($N=1,113$), and the method was based on the association of images using the term “I” as a stimulus word. Data were analyzed and the following findings were obtained: a) Most Japanese fourth-year elementary students described their preferences and future dreams. b) A number of Japanese second-year junior high school students described their school club activities or commented on their personalities in a negative manner. c) Finnish fourth- and eighth-year students mainly described their personalities in a positive manner. A cluster analysis was also conducted, and the following five clusters were adopted: “preference-based feeling”, “negative self-image”, “positive self-image”, “external self-image”, and “ambivalent self-image” clusters. The analysis results also suggested that: d) Japanese children’s “self” mainly consisted of feelings associated with their preferences. e) As for Finnish children, there were some “self” patterns, and the older the children, the greater the number of patterns.

Key Words: Image Association Method, students, Finland
