
ABSTRACT

The process of finding one's own "*yoridokoro*": An investigation into the meaning of dialogue through student counselling

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In this case a client through counseling in the student counseling room raised the problem of "I want to have a dialogue but I don't want the others to know about it." This study is an attempt to analyze the concept of *yoridokoro*. It has a two-fold meaning, the first being that *yoridokoro* is a place where people gather. The second meaning is that *yoridokoro* is a place in the mind one can rely on. An important question is "what is the dialogue that the client sought?" Within the concept of *yoridokoro*, there could be three further layers, the conscious, the pre-conscious and finally the unconscious. In each layer, the meaning of *yoridokoro* is a bit different. As the clients reconstruct their past experiences and problems through the telling of their stories it is important to attempt to discover what *yoridokoro* they are speaking from. This process is very much in tune with the philosophical and spiritual quest humanity as a whole has pursued from time immemorial.

Key Words: student counseling, narrative, *yoridokoro*
