

別記様式第6

論文審査の要旨
(Summary of Dissertation Evaluation)

博士の専攻分野の名称 (Major Field of Ph.D.)	Ph.D. in International Cooperation Studies	氏名 (Candidate Name)	PARKPOOM KUANVINIT
学位授与の要件	学位規則第4条第1項・2項該当		
論文題目 (Title of Dissertation) “We'll never be one of them”: The Impacts of Acculturation Strategies on a Sense of Self-continuity among Highly Skilled Thai Workers in Japan			
論文審査担当者 (The Dissertation Committee)			
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〔論文審査の要旨〕 (Summary of the Dissertation Evaluation)

This dissertation explores the acculturation strategies of eighteen highly skilled male and female Thai migrant workers in Japan. It also investigates their sense of self-continuity as the consequence of such strategies. The study applies two methods: autobiographical meaning-making (AMM) depicted by life-line drawing and Multigroup Ethnic Identity Measure (MEIM).

The dissertation consists of seven chapters. Chapter 1 introduces the background, research objectives and questions, methods, significance, and dissertation structure. Chapter 2 presents a literature review under six themes: acculturation and migration studies, self-continuity and migration studies, lived experiences of Thai international migrants, categorizations and differences of international skilled migrants, acculturation process of Thai migrants in host countries, and acculturation of migrants in Japanese society. Chapter 3 explains the theoretical framework with five keywords: multiculturalism, acculturation strategies, self-continuity, cultural citizenship, and social structure. The study considers acculturation through sociocultural and sociopsychological lenses. The sociocultural impacts are examined through multiculturalism and cultural citizenship concepts. The sociopsychological perspective regards self-continuity, which correlates with psychological well-being. Both acculturation and self-continuity processes are influenced by social structures such as workplaces or ethnic communities. Chapter 4 explains the methodology, and Chapter 5 presents the data and the analysis. Chapter 6 is a case study of AMM, detailing a case and showing how the author analyses it. Chapter 7 develops an overall discussion, including implications for a multicultural society.

This research has three major findings. First, integration is the most advantageous acculturation strategy for the participants. Second, the participants can safeguard their self-continuity through the integrative acculturation approach. Combining engagement in Thai community and personalization of Japanese identity for self-development nurtures a sense of self-continuity. Third, Thai workers can smoothly acculturate and gain social acceptance on the condition that they observe Japanese social norms and values. The last finding illustrates that Japan is still on its way to transforming itself into a multicultural society. Especially in the work domain, migrant workers are expected to personalize Japanese identity for the sake of acculturation. This tendency represents the distance from the discourse of cultural diversity.

Although limited in its size and scope of the data and thus not representing the general migrant experiences in Japan, this dissertation is significant on the following three points:

1. This study contributes to developing relatively understudied Asia-Asia migration research. The focus on highly skilled migrant workers is also a rare approach.
2. While applying John W. Berry's acculturation model, which is usually used for quantitative studies, the qualitative approach of this study clarified the interaction between action and attitude in the acculturation process, which is a theoretical contribution to the field.
3. Given that Japan is at the turning point to open its door to migrant workers, including those who graduate from Japanese universities, the study has policy implications for a multicultural society.

Following the above examination, the Committee members concluded that this dissertation merits the degree of PhD (international cooperation studies) to be awarded to the author.

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