

Cultural formation of responsibility in caregiver-child interactions

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【Outline of survey】

This study clarifies the system by which responsibility is formed culturally, based on our concept that both child and caretaker develop responsibility gradually, according to their ability to respond during interactions. Specifically, we collect data from various cultural groups, including those in Japan, Asia, Africa, and the United States, and analyze the data from the following four perspectives.

1. Reciprocal accommodation of contingent behaviors capitalizing on infant regularities
 - The clarification of cultural variety with respect to the processes by which the caretaker coordinates his/her behavior according to infant regularities.
2. Musicality in early vocal communication
 - To discuss the relationship between early vocal communication and the social system it mediates by regarding the child-caretaker interaction as musical dialogue
3. Displaying and reading agency by young children
 - To identify cultural specificity and commonality in the processes by which a young child becomes competent at recognizing another's agency while displaying his/her own agency through exchanging an object with the other
4. Sequential organization of imitation activity
 - To study cultural differences in social activity using a young child's imitation activity and the processes by which a young child becomes able to behave appropriately, in the context of imitation activity, by looking at imitation activity as a sequential organization

【Expected results】

1. This study will reconsider the role of culture in the caregiver-child interaction by combining long-term participant observations based on field work and detailed conversation analytic studies.
2. This study will discuss "language socialization before speech" by expanding the framework of language socialization studies that consider the relationship between conversational practices and socio-cultural logic. Thereby, it will clarify the foundation of human language use and the formation of social and cultural logic.
3. This study will identify how a child acquires the ability to behave appropriately and how caretakers learn childrearing behaviors. In doing so, this study will suggest that both child and caregiver are brought up together, not rigidly, but in dependent situations while relating to each other; in elaborating this idea, this study will not set out manuals nor set up separate child studies and parent studies.

【References】

- Takada, A. (2005). Early vocal communication and social institution: Appellation and infant verse addressing among the Central Kalahari San. *Crossroads of Language, Interaction, and Culture*, **6**, 80-108.
- Takada, A. (2005). Mother-infant interactions among the !Xun: Analysis of gymnastic and breastfeeding behaviors. In B. S. Hewlett, & M. E. Lamb (Eds.), *Hunter-gatherer childhoods: Evolutionary, developmental, and cultural perspectives* (pp.289-308). New Brunswick, NJ: Transaction Publishers.

【Term of project】 FY2007 - 2011

【Budget allocation】10,600,000 yen

(2007 direct cost)

【Homepage address】 http://jambo.africa.kyoto-u.ac.jp/africa_division/kyoin/takada01.html