The Process of Participation in Schooling and Livelihood at Local Communities : A Case Study of Kesennuma City, Miyagi Prefecture before the World War II

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This study re-examines how individuals socialize during conflicts between the customs of rural society, where family systems and kinship ties exist, and modern systems, including schools and the military. To do so, the perspective of examining children in modern society, their backgrounds and mechanisms, and the folklore perspective of exploring the socialization of children and their symbolic position in rural society will be combined, and the cases obtained in the north-east Japan in the early Showa period will be examined.

Here, rather than confronting the local folk culture and the institutions of modern society, the living world in which they both influence each other will be redefined. The diary materials examined here were found during the cultural property rescue after the 2011 Great East Japan Earthquake in the Kogoshio district of Kesennuma City, Miyagi Prefecture. The diary materials were written during the years 1932 and 1933 by a boy in his mid-teens at the time. The analysis of these materials also reveals changes in the local culture of Kesennuma about a century ago and is also linked to the work of extracting the cultural diversity that was lost due to the earthquake and returning it to the local community today.

This study is organized as follows. Section 1 describes the author of the diary, Mr. Eiichi Ogata, and the outline of the diary he left behind. In Section 2, the experiences at school described by Mr. Eiichi will be extracted from the diary, and the school attendance situation and its characteristics will be organized. In Section 3, diary entries about agriculture, which was a livelihood of the Ogata family, will be examined. Section 4 examines how the Ogata family engaged in fishing, which was another family business, as recorded in the diary. Based on the above points, Section 5 will reveal that the fact that Mr. Eiichi controlled and reshaped his own life despite being incorporated into the modern Japanese society through the educational system shows that the change was due to social relationships and the acquisition status of skills in the livelihoods that have been carried out in the local community.

Key words: Diary, Socialization, Child, School Education, Subsistence, Fishery