

Self-disclosure of the Japanese in Their Self-introduction

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Abstract

This article presents the research done on Japanese self-disclosure through Japanese students' self-introductions. It has been reported so far that the Japanese college students' self-disclosure rate are lower than those of American college students when they communicate with strangers.

The first step to become a member of a group begins with self-introduction. My research shows that the main topics of a college student's self-introduction are name, birthplace, hobbies, etc., and that these are surface topics or small talk. However, one characteristic I have found concerning Japanese self-introductions is that while they disclose the names of their high schools and hometowns, their addresses, and information about their families in detail, they also disclose a number of negative points, such as modes of transportation, commuting time, personal demerits.

It is often said that Japanese culture is very intent upon avoiding uncertainty on a surface level. So when Japanese meet anyone who has a very different sense of their uncertainty avoidance, there is bound to be a communication gap between them. Because when Japanese meet strangers, they are eager to find out such personal information as their hometown, address, family, etc., and they much less interested in finding out about the people themselves, such as their special abilities, their way of thinking, their impressions, etc.