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論文の要旨

This thesis analyzes the newly forming minority group of migrants from Uzbekistan to Japan their subjective narratives of their stay in Japan. In doing so, this thesis aims to fill in the gap in the literature on migrants from Uzbekistan which often treats such migration from the point of view of economic and political root causes, frequently illustrated by the case study of Uzbek migration to Russia. In such depiction, individual narratives and their experiences are often overlooked, with emphasis solely made on the economic and political factors triggering such migration. In contrast to such an approach, this thesis aims to uncover the faces and life stories of the participants of the migration processes through elaborating on their practices of mobility through analysis of the individual face-to-face interviews.

In its coverage, this thesis focused on the individual experiences which encompass experiences of migrating within and outside Uzbekistan, professional skills, and education level in mediating their experiences in Japan. As is claimed in this thesis, narratives of initial plans, motivations, the reality of living in Japan make up one part of migrant experiences. According to its analysis, another important part is explained by making sense of one's stay through the lens of ethnicity, attitude to the home country, religiosity as well as gender and community attachments throughout the migration process.

In terms of its consisting parts, this dissertation comprises of four main chapters beginning with an introduction to this research, literature review, theoretical framework and methodology, and discussion of research results. The introduction part provides background information on this topic, a brief overview of the state of initial research, theory adapted to explain the phenomenon of Uzbek sojourning experiences, orientations, and transitions, aim of the research, and methodology.

Following the introduction, Chapter 1 introduces Uzbekistan where migrants grew up and came from. This chapter also includes the coverage of the migration-absorbing countries such as Russia, Kazakhstan, and others which provide a comparative perspective for considering Japan's case. In addition, this chapter presents a contextual review

of Japan's profile as a hosting side and the Uzbekistan migration profile, proving review of Japan's historical conditions and context, which shaped Japan's current immigration policies and how Japan approaches migrants, immigrants, and refugees.

Chapter 2 then critically engages with the previous literature and research on the subject of migration from Uzbekistan as well as the notion of sojourning. In addition, this chapter also provides a review of the literature on migration and residency in the Japanese context, and Central Asian and Uzbek literature in terms of migration. This chapter demonstrates the trends in the migration literature using the sociological, political, and psychological frames, which also reflect on the studies of migration into Japan made on the Chinese, Israeli, Japanese, *Nikkeijin*, and other migration groups. It then presents an assessment of migration literature in the Central Asian and Uzbek context, including the case studies of Uzbeks in Russia, Egypt, Dubai, and others

Chapter 3 elaborates on the conceptual framework adopted for this research and explains why the model of orientations towards the place of residence suggested by Mizukami was chosen as the theoretical framework. This part also describes the way through which the Uzbek migration to Japan contributes to the refinement of the definition of sojourners in a global migration context developed by Mizukami.

Chapter 4 presents the insight into Uzbekistani migrant experiences before arriving in Japan and vis-à-vis residing in Japan, initial plans, motivations, adaptation, and further plans. Chapter 5 focuses on the cultural sensitivity of settlement practices in the Uzbek context, exemplifying these through analysis of the ethnic, religious, and cultural aspects affecting Uzbek migrants' experiences in Japan. Chapter 6 then provides gendered perspectives of migration and the role of communities among the Uzbekistani in Japan.

This thesis arrives at the generic conclusion that personal experiences not only show the migrant narratives and perceptions on the processes unfolding with living in Japan, but they also help explain the individuals' adaptation and internalization strategies through their migration process.

審　査　の　要　旨

1　批評

This thesis focuses on the new phenomenon of Uzbek migration to Japan. Although traditionally, Uzbek migrants choose Russia or other culturally and geographically closer locations for labor migration, this study points to the increasing number of migrants choosing Japan for their work and study. As is described in this thesis, all categories of visa-holders among Uzbeks in Japan consider their stay temporary. However, the temporality of this stay is relative as their stay in Japan, followed by returning to Uzbekistan, again pushes them to come back to Japan. Respondents mentioned the inability to adapt to the Uzbek environment upon return, which therefore ends up being another place for sojourning for Uzbekistani residents in Japan. With the intentions of returning to Uzbekistan, which all categories of settlers and sojourners mentioned, the notion of sojourning and settling becomes ever temporary and fluid.

In addition, according to the findings of this thesis, Uzbek residents of Japan identity their stay as part of their mobility experience. Compared to other foreigners, most Uzbekistani migrants do not find the Japanese environment to be disregarding or discriminating towards them. This is explained through such concepts as *o'zbekchilik* (uzbekness), similar to Japanese *Nihonjinron*, being a part of daily life in Uzbekistan. Multi-ethnic dynamics and treatment of foreigners in Japan is not a new environment for Uzbeks, brought up in a similar multi-ethnic

environment with striking differentiation between various ethnic groups. Accordingly, the Japanese treatment of Uzbeks is often viewed by them as not part of discrimination, but the way of differentiating as Uzbeks themselves often do in respect to Russian/Tajik/Jewish/Korean/etc. groups., who are acknowledged, but not necessarily accepted as similar in terms of culture and other markers of identity.

The findings above contribute significantly to the understanding of the concept of sojourning in the international settings and provide a piece of empirical evidence to localize this notion to the Central Asian/Uzbek context. While the thesis operated with a limited sample size of just 30 respondents and produced outcomes with limited generalizability due to the small sample size, its findings represent a significant contribution to the understanding of migration from Uzbekistan to Japan. Accordingly, the committee concluded that this thesis fulfills the doctoral dissertation requirements and thus recommends awarding the corresponding degree.

2 最終試験

The final examination committee conducted a final examination on January 8, 2021. The applicant provided an overview of the dissertation, and addressed questions and comments raised during the Question-and-Answer session. All committee members reached a final decision that the applicant passed the final examination.

3 結論

Therefore, the final examination committee approved that the applicant is qualified to be awarded a Doctor of Philosophy in Social Sciences.