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論文の要旨

The thesis titled “Japanese Whaling and the People Behind It: A Story Untold” focuses on the whaling communities in Japan in an attempt to shed light on their practices, logic behind the whaling and the way they deal with the international anti-whaling pressures. Methodologically, this thesis employed the combination of phenomenology and ethnography. In collecting data, this thesis used both semi-structured interviews as well as observations during the whale hunts, whaling-promotion events and international conferences (67th session of the International Whaling Commission).

Structurally, this thesis is divided into the following five chapters. It starts with the explanation of goals, methodology as well as intellectual dilemma in the introductory part. Following this, Chapter 1 provides the outline of the Japanese whaling and its history. This includes the explanation of the background of the current international whaling regime and the stages of the regime’s evolution. In addition, this part also details on the Japan’s participation in the whaling regime creation and advancement.

Chapter 2 then overviews and critically engages academic literature relating to this research topic. In particular, this chapter provides the historical research on whaling and whaling in Japan in order to integrate this research into existing body of literature on this subject. This chapter also provides insights into the current trends in whaling research with a particular focus on the Japanese whaling.

Chapter 3 presents a conceptual and methodological framework of this study. This chapter explains why phenomenological and ethnographic methodological approaches were used in data collection and analysis. This chapter also provides description of the data sources and data collection strategies which include but are not limited to the in-depth interviews and fieldwork based methodology. According to this thesis, the key to understanding this subject were the notions of “emic” and “etic”. These concepts

were presented in details in Chapter 3 with “emic” referring to the view from inside, and etic being the outside perspective. These two components of understanding the whaling dilemma were emphasized as equally important. In terms of operationalization of these terms, the “emic” referred to “inside” meaning view from the inside of the social group of interest, while “outside” is what the researcher brings into the study with her, through her own previous experiences and knowledge. The importance of using “emic” in the present study was required to provide accounts of own experiences from the Japanese whaling-related individuals and observations of their whaling-related activities in order to understand the internal elements and functioning of the Japanese whaling landscape. The concept of “etic”, is understood and interpreted more broadly in this study referring to the researcher’s view and to the views of anti-whaling camp openly expressed in published and broadcasted resources. And the relationship between the etic and the emic in the case of Japanese whaling was then considered and analyzed by the research author.

Chapter 4 discusses particularities of conducting interviews and fieldwork in the context of the Japanese whaling. This part also explains how the conceptual and methodological framework accommodates the focus of this thesis, namely, the Japanese whaling and the people involved in it. And the final Chapter 5 then analyzes the key findings of this work with the final part summarizing the research outcomes.

There are few arguments that this thesis makes. First, this thesis argues that the issues around the Japanese whaling practices are over politicized and often emotionally colored by the international media. Second, there is very little evidence to suggest that the Japanese whaling practice contradicts international norms and practices. On the contrary, the expert community concedes that Japan complies with the international demands and consistently attempts to reshape international norms in respect to this issue. Frequently, these attempts by Japan ended with failures resulting in the withdrawal of Japan from the International Whaling Commission in 2018. Third, antiwhaling campaigns conducted aggressively in Japan and abroad do not result in the change of the practice but rather causes the anti-anti-whaling campaign. Accordingly, anti-anti-whaling attitude of those among the Japanese public is the direct result of opposition of people towards anti-whaling because they felt that anti-whaling opposition is not conducted to protect the species but rather aims to question the Japanese traditions and historical practices. In this sense, for many of those who share anti-anti-whaling stances, the campaign to save whales turned into campaign to question Japanese identity and traditional way of life. And finally, this thesis does not question the preservation of whales as an important idea and goal. On the contrary, this thesis states that the work done to stop and reverse the loss of whale populations is of extreme importance. However, this thesis argues that saving the environment should go hand in hand with considering the changes in human conditions any such strategy entails. Otherwise, such campaigns only polarize people and result in little practical outcomes.

審 査 の 要 旨

1 批評

Throughout this thesis, the author attempted to voice the concerns and opinions of people directly involved in whaling in Japan. In this process, this study detailed on the connection of whaling to other significant issues which are not normally paid careful attention when the issue of the Japanese whaling is considered by international anti-whaling activists and expert community. One of such aspects which

this thesis emphasizes as the one closely connected to the Japanese whaling is the notion of food-security that has been referred to by the Japanese government officials, as well representatives of NGOs and small-business owners during the data collection and interviews. Another similarly important point uncovered in this thesis is the negative role environmental organizations play in the global dynamics of whaling. Although conventionally, international environmental groups are positively colored and depicted, this thesis argues that on par with some positive effects (preservation of whale population etc.), there are adverse effects that the pro- and anti-whaling sides' negotiations environmentalists bring about which are rarely discussed and analyzed. To exemplify this case, this thesis provides the case of role of media in shaping and framing the processes related to whaling. In particular, the image of Japanese whaling and the people who engage in it often migrate from publication to publication, from video piece to video piece with no alterations for several decades. Also, the thesis details other examples of constant repetition of the exact same words and phrases, that it leaves no room for alternative views or explanations. In this sense, this thesis argued that this process does not only influence the outside world attitudes to Japanese whaling, but also how the Japanese whaling-related people view themselves. In other words, many of those involved in whaling regard the images and frames created by the Western media as a negation of their identity and enhances their commitment to whaling as opposed to weakening it. In this sense, the way of international problematization of whaling had an adverse effect on those who these anti-whaling campaigns aimed to discourage from whaling. In addition, this thesis suggests that whaling for self-definition of the representatives of the Japanese whaling-related group is also manifested in their persuasion that what they do is "shimei" – their mission in life, which emerged both in the interviews and short conversations.

In terms of deficiencies of this thesis, the aspect of subjectivity has been discussed during the defense session. Although author did not intend this thesis to be a defensive statement in support of the Japanese whaling, the outcome presented in the tone of the thesis indicates certain degree of empathies with humans who are in distress because of the current situation. At the same time, such small shortcoming does not negate the importance of this thesis in that it aims to broaden awareness of this issue and uncover the sides to the Japanese way of looking at the problem in order to be better informed as a global society and be able to make educated decisions in this and other cases with similar variables in the future.

2 最終試験

The final examination committee conducted a final examination on July 11, 2019. 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.