Abstract of Doctoral Thesis

Title: Recognition theoretical consideration of "hikikomori" in Japanese society: Significance of recognition in the process of isolation and involvement

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In this study, I analyze the social significance and role of recognition of "hikikomori" in Japanese society from the viewpoint of " the process of isolation and involvement" for the parties concerned, using the theory of inter-subjectivity centered on the concept of recognition. First, I will extract how the relationship between the parties and others / society is changing in each phase of hikikomori. Then, I consider the multifaceted meaning of the recognition concept and present the possibility of using the recognition concept in hikikomori support and understanding.

Many of the conventional studies on hikikomori focus on the individual parties and critically examine the social structure. Few studies have focused on the relationship between the person concerned and the surrounding others and society, and don't grasp the entire hikikomori process from the same theoretical point of view.

In this study, interview analysis was used to extract the process followed by the hikikomori parties as the "process of isolation and involvement." Then, the process was considered by Axel Honneth's recognition theory, which grasps the process from the recognition relationship with a wide theoretical range.

Consideration by recognition theory, it can be seen that the parties are forced into self-negative isolation due to the chain of recognition damage in many areas. It is a personalized and invisible form of Honneth's "struggle for recognition." In addition, in the process of restructuring social relations by the withdrawal parties, mutual recognition relations in the recognition space and interaction with others, and relativization of value norms were observed. This process is a trial and error process of the parties and supporters over recognition, which is a "quiet struggle for recognition". This is a new possibility of social inclusion, such as the practice of support with recognition relationships and various forms of social participation.