

Abstract of Doctoral Thesis

Title:

**Making Relationships in Old Age and “Ability to Live”:
An Analysis by Case Study of Agricultural Area and
Life History of Elderly People**

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The objective of this thesis is to consider about life-structure totally using four living elements: living economics, living space, living hours and living relationships, and to discuss about conditions and interactional practice in life focusing on “ability to live”, by the interview survey in agricultural area and life history survey of elderly people.

In introduction chapter, it is thought again what is “aging” adapting to living “dynamics between gains and losses” that is perspective of P. Baltes. In addition, it is necessary to consider about changing living relationship with aging including another elements.

First chapter reviewed about Japanese research trend after WWII, into three division, then, suggested the perspective of “life” and importance to discuss back and forth between the individual and society.

Second chapter reviewed about Japanese research trend about theory of life-structure, and suggested to theory of life-structure of T. Iida and “ability to live”.

Third chapter analyzed about “ability to live” of community, by the case study in agricultural area in Hyogo prefecture, and considered about local area from two characteristics: conditions and interactional practice.

Fourth chapter analyzed “ability to live” of person who is old age by life histories of seven elderly people living in the area mentioned above making much account of gaining experience in life.

Fifth chapter considered about the interaction between “ability to living” of community and individuals (elderly people) using perspectives “dynamics between gains and losses” and theory of selective optimization with compensation by P. Baltes.

Final chapter proposed about the direction to open up old age of persons on their own hands using four living elements. It is includes that not only how live in their lives but also what kind of society do they want to live in and the idea of linking self-help, corporation and public help.