Implications of the Withdrawal of the Reservation to the Art.13 (2) (c) of the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights

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ABSTRACT

When Japan ratified the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (ICESCR) in 1979, it reserved the right not to be bound by “in particular by the progressive introduction of free education” in applying the provision of subparagraph (c) of paragraph 2 of article 13 of ICESCR.

Although Japan withdrew the reservation 33 years later, on September 11, 2012, the percentage of household expenditure in the total of public and private expenditure for tertiary education has significantly increased.

This situation is a result of government policy, “The beneficiary payment principle”. The Basic Plan for the Promotion of Education, which was approved by the Japanese cabinet on June 14, 2013, did not include increasing public expenditure to the average of OECD countries, despite a recommendation in the draft of the Basic Plan by the Central Education Council.

In this article, through researching General Comments of Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (CESCR) and ICESCR, I argue that the Japanese government is obligated to take steps to fully implement article 13 (2) (c).

Key Words: CESCR’s General Comment, progressive introduction, withdrawal of reservation.
An Empirical Investigation of
“Measure, Index, and Scale” of Religiosity:
From a Comparative Perspective of Japan and the Western Countries

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ABSTRACT
Do the scales and indices developed in the Western societies have more or less the same reliability in Japan? We try to answer this question by doing a data analysis of the module Religion 1998 of the International Social Survey Programme (ISSP). The survey has been conducted in more than twenty countries, but we choose the three countries of Germany (East and West), USA, and France for comparison with Japan.

The data analyses we have done are as follows:
1. The bivariate relationships between religious participation as the dependent variable, and other independent religious variables were depicted. We calculated the mean religious participation in each country for each category of the dependent variables. The means for each country were connected by a line.
2. We ran a factor analysis, and calculated the Cronbach’s Alpha for each country using eleven variables measuring the people’s religiosity.

The results of these data analyses show that the general religiosity scale or index seems to be more appropriate in the Western countries, but less suited to Japan.

Key Words: religiosity, ISSP, data analysis, bivariate relationship, factor analysis, transformation of variables
Conceiving and Practicing Global Citizenship and Civic Responsibility Higher Learning through a Sociology in English Curriculum Study

Alan BRADY

ABSTRACT

Class social life is a system with connected individuals and groups who participate and relate to one another in a number of ways. People are what make any system “happen,” and without their participation any system only exists as an idea with some physical reality attached. People make systems happen, and systems lay out paths of least resistance to shape participation. The foreign language classroom can be used for communication development and knowledge acquisition where the main goal is neither functional nor strategic, but rather affective. Student understandings of social life and society and sociology are not distinct from how they experience their own immediate study society as it unfolds.

Key Words: Global citizenship, civic responsibility, sociology in English study
Mismatch between Neo-liberalist Structural Reform and Conventional Japanese Cultural Terrain

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ABSTRACT

With the rapid advance of the economic globalization, competition across borders is intensifying. In order to deal with this competition, neo-liberalist structural reform accelerated rapidly in Japan after the 90s. In this paper, I probe the phenomenon of the mismatch between the neo-liberalist systems introduced and the Japanese cultural terrain which worked to effectively maintain the social system until then, as well as analyze the historical and social factors which caused this mismatch. I point out that when a new system is introduced, it is very important to make the utmost effort to avoid a mismatch with the conventional cultural terrain. When there is insufficient effort, not only is the newly introduced system itself unable to function well, there is the possibility that the cultural terrain of the society may deteriorate also. That is to say, when dealing with the pressure from the economic globalization, is not grasping for congenial institutional reform more important than anything for the special features for a society’s cultural terrain?

Key Words: conventional Japanese cultural terrain, neo-liberalist structural reform, mechanism of social system
A Theory of Relative Deprivation Revisited (10)

Kenji KOSAKA

ABSTRACT

This paper attempts to clarify how Runciman (1966) reached the historical application of the concept of ‘relative deprivation’ originally coined by Stouffer et al (1949) in their non-historical episodes of American soldiers’ differential attitude toward promotion opportunities. Starting by suggesting Merton and Kitt’s (1950) presumably ‘non-linear’ relationship between relative deprivation and objective opportunities, Runciman drew an imaginative figure for illustrative purposes where the degree of relative deprivation first decreases, then increases to a certain point, and finally decreasing towards zero. He uses this figure to analyze cross-sectional data, as well as longitudinal data, by focusing on the change in expectation level (increase/decrease, accelerated, etc.) and/or the dislocation of reference groups. All this suggests that we need to integrate the static and the dynamic approach to relative deprivation.

Key Words: relative deprivation, non-linear relationship, cross-sectional analysis, longitudinal analysis, Runciman