

## The communication of “compensated companionship”

### ABSTRACT

Recently, one of the social problems in Japanese society is “compensated companionship” (*enzyo-kousai*). “Compensated companionship” is regarded as a type of prostitution that is conducted by high school girls as a means of buying their favorite expensive designer goods. Accordingly, “compensated companionship” is equivalent to ordinary prostitution. But, this research showed that the mass media has misrepresented the content of the “compensated companionship”.

This paper has two premises. First, people involved in “compensated companionship” are not only high school girls, but they are also married women, students from various age groups, and employed women. Secondly, “compensated companionship” does not fit in the conventional definition of prostitution. “Compensated companionship” is not a pure commercial transaction, pursued only for economical profit. I try to analyze the communication of “compensated companionship” by conducting interviews with more than 30 women in my fieldwork. As a consequence of this research, this paper presents four categories of communication which take place in “compensated companionship”; the vocabulary of “money”, role-playing through anonymity, the acknowledgement of sexual facts, and the settlement of sexual identity. This paper also indicates the need for modification of sociological methods for fieldwork.

**Key words** : vocabulary of “money”, role-playing, sexual identity