

**NAKAMURA
SENIOR GIRLS' HIGH SCHOOL**

**Nakamura International
Course**

**Class of 2019
Thesis Projects**



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Introduction

The Nakamura International Course (NIC) students, class of 2019, have successfully completed a one-year study abroad program. During their time in the USA, Canada and Australia, the 7 students researched and wrote a thesis on the topic *Gender Issues*. Choosing an additional subject relevant to their interests, each student conducted research by using the internet and the school library. From this information they created a set of interview questions to ask both men and women during their study abroad.

The students utilized critical thinking in order to plan and write a research thesis on their chosen topic, how this connects to *Gender Issues*, and interpret the data collected from their interviews. In addition to this, the NIC students also presented their thesis to an audience to share what they have learned from their experiences.

In this collection are the thesis essays written by each student.

(Stasia Ise & Norio Hayakawa)

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Movies and Gender

Ai Ehigiato Odagiri

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Introduction

“If you stand for equality, then you’re a feminist. Sorry to tell you.”(Watson, 2015) Most people in Japan would not know what a feminist is because they have never heard the word. Or some people might have the wrong impression. Perhaps they think that, “Feminists are man-haters.”

However, I believe the true meaning is a person who believes all people should have equal rights no matter what their gender is. I learned the word from one of my favorite actors, Emma Watson. I also noticed that every person who I admire are feminists. Since then, I have come to read articles about feminism, and to become a feminist myself. While I was learning about feminism, I became interested in gender issues in the movie industry. That is why I chose movies as my topic for this thesis. In this thesis, I will talk about the relationship between movies and gender, and gender issues in the movie industry.

Background

Why did I chose movies as a topic for this thesis? Simply, I chose the topic because I like movies so much. When I was 10 years old, I watched *Harry Potter* for the first time. *Harry Potter* is a fantasy movie about a magical world. There is a school called Hogwarts and students go there to study magic. The

main characters experience various events and learn and grow through the experiences. I was fascinated by the power of magic, things that were beyond my imagination, and characters that I can relate to. After I watched *Harry Potter*, I began to watch a lot of movies. Since then, I have become obsessed with the world of movies.

There is another reason why I chose movies as a topic. I chose the topic because movies show aspects of society in that generation. It is a popular opinion that movies are a mirror which reflects society. I think that is quite true. In recent years, Walt Disney Studios are making live-action films of their Disney princess movies, such as *Cinderella*, *Beauty and the Beast*, and *Alice in Wonderland*. When they make those movies, they add some changes to the story so that the movies would fit this generation in which many people care about gender equality. For example, the live-action *Alice in Wonderland* is about 19 year old Alice's journey of self-discovery. The movie opens with her surprise engagement party. Everyone is wearing a nice dress, as is Alice. However, Alice didn't wear a corset and stockings under the dress, which shocked her mother because it was not appropriate in that era. However, she says, "Who's to say that's proper?" This scene shows that she is not afraid of defying norms

that she doesn't agree with. At the party, she is proposed to by a man who is wealthy, but who doesn't accept the way she is in front of the audience, who expect her to say yes. It was difficult for her to answer because if she said yes, she would spend her life in misery with an arrogant husband, and if she said no, she thought she would be a lonely, weird lady like her aunt, and a burden to her mother. While she was thinking about how to answer, she saw a rabbit wearing clothes and looking at his clock, so she said she needs time and she went after the rabbit who leads her to Wonderland. Through her experiences there, she found that she is a brave woman who is capable of making up her own mind about her life. She, of course, takes this back to the real world, and begins to make her own choices. In the closing scene of the movie, she becomes the captain of her lost father's ship, without a husband. This is an empowering movie with many positive messages directed to women, such as "Don't live your life to please others. The choice must be yours." (*Alice in Wonderland*, 2010)

Supporting Arguments

I stayed in Portland, Oregon, in the United States for 10 months. During my summer vacation, I interviewed four of my friends, asking them 10 questions

about movies and gender. They are all girls. Two of them are from Taiwan, and they are my friends from a language school I attended. The third one is from Thailand, and she is also a friend from a language school. The last one is from the United States, and she is my friend from high school. In my interview, I received some interesting answers.

First, I asked “What kind of gender issues do you see in movies?” I asked this question because I wanted to know if they are aware of gender inequality in movies. One of my interviewees answered she doesn’t know what kind of gender issues there are because she has never thought about it. I think this is one of the problems which prevents the elimination of gender issues. Some people just don’t care about it. There is no way to solve gender issues if people don’t care about it. The other three of my interviewees answered there are gender issues such as sexual harassment and LGBT discrimination. I think all gender issues in society exist in movies as well, because movies are based on the real world. However, in movies, there are some issues which we don’t have in the real world. How about superheroes? There are many superheroes in the world of movies, but most of them are men. A study by BBC America (2018) says that teenage girls are less likely than boys to describe themselves

as confident, brave, and listened to because they don't see enough role models or strong and relatable characters of their own gender on-screen.

Second, I asked "Do you think there are gender gaps between actors?" I asked this question because I wanted them to think about inequality in the workplace. Two of my interviewees answered no to the question. At first, they came up with gender issues, such as wage gap. However, they think it depends on how famous the actors are, how long they have been working as actors, and how good their acting is, not their gender. That is why my interviewees think there are not many gender gaps between actors. They also said it doesn't mean there is no problem just because we don't see it. The other two of my interviewees answered yes to the question. They said there is a wage gap. They told me that actresses receive a lower wage because most of the time

actresses play less important characters. I think it's true. According to the *Top 10 List of the Highest Paid Actors and Actresses in the World*

Top 10 List of Highest Paid Actors And Actresses in the World 2018

Rank	Highest Paid Actors And Actresses	Net Worth
1	Dwayne Johnson	\$64.5 million
2	Jackie Chan	\$61 million
3	Matt Damon	\$55 million
4	Tom Cruise	\$53 million
5	Johnny Depp	\$48 million
6	Jennifer Lawrence	\$46 million
7	Ben Affleck	\$43 million
8	Vin Diesel	\$35 million
9	Melissa McCarthy	\$33 million
10	Shah Rukh Khan	\$33 million

2018, (BBC News Hub, 2017) the highest paid actor was Dwayne Johnson, who received \$64.5 million. There are only two women on the list. The highest paid actress, Jennifer Lawrence, is ranked at number 6 on the list, and received almost \$20 million less than the highest paid actor. It's obvious that there is wage gap between actors and actresses. Also, according to Infographic: Women and media (UN Women, 2015), only 23% of films feature a female protagonist. That means actresses usually play less important characters than actors. I think this is one of the reasons why actresses receive a lower wage.

Third, I asked "Do you know the *#metoo* and *Time's Up* movements?" I asked this question because I wanted to know if they have heard of those movements. Although three of my interviewees answered no, one of my interviewees answered yes. She told me these movements are innovative and she thinks there will be a lot more movements like them in the future. For those who don't know about *#metoo* and *Time's Up*, I'm going to tell you about them. *#metoo* is a hashtag on social media which is used when people talk about, share experiences and thoughts regarding gender issues such as sexual assault, sexual harassment, and LGBT discrimination. It was originally started by Tarana Burke, an American activist, in 2006, but it went viral by Alyssa



Milano, an American actress, in 2017.

Alyssa Milano called on people who have experienced sexual

violence to tweet *#metoo*, to give people an idea of the scale of the problem.

Many people from all over the world went along with this movement. *Time's Up* is an initiative launched to not only shake up gender disparity in Hollywood, but also help women in all fields who are struggling with the same kind of issues.

This movement was started by a group of more than 300 women in Hollywood, in 2018. One of the biggest events from *Time's Up* that I remember is that actors were wearing all-black outfits at the Golden Globes in 2018 to show

solidarity with victims of sexual harassment and abuse. I think *#metoo* and *Time's Up* inspired many



people who have struggling with gender inequality, and gave awareness to people who have never thought about it.

Conclusion

How can we solve gender issues? There are many ways to do that. In my opinion, the most effective way is to talk about gender issues. You can talk about them with family, friends, teachers, and any people around, whether in person or on social media. It is good to hear how other people think. I learned a lot of things from my favorite actors. Feminist actors have been open about their support of feminist issues on social media, which has helped to shine a light on gender issues, not only in the movie industry, but in society as well. In this thesis, I talked about the relationship between movies and gender, and gender issues in the movie industry. I hope readers can find new perspectives by reading my thesis, and I hope we are approaching a society that will soon achieve gender equality.

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～映画とジェンダー～ 小田桐愛エヒギアト

フェミニズムとはジェンダーに関わらず全ての人が平等な権利を持つという考えのことだ。私の好きな女優がフェミニストでこのトピックについてよく話していたため、私も興味を持つようになった。中村高等学校の Thesis Project では「ジェンダーと〇〇」というテーマで書くので私は映画を選んだ。なぜ映画を選んだかという、私が映画を見るのが好きだからと、映画は社会を映す鏡だと聞いたことがあったからだ。映画が社会を映す鏡なら映画を通してジェンダ―格差について学べると考えた。私は留学中の夏休みに留学先の高校の友達と語学学校の友達に映画とジェンダーについてのインタビューを行った。インタビューで得た意見をもとに私も映画とジェンダーについて調べてみた。この論文には映画の中のジェンダ―格差と俳優業界での問題、女優たちが行うエンパワーメント活動について書いた。ジェンダ―格差をなくすために私たちは何ができるだろうか。もっとも効果的な方法は人と直接または SNS で話し合うことだと思う。話し合うことで人々に関心をもってもらえるし、他の人の意見を学ぶことができる。この私の論文を読んで新しい視点を見つけ、そして全ての人が平等な社会へ少しでも近づけたら嬉しいことである。

Early Childhood Education and Gender



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Introduction

What do you imagine when you hear my thesis title, *Early Childhood Education and Gender*? Have you ever thought about any gender differences between males and females in nursery school or kindergarten? Of course, I had heard the word gender before I started this project, but I did not understand gender differences at all. Whenever I heard the word gender, I always thought of the gender stereotypes such as “women are weak and men are strong,” or “girls are more mature than boys.” Sheryl Sandberg, the COO of Facebook, once said, “Instead of ignoring our differences, we need to accept and transcend them.” (Sandberg, 2013).

I think this is one of the biggest problems of people to just ignore the differences and not accept themselves and others for who they are. In this thesis, I will be discussing the gender differences between male and female kindergarteners, teachers, and parents.



Background

“Early Childhood Education and Gender.” I have two reasons why I chose this research topic. Firstly, I was helping at kindergarten almost every day after school in Canada, and I helped one particular class for 87 days in total. I like to take care of small children, and I often looked after young children and even my friends who were the same age as me when I was a kindergarten student.

The other reason why I chose this topic is that one of my dreams is to become a teacher at an international kindergarten in Japan. I attended an international kindergarten in Japan when I was little and I want to teach everyday English conversation to students in the future. These are the reasons why I chose this topic.

I found a video which was on Facebook that shows gender assumptions begin when we are young children. In the video, three women came into the kindergarten class in everyday clothing and asked the children to draw pictures of a firefighter, a surgeon, and a fighter pilot. Of the 66 pictures that were drawn by the children, only five were drawn as women. After the children finished drawing, the women asked the children if they would like to meet an actual

firefighter, a surgeon, and a fighter pilot. The three women came back into the classroom dressed in their work outfit, which was a firefighter, a surgeon, and a fighter pilot. Originally the children thought that the women just dressed up in a costume. In the video, it says that "Gender stereotypes are defined between 5 and 7 years of age." (Upworthy, 2018)

Are there any male teachers at your children's kindergarten? Were there any male teachers when you were in kindergarten? I would like to discuss the history of male teachers who are involved in early childhood education, such as nursery teachers and kindergarten teachers in Japan. The very first kindergarten in Japan was established in 1876. At that time, women who educated toddlers at kindergarten were called "Hobo." Until 1999, nursery teacher's qualifications were called "Hobo" but it changed to "Hoikushi." The Chinese character used in the word "Hobo" means a mother or a woman. In 1947, a school education law was enacted, and the way people call the educators was changed from "Hobo" to "Kyouyu." With this amendment, not only women but also men could become qualified to be a teacher. From here on, I would like to focus on male nursery teachers. According to estimates by the Ministry of Internal Affairs and Communications Ministry of Census, the

number of nursery teachers was 361,488 in 2000, and of that, 4,666 were males. In 2010, of the 474,900 teachers working, there were only 13,160 male teachers. Recently, male nursery teachers are increasing, but they are still a minority if we look overall. Incidentally, the percentage of male kindergarten teachers is about 7~8 %, which is higher than the percentage of male nursery teachers. (Sugoi Hoiku, 2017)



Supporting Arguments

I stayed in the Province of British Columbia in Canada for about ten months last year. During that time, I interviewed a total of 13 people: four female teachers, four female parents, two female and three male students at

the kindergarten which I volunteered. I asked ten questions: one to teachers, five to parents, and four to students.

I asked four teachers a question about what they think is the biggest difference between boys and girls in their class, and they responded, although it is not always the same, boys are more physical, and they need to play and move before sitting down and studying. They also need more hands-on learning than girls. The others said that they think girls are more sensitive than boys, and they want hugs and want to be close to teachers and friends. They think that girls are more relational than boys. For example, boys don't need any friends to go to the washroom or to play with. All of the interviewees were basically saying the same thing. They are all examples of girls having more delicate and sensitive feelings.

I asked four female parents whose children used to go to the kindergarten I volunteered at if there were some male teachers at your kids' kindergarten, what they would want them to do, and one of them told me that she would hope they would be gentle but firm. She would want them to make good rules that the children have to follow and wishes there was a male teacher

to act as a role model for boys. From these responses, we can tell that they want a male teacher to be a positive role model for boys.

Nowadays, the percentage of male early childhood educators are decreasing around the world. The percentage of female early childhood educators and assistants in Canada in 2011 was 97%, which means that the percentage of male educators is only 3%. (Statistics Canada, 2017) Even in other parts of the world, the highest percentage of male early childhood educators is 12.5% in the Netherlands. It means female educators make up 88.5% of the educators there. The lowest recorded percentage of male educators was in Saudi Arabia, at 0.0%. (OECD. Stat, 2019)

This lack of male early childhood educators follows through to primary school as well. Figures from the British Department of Education show there were 32,700 male teachers in primary schools compared to 182,000 women. There were also just 8,700 men working as teaching assistants compared to 167,600 women. A breakdown shows Essex, a county in eastern England has 445 primary schools but 134 are without a male teacher. James Bowen, the director of National Association of Head Teachers Edge said, "It's important for all children to experience positive male role models, and to understand that men

can be interested in education, science or reading, just as much as in football.”

(The Sun, 2018)

Let's think about why there is a decline in male teachers. Male teachers often leave teaching because of the gender-related problems they face. The most concerning problems male primary school teachers face is concern about the appropriateness of physical contact with students, a heavy workload, expecting to undertake a male role, and the social loneliness they feel caused by problems in creating positive relationships with workmates. If male primary teachers have more well-formed ways of coping, they might be able to deal with these problems. (The Conversation, 2017)

I asked some questions to the kindergarten students. One was about their favorite class, and all of them said that they like their class they are in right now. Girls told me that they like music and dance the best, and boys said that PE is their favorite. One of the students told me that the best part of kindergarten for her is the teacher. From her response, I discovered that girls have a closer relationship with teachers than boys.

“What do you like to play with?” When I asked this question to the students, the girls answered, coloring, playing with chalk or dolls, and the boys

answered, playing with cars or blocks. This indicates that girls like to play more calmly than boys; something I noticed when I was volunteering there. I saw that many girls liked to play “families”, and boys liked to move around more than girls. This relates to the teacher’s response that they said boys are more physical and active than girls.

A child psychologist, Dr. Richard Woolfson, clarified some of the proof on why boys like to play with cars and girls like to play with dolls. His discovery is so interesting for me because it relates to my point perfectly. He said that boys and girls might literally be born with a selection for cars and dolls. The information is given from one experiment with male and female monkeys in 2002 when Dr. Gerianne Alexander and Professor Melissa Hines, who are psychologists, found that male monkeys wanted to play with a car rather than a doll. Female monkeys had

corresponding preferences.

In addition, boys and girls

also play in a different way

to the preference of different

toys. Boys generally enjoy

Girls and boys

Equal
but
different



playing roughly and girls learn quickly to help each other. In the analysis by the professor of Developmental Psychopathology at Cambridge University, it says about the difference between male and female brains, "Studies show that when children play with big plastic cars, more little boys play the ramming game." He also says that "Boys deliberately drive their cars into another child. Little girls ride around more carefully, avoiding each other." (Made For Mums, 2018)

Conclusion

In conclusion, I talked about the differences between male and female students in early childhood education, their teachers and how they approach early childhood education, and finally parental expectations of teachers. In this research, I found that the lack of male teachers in kindergarten is because of their feelings of insecurity at their work. They feel awkward to come into contact with the girls, and feel lonely from the lack of relationships with their workmates. Even if there are fewer male than female teachers, there are a lot of parents who would prefer to have male kindergarten teachers for their children. I think people should create a comfortable workplace for both male and female teachers.

Finally, we should consider how we can make kindergartens an easy workplace for males, and what can we do to make it happen?

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～幼児教育とジェンダー～ 佐藤英

私はこの論文を書く前は、ジェンダーという言葉を知ると「女性は弱く、男性は強い」ということをイメージしていた。フェイスブックの最高執行責任者であるシャリー・サンドバーグは「男女の違いを無視するのではなく、私たちは違いを受け入れなければならない」と言った。私はこの点が重要だと考える。

私はカナダに留学中ほとんど毎日学校が終わった後に、87日間幼稚園実習を行った。将来日本のインターナショナルプリスクールの先生になることが私の1つの夢であることからこのテーマを選んだ。私はフェイスブックで興味深いビデオを発見した。このビデオでは3人の女性がある幼稚園を普段着で訪れ、園児たち66人にそれぞれ消防士、外科医、戦闘機のパイロットの絵を描かせた。その際、66枚の絵のうちたった5枚だけが女性で描かれたが、彼女たちは本当にその職に就いていたのである。このビデオは男女の固定概念は、5～7歳の間に定義されることを示唆している。

次に日本の保育士や幼稚園について述べたい。昔日本では園児を教育していた女性は「保母」と呼ばれていた。保母の「母」と言う漢字が母親や女性を示すものであったので、1947年に学校教育法が改正され「保母」から「教諭」に変わり、以来男性も教諭の資格が取れるようになった。私はカナダに留学中の約10か月の間に4人の女性教諭、4人の母親、2人の女兒と3人の男児の計13人にインタビューを行った。まず4人の教諭にはそれぞれのクラスにいる女兒と男児の違いを尋ねた。すると彼女たちは、男児のほうが活発であり、女兒より男児のほうが学習に手がかかると言って

いた。また、女兒のほうが繊細であるとも語った。もし男性教諭が自分の子どもの幼稚園にいたら、その人たちに何をしてほしいかと私は質問した。この私の問いに対して、4人の母親たちは、彼らに男児の良い手本になって欲しいと言っていた。今日、世界中で男性教諭が減少している。男性教諭は生徒との接し方や同僚からの孤立などの問題を抱えている。もしこれらの問題を対処する良い方法を彼らが見いだせていたら彼らは問題を解決できていたかもしれない。これらのことから、男性教諭が辞める理由は職場でのいづらさに原因があるとされる。男性教諭が幼児教育の現場で働きやすい環境を創ることも今後の大きな課題の一つであろう。

Housework and Gender



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Introduction

Did you know that husbands in Japan do the least amount of housework of any country in the world? (Maita, 2016) I did not know this when I started this thesis. It is my opinion that Japanese wives do too much housework, such as taking care of their children, cooking meals, and washing dishes. In Japan, there is an invisible pressure put on women to do the do all the housework. Not just do it, but do it perfectly. I realized that Japanese people approach housework differently to those in Canada. I was surprised by these differences, and it encouraged me to continue researching this topic.

In this thesis, I will examine why I believe there is a gap between Japan and Canada in the amount of housework done by males and females.

Background

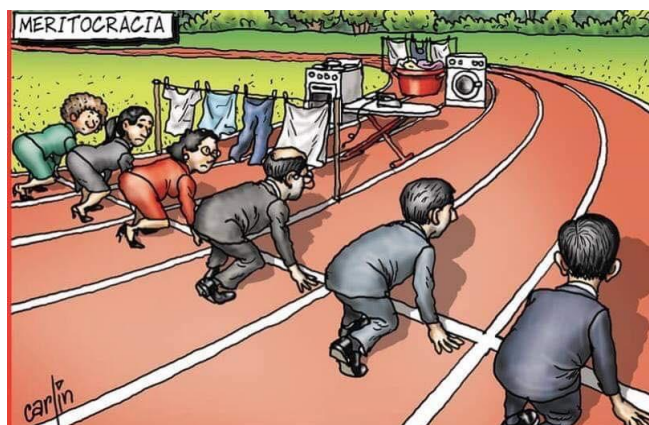
There are two reasons for choosing this topic. The first reason is that I stayed with several host families while I was in Canada, so I thought it is a chance to compare each house. The second reason is that I noticed that there are many differences between Canadian families and Japanese families, and I was interested in what makes them different.

I stayed with four host families during my time in Canada. The reason for the many changes was mostly because my host mothers were busy with work, and they were not home often enough. I enjoyed those host changes because all of them were very kind, and there were many things for me to learn about Canadian families.

I will introduce the different points of Japan and Canada in terms of housework. One of them is that women are now working outside the home, which means a double income for the family. In my host family, both parents were working, so depending on the schedule for that day, determines who cooks for the family. I think that as far as I could see, the cooking was done 50% by the wife, 40% by the husband and 10% by the children. I sometimes cooked meals with my host sisters when the parents were away from home. As expected, with both parents working, they are very busy, however, I went out for a walk or shopping with the family together almost every weekend, and on holidays. At that time, I realized they cherish their family time. My family in Japan don't go out for a walk together often, so I will try to make more time to spend with my family. I noticed that spending time together is an important family activity for Canadians.

The second point is that it did not matter that men or children do housework instead of women, in Canada. For example, the children of my host families each have chores to do at home. They do their chores every day, such as washing dishes, taking out the garbage, sweeping the floors, taking the dog for a walk, and so on. My host family also gave me a chore, so I did chores while I was in Canada. I respect them because they have to do chores, even if they are young. Then I wondered why there is a gap between the amount of shared housework that Japanese and Canadians do.

In Japan, women traditionally did the housework, and men worked outside the home, so there were housewives from a long time



ago in Japan. There are still housewives nowadays. But recently, some women go to work for a company or for themselves. However, we rarely hear of men staying home to do the housework instead of the wives.

Also from another point of view, due to the establishment of a new education system in 1951, home economics classes were started in primary

school, junior high school, and high school. When the government created the new subject "home economics" it was for the purpose of teaching both boys and girls how to sew and cook. Until that time, the education system had not been revised at all. For these reasons, I think that it is a waste of knowledge if we cannot use the skills that we learned at school.

Supporting Arguments

I went to the British Columbia Christian Academy in Canada for about ten months. While I was in Canada, I asked two women and two men about gender equality in housework.

The first question was, "The number of working couples are increasing. What do you think about this? Is it a good thing?" Three of them answered that it is good. I also think it is a good thing. But one of them answered that it is not a good thing. "People need to care for their family and children. The parent needs to take care of them, teach them, love them, spend time and talk with them."

There are advantages and disadvantages to working couples. The advantages are an increase in their income, an ability to understand each other's work better, and it helps to deepen human relations. On the other hand, there are

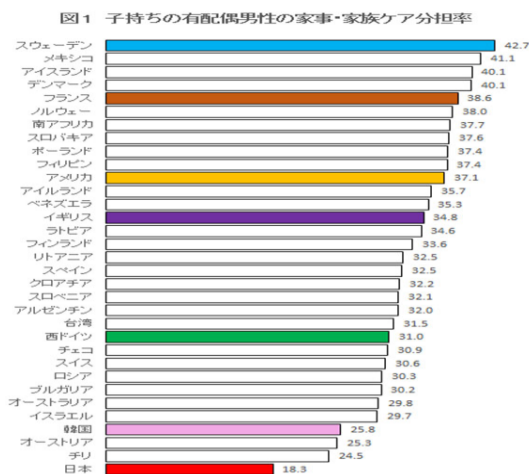
disadvantages such as less time spent with children, difficulties in taking care of children when they get sick, tiredness and stress that comes from work. There are advantages and disadvantages for working couples, so it is important for each family to create a healthy balance between work and family life.

“How do you feel about working mothers?” This question is related to the first question. One of the women said all mothers are working mothers. Some mothers work inside the home with their children and families. Some mothers work outside the home for business, self-employment, or a professional. Some mothers do both. One of the women answered that her mother works. She thinks it’s good if a mother can stay at home. It’s nice that mothers don’t work if they don’t have to. If there is no father, or it is hard to survive, they should work. According to my research, the percentage of Japanese mothers with children under six, who work, are 34% and remains extremely low compared to 76% in Sweden. (BBC News, 2013) I think every human deserves to be treated with respect no matter what they do.

The third question was “Do you think children should do chores? What kind of chores should they do?” All of the interviewees answered that children should help with chores. One of the men said it helps them to develop

responsibility. It's for growing as a human being which helps to prepare them for adulthood so that one day they will be able to take care of their own home. I think this is true. When I heard this I decided that I would do some chores to help my parents, and prepare for my future. I surveyed my class members and only half of them had a chore that they are required to do regularly.

Additionally, I realized that there are gender gaps in the amount of housework people do when I searched about housework in other countries.



According to the graph on the left, and the website, (Maita, 2016), Japanese husbands do the least of housework in the world. Sweden, depicted in blue, ranks at the top of the world in housework sharing with 42.7%, and

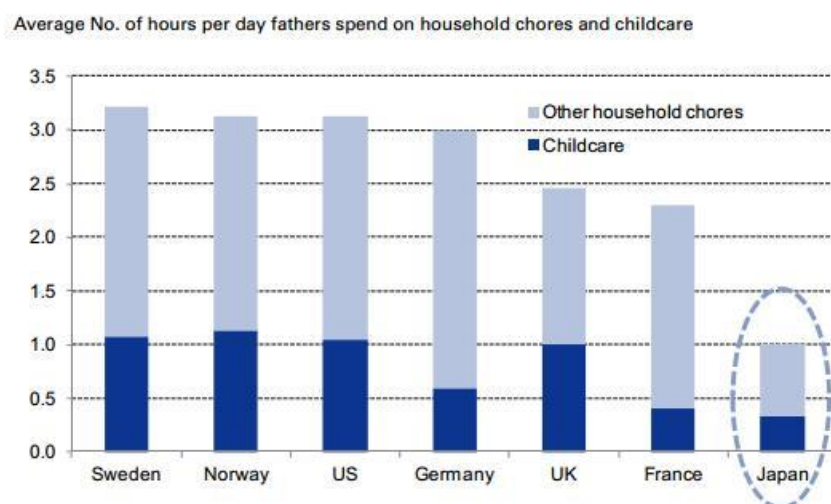
husbands in Japan, depicted in red, do the least amount of housework. The Swedish housework method of dividing housework used to be similar to Japan, so I thought the ranking of their countries would be close, but they are not.

In connection with this, I searched for the reasons and possible solutions to inequality in Japanese households. One of the reasons for this is long hours

of labor. Japanese men work, on average, 47.8 hours a week, which is nearly twice that of women's 20.2 hours. (Maita, 2017)

For example, my mother worked until I was born, after which she quit her job. But in Canada, most Canadian mothers will not quit their jobs for parenting. Many husbands support them by helping with housework and child-rearing.

This graph shows that on average Japanese men spend less than an hour on these combined activities. To further compound this



problem, only 2.63% of men take paternity leave due to the fear of losing their jobs. (Da Costa, 2013)

In Canada, my host father usually came home around 4:30-5:00 pm, and on the days my host mother worked late, he made dinner for the family.

Comparing this with my experience in Japan, my father comes home around 7:30-8:00 pm and he is too late to help with the housework. Therefore, I was surprised that my host father cooks dinner two or three times a week and helps

with the housework at home. I would like Japanese men to finish their work earlier, so they can help with the housework and the child rearing.

The second reason is that many men feel it is difficult to take childcare leave. In fact, 68.9% of men want to take it, but the actual rate of childcare leave taken by Japanese fathers is only 3%. (Steger, 2017) Even though Japan has the same paid parental leave system as Sweden, Japanese fathers feel it is difficult to use. Many men think if they take paid parental leave, they cannot go back to their work, or they will lose an opportunity to be promoted. In addition, their salary decreases while they take childcare leave. I think this system helps to deepen their understanding of housework, and the husbands are able to help their wives.

I believe this is unfair for men, so I would like the government and companies to understand more about this situation so that men will be able to take childcare leave more easily.

Conclusion

As you can see from my research in this thesis, I discussed the gender gap in the amount of housework done by males and females in Japan and Canada. Canadian husbands do more housework than Japanese husbands do.

This is mostly because of their working hours. Long working hours, and the difficulty in taking leave for childcare make it difficult for Japanese fathers to share the housework equally.

Before my study abroad experience, I rarely did any chores at home, but in Canada, I found it an enjoyable experience to do it with my host sisters.

I hope that the Japanese government and companies will reconsider the importance of sharing housework so that every husband can have time to do their share of housework in the future. We need to reduce the overtime hours of men so that they can enjoy a better balance between work and family time. In doing so, I believe that the invisible pressure placed on women to do most or all the housework will also be reduced.

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～家事と男女格差～ 佐藤真子

私はカナダへ留学に行き、家事について日本とカナダで男女の中で違いがあると感じた。

ホストマザーの仕事の関係で四つのホームステイ先に行き、様々な家庭の在り方について知ることが出来た。この機会にそれぞれの家庭について調べ、世界の家庭についてもっと詳しく調べてみようと思った。調べてみてわかったことだが、日本は世界の中で最も夫が家事をしない国だったのだ。これには私も驚いたと同時にショックでもあった。考えてみると日本は残業のし過ぎというくらい仕事をするということをよく耳に

する。しかしカナダの場合、私のホストファザーは午後4~5時頃には家に帰って夕飯を作っている時が週に3,4回あった。日本の家庭ではめったに見ない光景だったので調べていく意欲につながった。ることにもっと興味を持った。また子供のいる家庭ではそれぞれに役割を与えて、自分のやらなければならないことは責任をもって行うという教育方法をとる家庭もあった。

カナダに留学しなければできないような経験をたくさんできた。例えば、現地の人に家庭に関するインタビューが出来たり、留学に行く前は家でもあまりしなかった家事の手伝いもホストシスターと共に楽しく出来たことなどだ。海外の家庭についてなど全くと言って関心がなかったのだが興味をもって調べることが出来てよかった。

最近では日本でも子供を持ちながら仕事をする女性が増えてきているにも関わらず家庭にかけられる時間が少ない。共働きの家庭はより大変だと思う。だがこの事実に対して、政治や企業は彼らに家庭にかけられる時間を十分に与えられていない。この論文を書いてみて日本の家庭における男女の格差をより多くの人に知ってもらいたいと思った。

Basketball and Gender



Unbin Chon

Nakamura Senior Girls' High School

Nakamura International Course Thesis Project

Introduction

Have you ever thought about gender? Have you ever experienced gender bias? I have never thought about it before I researched this project. Kofi Annan said “Gender equality is more than a goal in itself. It is a precondition for meeting the challenge of reducing poverty, promoting sustainable development and building good governance.” (Annan, 2006) I was surprised by this quote because I could see that the gender problem is larger than the environmental problems of the world. Then, I thought to myself, it has much relevance to sports. For example, male players are paid more than female players, and they get lucrative sponsorship deals that exceed female sponsorships. In this thesis, I will write about Basketball and Gender, and I will also illustrate the differences between basketball in Japan and America.

Background

The reason why I chose this topic is because I want to know more about basketball. I have played basketball since 7th grade, and I learned many things from basketball over the last 5 years. I have learned the skills of basketball, courtesy, and the bonds of teammates. Specifically, first, I learned the skills of basketball. I practice it almost every day. The coaches and seniors taught me a

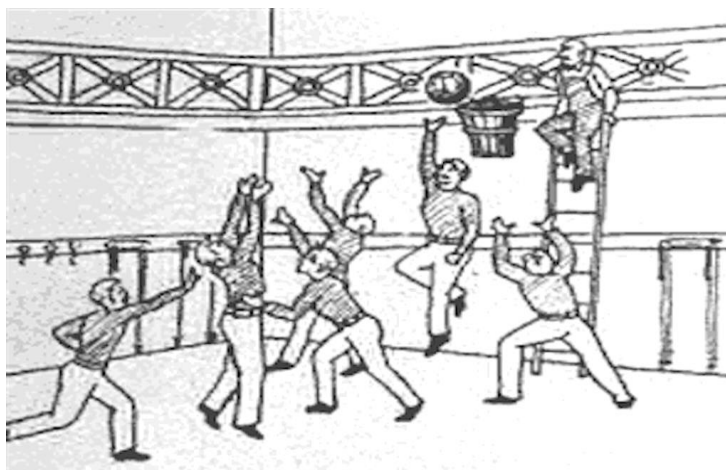
lot of things during our practice sessions, so I could improve my skills. Second, I learned courtesy. The coaches and seniors have taught me about how important courtesy is. For example, when I meet someone I have to greet them, and I should help seniors when they are working. I think this is same as showing respect to a person, because if I do not show respect to that person, I am not going to be polite. Third, I learned the bonds of teammates. I think this is the most important part of my training, because basketball is a team sport, not an individual sport, and when I failed, they encouraged me every time.

From my experience in both the US and Japan, I felt there was a difference between American and Japanese basketball clubs. Both countries have positive and negative points. Among them, I really like the relationships I had with my teammates in the U.S. For instance, when I made a shot, they gave me a high five. What most impressed me about American basketball is their encouraging each other all the time. The positive point of my Japanese basketball club is that I can play basketball all year round. In the U.S, it is a season sport so we can only play it for about three months of the year, but in Japan I can play it until I graduate from the club.

Basketball was invented in 1891 by Canadian, Dr. James Naismith, who was a lecturer at a training school at YMCA in Springfield, Massachusetts, USA.

In Massachusetts during the winter, sports that can be done indoors were required because sports cannot be done outdoors, so they hung two wooden

peach baskets on the handrails of the gymnasium, and two teams threw balls into the opposing team's baskets



and competed for points. This was the prototype of our modern-day basketball.

As time passed, basketball increased in popularity. Women's basketball became an official sport at the Montreal Olympics in 1976, and then for the first time at the Barcelona Olympics in 1992, professional athletes were allowed to participate. The American Olympic team, commonly referred to as, "The Dream Team," was headed by NBA star players, Michael Jordan, Magic Johnson and Larry Bird, and they went on to win gold medals, blitzing the opposition.

Internationalization of basketball is accelerating, and basketball continues to develop as a sport that people around the world love to participate in.

Basketball was introduced to Japan in 1908, by Morakura Omori, who graduated from YMCA's training school. At present, basketball in Japan is not as popular as basketball in America. Japan has a national league, called the *B.League*, however the attendance records for this league are nowhere near the attendance records for the NBA. I hope that basketball in Japan continues to grow and become more popular.

Supporting Arguments

I stayed in Portland, Oregon, for about ten months last year. During that time, I interviewed two males and two females. I asked them ten questions each; the first man whom I interviewed was an American, and in this thesis I am going to call him Kemio. The other man was a Japanese-American, and in here I will refer to him as Fuma. Next, two of the females that I interviewed were from United States, and in this thesis I will call them Jennifer and Maren. During those interviews, I discovered many interesting things.

Firstly, I asked them, "Which image in basketball is stronger; males or females?" They all responded the same way, and said that males have a stronger image. Their reasons were mostly the same, too. They said men's

basketball is much more popular than women's basketball. Actually, what they said is right. The most famous basketball league in the world is the NBA. I think probably everyone knows the NBA. NBA stands for National Basketball Association, and is a male professional basketball league in North America. This past season, more than 22 million fans attended an NBA game, establishing a new record for total attendance. TV ratings and merchandise sales are surging as well. And also the average team is worth \$1.65 billion, or 22 percent more than last year. (CNBC, 2018) I believe NBA will become increasingly popular in the world.

Secondly, I asked them, "Which image is stronger, a man or a woman as a basketball coach?" As in the previous question, they all responded the same way, and said that male coaches have a stronger image. I understand this response because most of my coaches have been male and only one has been female. When I searched the internet about famous male and female basketball coaches, the search results showed many famous male coaches, but in contrast, only one female coach was shown. The only famous female coach was Pat Summitt. She was the former director of a women's college basketball team in the United States, and served as honorary supervisor of Volunteers.

(Wikipedia, 2019) She had a very successful career. On the other hand, as I mentioned before, a lot of male coaches were found on the internet search. For example, John Robert Wooden, Michael William, and Rick Pitino were shown in the search. For this thesis, I have chosen Michael William, and I am going to describe him. He is from the United States of America and is the director of the Duke University Men's Basketball Team. He is one of the male coaches who has had a wonderful achievement in winning the NCAA men's basketball tournament. (Wikipedia, 2019) Eventually, both male and female coaches have achieved credit. However, the results of my interviews show that male coaches are more famous than female coaches. The reason, I think, is simply because there are more male coaches. Why are there more male basketball coaches and players than female? I feel that women are more affected by gender issues. When a woman has a baby, they will take maternity leave. In that case, the woman will be absent from work, regardless of her position as a basketball coach. In particular, practice sessions are the most important for athletes, and it is the coach's job to make the players feel motivated and improve their skills through practice. If the coach cannot participate in practice sessions, they cannot play the role of trainer and motivator for the team. I believe that a

woman is sensitive in both body and mind. Basketball is a hard sport, so if you play basketball, you should practice a lot, and also the relationship between senior and junior teammates is sometime difficult to navigate. There are few people who can overcome the difficulties of basketball and play at the top level. In my opinion, men have a stronger body and mind compared to women, so they have less anxiety than women. When I asked Fuma, “Why did you start to play basketball?” he said, “When I read *Slam Dunk*, I admired Sakuragi Hanamichi.” In my opinion, men have a positive image of the sport of basketball.

Lastly, I asked them, “Who earns more money, men or women?” In answer to this question, they all responded the same way and said that men get paid more than women. That is exactly right. Let's take NBA again as an example here. The annual income of basketball players who belongs to a NBA team is a massive 80 million yen to 100 million yen or more. On the other hand,

top Japanese players earn 15 million yen to 20 million yen.



(Heikinnennyys) In addition to this, there are a large number of sponsors. The NBA has a large international following, which pushed the average NBA franchise's value to 1.36 billion dollars. Companies from technology to financial services to sports drinks are sponsors of the NBA, and some of the biggest

stars in the league benefit from this sponsorship. More than ten players in the NBA will earn at least \$7.5 million this season. (Forbes, 2017) In the case of WNBA (Women's National Basketball Association) players, they receive

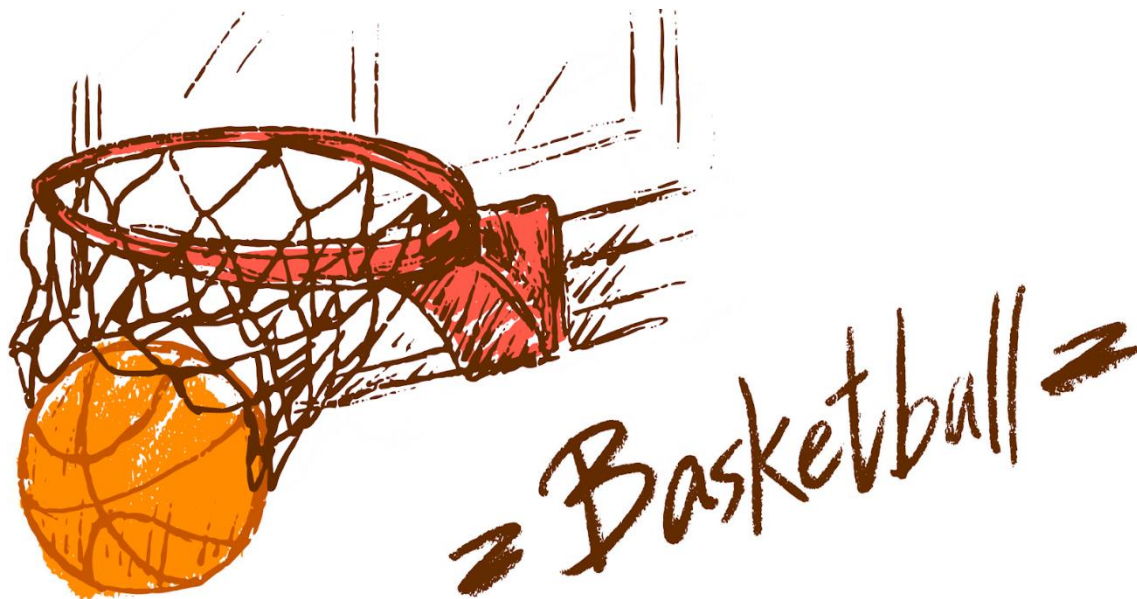


only 1.6% of NBA player's salaries. (Adelphi University, 2014) NBA players and WNBA players do exactly same things; they train hard, play the games, travel

away from their families, and act as ambassadors for their sport, so I believe they should get paid exactly the same money.

Conclusion

In this thesis, I talked about basketball and gender. In basketball, men are placed as a higher priority than women which only supports the stereotype that basketball is for men. We should solve this problem. I think that not only sports, but also in society, we should support women more. I illustrated the example of money before, and it is just one of the gender issues that keep barriers between men and women. I think this problem is possibly the biggest problem in society. How can we solve this problem? Both men and women are equally necessary to build society, so we should treat men and women fairly whenever and wherever we are. I am glad that I had the opportunity to learn about gender through basketball, and I would like to make use of what I learned for the future.



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～バスケットボールとジェンダー～ 鄭恩斌

私がこのテーマを調べようと思った理由は、中学1年生の頃からやっているバスケットボールについてより深く知りたかったからだ。昨年の留学を通して、日本とアメリカのバスケットボールの違いを身をもって感じた。どちらの国も利点と欠点をそれぞれ兼ね備えている。アメリカのバスケットボールの利点は、常にチームメイトを励まし合い、お互いを高め合っているところだ。一つ例を挙げると、一人がシュートを決めたらその一人に対して他のチームメイトがハイタッチをする。小さなことに見えるが、その小さなことが実際大きいなことであり、チーム内のモチベーションアップに繋がる。一方で、日本のバスケットボールは、先輩後輩の関係が厳しかったり、部活ということに縛られ

ている感じがあるため、あまりモチベーションが上がることがない。アメリカのバスケットボールの欠点は、シーズンスポーツなため3カ月単位でしか練習、試合共に出来ないということだ。逆に、日本では部活を引退するまでできるといった利点がある。このように、アメリカと日本の間では同じバスケットボールでも違う点がたくさんある。

そして、私はバスケットボールのジェンダー問題についても調査をした。この問題はバスケットボールだけではなく、社会の中でも一つの大きな問題である。今の世の中は男性に支持を置いている。例えば、女性のバスケットボール選手は男性の選手と全く同じことをしていても男性の収入の約10%しかもらえない。これはまさに一つのジェンダー問題だ。社会はこの傾向を変えなくてはならない。つまり、女性と男性を平等に見る必要がある。

私たちは何をすればこの問題を少しでも軽減できるのか。私達はどうすれば一番良い形のバスケットボールをできるのか。このようなことを日々心に問いながら過ごしたいと、この題材を調べて思った。

Music and Gender



Yui Nakahara

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Nakamura International Course Thesis Project

Introduction

How would the world look like without gender? Is gender really that important to define the way people interact with each other? I've never thought about gender, and before starting this thesis, I didn't even know what gender really was. Gender is the differences between males and females especially in social and cultural aspects, not in biological ones. To gain more information about gender, I found this quote. "A gender-equal society would be one where the word 'gender' does not exist: where everyone can be themselves."

(Steinem, 2018) I believe music can be one of the equalizers in gender inequality. People can express their feelings and thoughts by writing or singing songs, regardless of their gender. Also, music creates a gender-equal society not only for writers and singers but also for listeners. Personally, I think music has a very positive effect on me. For example, I am always encouraged by music when I am depressed. In this thesis, I will discuss why it is important to be aware of the gender issues in music.

Background Research

For this thesis project, I decided to investigate the gender issues in music. I'll explain the reasons for my choice. First of all, I like listening to music.

I listen to music in both Japanese and English. I only listened to Japanese songs until I was 10 years old, but I started to listen to English songs after that. My favourite artists are Taylor Swift and One Direction. In addition, I believe that music has a really huge effect on me. It has the special ability to lift my mood. Music always helped me when I was having a hard time, and when I found things were challenging in Australia.

Another reason for choosing this topic is that I didn't know that there are serious gender issues in the music industry. When I did the interviews in both Japan and Australia, I heard others opinions, and I learned about some gender issues in the music industry. At the beginning of this project, I focused only on western music, such as English songs, however, I changed the topic to all kinds of music because some of my interviewees are Japanese and they are more used to Japanese music. My opinion of music changed during my time in Australia. I listened to more music in Australia, and I learnt some new types of music.

When you were a student, did you ever see any pictures of female composers? Or can you think of any female composers names? I would say no. So why is it that many people don't know of any female composers? In the past,

people thought women should do housework, and men should go to work. This stereotype was more common in the past than it is now. Also, if women ever composed music, a lot of the songs were not recorded, so a lot of people don't know of any female composers.

Now, let's think about the current music industry. In Australia, the average salary for women is less than for men, but this is slowly changing. This

graph shows the

average earning gap

between men and

women APRA

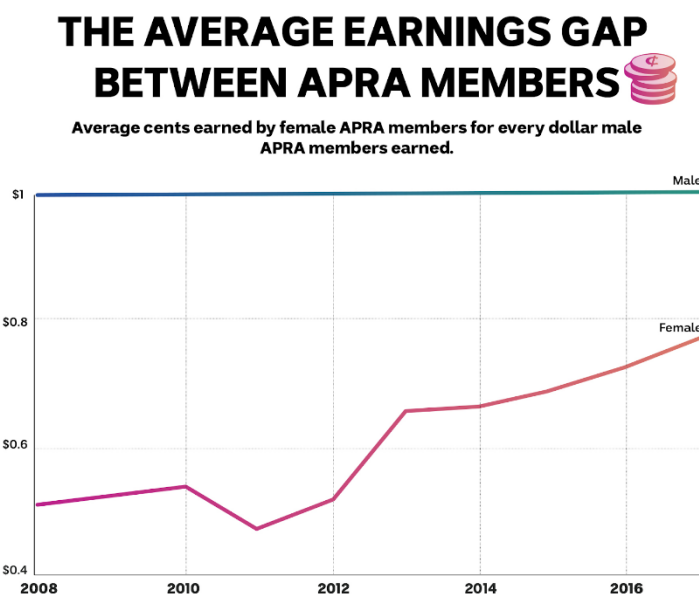
(Australian

Prudential

Regulation Authority)

members. (Triple J

Hack, 2018)



In the past in Japan, a lot of managers of music companies were men, and it was difficult for women to be a manager or director in the music industry. After a while, women found a place in the foreign music section of the company.

That's why there are more women who have high-level English skills in the foreign music section of the company. Around the 1990s, little by little, women began to be employed in the Japanese music section of the company. Also, women managers started to increase. These days, with the increase of women staff in music companies, the number of female artists has also increased. This is due to women staff having an understanding for female artists and encouraging them. However, there are still gender issues in the music industry in Japan, and one of the reasons for this is fewer complaints about gender issues from people in the music industry and artists. (Kitagawa, 1999)

Supporting Arguments

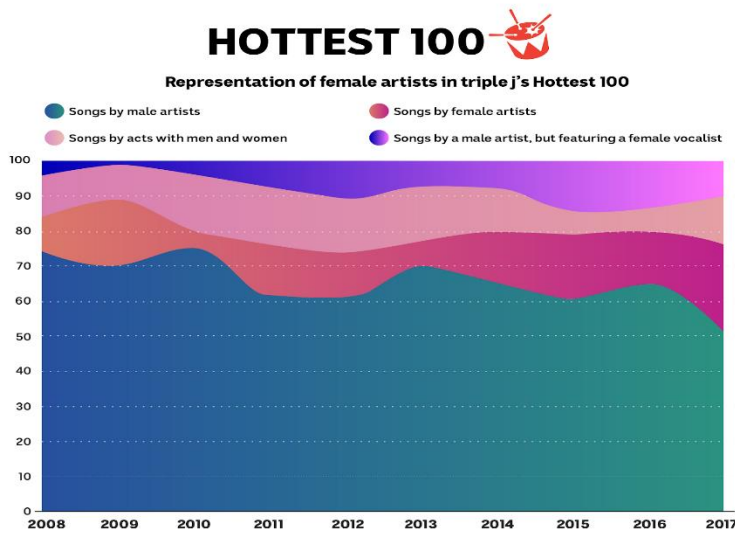
Last year, I spent a lot of time in Adelaide, Australia. During my study abroad, I interviewed four Australians: two 40 year old females, a 16 year old girl, and a 25 year old female teacher. I asked ten questions about music and gender. One of the women is European-Australian, and the others are Australian. I also interviewed a Japanese male and female before I went to Australia.

Firstly, I asked about the ratio of male to female singers. Most of them answered it is pretty equal, and some said there are more female singers.

Although, according to my research, this is not true. I researched the top 10 songs according to *billboard* in 2018. *Billboard* shows 66% of top 10 songs are sung by males, and only 33% of them are by females. Also, all of the female singers listed are featured with males, so there are no songs on the list which are sung only by females. This really surprised me, and also it leaves me with one big question: Why are there no female artists' songs in the top 10?

Personally, I listen to more female artists than male artists, and my friends also listen to songs by female artists more often, so I thought songs by female artists are more famous around the world.

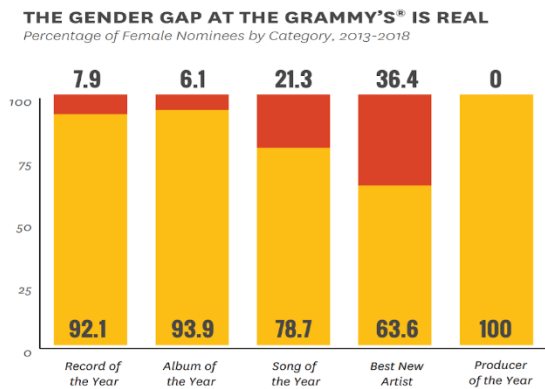
This graph shows more songs by male artists are in the hottest 100 songs than female. As is evident, the blue area shows the number of songs by



male artists, and the dark pink area shows the number of songs by female artists. The difference between male and female artists are really

huge, but these differences are slowly being reduced. Interestingly, the songs by males, featuring females, are increasing these days. (Triple J Hack, 2018)

We can see similar statistics at the Grammy Awards as well. The Grammy Awards is a world famous music awards event. A total of 90.7% of



9.3%
OF GRAMMY® NOMINEES FROM 2013-2018 WERE FEMALE. 90.7% WERE MALE.

nominees between



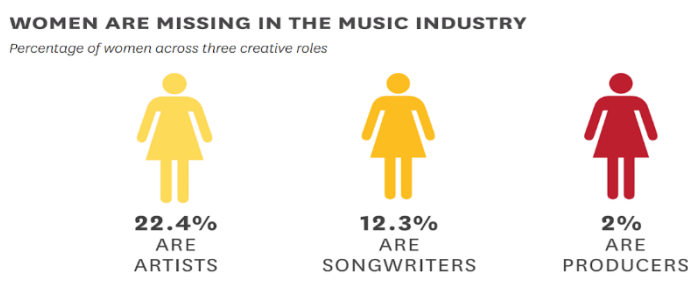
2013 and 2018 were male, which means just 9.3% were female. Even though there are famous female artists such as Taylor Swift, Adele, and Beyonce, there are still more male than female artists. Last year at the Grammy Awards ceremony, many artists such as Lady Gaga and Kelly Clarkson, wore a white rose to promote gender equality. Not only females, but some males also wore a white rose. They believe the white rose is a symbol of respect, and they hope there will be no more gender issues in music. Just as there are more males at the Grammy Awards, my interviewees think more males perform at music festivals as well. One of them said it is because there are more male bands and musicians that play an instrument for the stars of the festival.

Keychange PRS Foundation (2018) is an example of a campaign to encourage gender equality at music festivals. They started this campaign in 2017, and their aim is to encourage festivals to sign up a 50:50 gender balance. Females currently make up only 26% of the line-up at live music festivals. On their site, they introduce some tips and advice for females to succeed as artists, producers, and songwriters.

Similarly, there are less female songwriters and producers. I asked my interviewees about the gender equality of music producers and songwriters.

Some of them were not really sure about the answer for this question because they don't have a lot of knowledge about the details of the music industry, but consequently, all of them answered there are more male songwriters and producers than females. While researching, I found some interesting and surprising graphs. (Annenberg Inclusion Initiative, 2018)

This image represents how few female producers and songwriters there are in the music industry. We can see that the percentage of female producers and songwriters have not risen a lot in the past few years. What is more, the



percentage of these are so low, especially female producers. Don't you think 2% is too low? One of the contributing factors is the lack of positive role models. According to *Billboard*, only two females, Lady Gaga and Taylor Swift, were in the *Billboard's* year-end Top Producers chart, for their own songs. There are less role models for a female to be successful as a producer and songwriter. In my opinion, female producers and songwriters should be nominated for more music awards, and music award events should give an award to more females

to help expand the female field in the music industry. Then, many people would realise that producers or songwriters are not just jobs for males. For the last question, I asked my interviewees, “Do you feel any gender issues when you listen to music?” All of them answered, “No” and I understand it to mean that people know there are some kinds of gender issues, but they don’t really care or feel it when they listen to music. It is good that a lot of people don’t feel there are gender issues, but people should recognize the issues to lessen gender differences. If everyone just ignores the issues, these problems will never be solved.

Conclusion

In this thesis, I discussed why it is important to be informed about the gender gap for singers, songwriters and producers in the music industry. From the research, it is clear that there is a huge gender gap in the music industry. In fact, these serious issues are not well known to many people. Also, from my survey, I found no one feels gender differences when they listen to music. It is one of the reasons why there is still a huge gap between males and females in

the music industry. I am glad that I can share the information about the gender issues in the music industry and I hope many people become more aware of gender issues from reading this thesis. Moreover, I believe people should think about gender issues when they listen to music, and act to reduce the gender differences.

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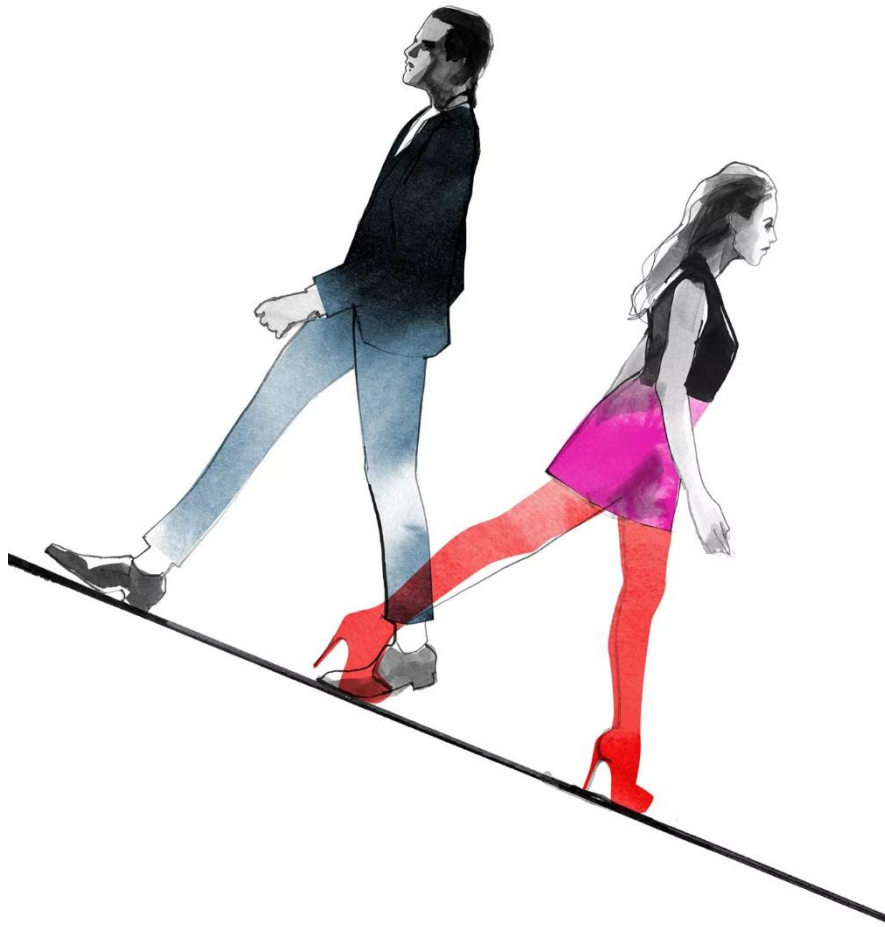
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～音楽とジェンダ－格差～ 中原ゆい

私は小さいころから音楽を聴いたり、歌ったりすることが好きで留学中もたくさんの音楽を聴いた。しかし私が音楽を聴くときには男女格差などは感じなかった。また、音楽は良く聞かすが、あまり歌手や作曲家、プロデューサーの男女差などは気にしたことがなかった。そこで音楽とジェンダ－をテーマに選んだ。アメリカ人の代表的なフェミニストであるグロリア・スタイネムは「ジェンダ－格差の無い世界とはジェンダ－という言葉が存在しないところであり、誰もがその人自身になれる世界だ」と主張している。そして、私は音楽の世界において男女格差を無くすことは可能であると思う。

私はオーストラリアでの留学中に音楽の男女格差についてインタビューを行った。初めに歌手の男女差について質問したところ、大半が平等だと答え、1人は女性のほうが多いと答えた。しかしリサーチをしたところ男性の歌手のほうが圧倒的に多く、グラミー賞などの世界的な賞の受賞者も男性が多い。作曲家とプロデューサーにも同様の傾向がみられた。作曲家とプロデューサーの男女格差についてインタビューを受けた人の多くはあまりよく知らないが、男性が多いイメージがあると答えた。リサーチから、女性の音楽プロデューサーは2%しかいないことが分かった。この数字はとて最少なく、原因の一つはお手本となる有名な女性の音楽プロデューサーや作曲家が少ないことがあげられる。お手本となるロールモデルを増やし女性の活躍の場を広げるには、もっとたくさんの女性を音楽賞にノミネートし、賞を与えるべきだ。最後の質問として私は「あなたは音楽を聴くときにジェンダ―格差を意識したことがあるか。」と聞いた。そして全員がいいえと答えた。多くの人がジェンダ―格差があることを少し知ってはいるが、それに注目することはないということだ。したがってジェンダ―格差を減らすためには、人々が音楽を聴くときにもジェンダ―格差を意識したり、減らすための行動をとることが必要である。これを読んだ一人でも多くの人がジェンダ―格差について知れたことを願っている。



Fashion and Gender

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Introduction

People wear clothing every day. It is considered one of life's basic necessities. People sometimes consider what they should wear for each different situation, depending on the weather, where they are going, or what they are doing. Have you ever thought what fashion is? Do you want to stay on top of the fashion trends? Do you have your own fashion style? Ralph Lauren, a fashion designer, said "Fashion is about something that comes from within you" (Lauren, 2008). Nowadays, a lot of things around us, such as social media, TV, advertisements, and magazines are affecting the fashion in both positive and negative ways. In this essay, I will explore the gender differences of men and women in fashion. I will also explain how the idea of fashion differs from gender and countries, and how people identify the idea.

Background

I went to Canada to study for about ten months. During that time, I realized that there are some differences in fashion between Japan and Canada. I thought that the majority of Japanese people tend to care too much about fashion trends; more than Canadian women do. I often noticed Japanese women starting to wear similar clothing styles once a specific style becomes

popular, which is something I didn't really see in Canada. Although Canadian people don't really wear clothing that is considered as fashionable in Japan, I feel they have their own fashion style, and it strongly expresses their personality. Since then, I gradually became interested in fashion, and it made me curious to know what other people thought about fashion trends, not only women, but also men. I also thought it would be interesting if I could find out the differences between women and men in the area of fashion, though there are already obvious differences. Furthermore, I really wanted to know what people from another country think about fashion. This is why I decided to research about *Fashion and Gender*.

First of all, let's think about why clothing was invented, and how it has evolved. In prehistoric times, mankind were nearly naked. The main reason why mankind started to wear clothing is to protect themselves from the environment, such as the seasonal temperature changes (Rowland - Warne, 2008). At first, what they used as clothing was made from cords, plant vines, or animal fur. The use of clothing enabled them to work in a wider area because they could use both their hands freely by winding the cloth around their waist like a belt. Before long, the fabric became man-made. Then clothing developed, and we now know

it as a skirt. They also wore it around the groin, which is the model of pants now. Moreover, the typical clothing in Ancient Egypt from around 3000 B.C. to 1200 B.C. were skirts for men, and women wore sleeveless dress (Takahashi, 2001). This meant that there wasn't much difference in the appearance of

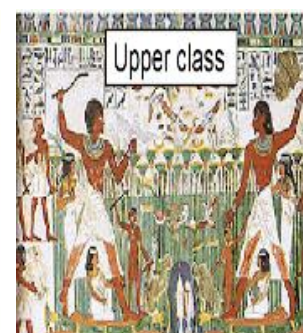
clothing between women and men at this time. As you can see from image A, both men and women didn't wear pants.

Another thing what we can learn from that mural is that clothing was also worn in order to

expresses social position (Image B).



ImageA



ImageB



As I mentioned above, the first reason of making clothing was just for practical use, however, as society became bigger and more advanced, the reason for wearing clothing has changed and separated for each case of men and women in the history of fashion. For example, fashion has become a way for men to express their strength, wealth, comfort, social position or

identification. Meanwhile, for women, fashion is a way to express their beauty, social position or identification. I think women's clothing requires more ideals of beauty and a striking silhouette compared to the functionality of men's clothing. This could be a consequence of men imposing their ideals on women, which means women's clothing styles have been twisted by men (Takahashi, 2001).

Supporting Arguments

I asked ten questions about fashion and gender to people when I was in Canada. My interviewees are as below. Interviewee A and B are females from Canada. Interviewee C is a female from Taiwan, and interviewee D is a male from the United States of America. From these interviews, I realized there are some stereotypes of male and female fashions. One of these examples would be the idea that women are more sensitive to fashion trends than men. All of my interviewees answered with similar ideas, saying that women are more sensitive to fashion trends than men. However, I think women do not have to be sensitive to fashion trends all the time, and men can be more sensitive to fashion trends than women.

Another example would be the idea about the differences between female and male clothing. It's probable that most people think "Skirts are for

women.” Half of my interviewees mentioned that, too. However, in the history of fashion, men commonly wore clothing in the shape of a skirt. 2000 years ago, skirts were not only for women. So I started to wonder, “How then, did people create this difference?”. In my opinion, the answer is that it is because people are affected by the society as it progresses. A lot of things around us, such as social media, TV shows, commercials, magazines, advertisements, and so on, can easily influence our ideas of

current fashion. This means our idea of fashion can differ depending on the culture, or where you live. In many parts of the world there are skirts for



men. For instance, Scottish men wear

a skirt called a kilt as one of their national costumes. It’s even popular among



teenage soccer fans when they support the Scottish team (Tokui, 2014). Moreover, in Myanmar, they have a traditional wrap-around skirt for both men and women (Inoue,

2014). Jean Paul Gaultier, who is well-known as a unique designer of men's fashion collections, dresses his male models in skirts (Lip, 2013).

Girls' school uniforms still tend to remain in the stereotype. At my school in Japan, we have skirts as the school uniforms. I sometimes think "Why do only girls wear skirts for school uniforms?" It's so cold wearing a skirt in winter, and it would be better with pants as protection not only from the cold, but also as an aspect of crime prevention. Although I have never seen pants for a girl's school uniform, according to my research, there are schools which adopt both pants and skirts as their school uniform. High schools in the cold climate of Northern Japan have pants for girl's school uniforms. Some of the schools in that area even decide that all students must wear pants in the winter. Also, in the last ten years, the number of schools that have both pants and skirts as their uniform is increasing nationwide, not only as measures against the cold. (Inoue, 2014) At Fukuoka Prefectural Genkai High School, they started to give female students the option to choose pants as their school uniform from 2018. The principal of this school stated that this is due to the fact that women wear both skirts and pants on a daily basis, and to allow for the possibility of students who cannot

show their skin because of their religion, who might enter the school in the future (*Mainichi newspaper*, 2018). Nevertheless, according to the manufacturer of school uniforms, junior high schools and high schools that allow girls to choose pants as part of their uniform make up about only 5% of all the schools in Japan. In the



present state, even though female students may choose pants, they predominantly choose skirts. (Inoue, 2014). In my opinion, it is just a matter of time. When this stereotypical idea that girls should wear skirts fades away, more people would be able to accept a new, fairer idea. I think if we don't give girls a choice of either skirts or pants, it would seem like society is imposing them the idea that "You must wear skirts because you are girls." As I mentioned in my previous argument, clothing for both men and women is "culturally" defined.

Furthermore, I'd like to emphasize that I believe there are no rules as to how we should wear clothing. Regarding my question "Do you think fashion is a good way for people to express their personality?" interviewee A answered that

we can tell a lot about our personality and emotions, such as outgoing, fun, lazy, and so on, by our desired fashion. Interviewee D said, "If someone is wearing running shoes, you could guess their personality; they might be an outgoing person, or perhaps they like sports. Interviewee B also mentioned about the light and shade of the color of someone's clothing, which can reveal their personality. I believe there is no objection to how we wear our clothing in both Japan and Canada, or even all over the world. Fashion is a very important tool to express our own personality, no matter where we are from. I know that there is some clothing that is considered popular, or a fashionable style on a temporary basis, but I think people do not have to follow those fashion trends. If a person wears that clothing only to be fashionable, it would make it harder for one to express their personality, or it seems like they could even lose their personality in fashion. My other question was "Do you think women can wear men's clothing? Can men wear women's clothing?" Most of my interviewees basically responded that people can, but they, themselves wouldn't. As this answer symbolizes, there is still a border between men and women in clothing, and fashion in general.

Conclusion

To summarize, fashion has been shared throughout time, communities, and among people. The idea of fashion has been transforming over and over as it is affected by the variables of society and culture. Interestingly, this influence can cause the stereotypical ideas and gender gap. Despite everyone having freedom to choose what they want to wear, people are liable to be obsessed with the old sense of fashion. Why would we box in people and dictate how they should dress just because of their gender? (Haoran Li and Siying Qu, 2017)

Since I think fashion is a common tool that allows people to express their personality, no matter sex or race, people should be more concerned about the unequal differences between women and men in fashion in order to be treated equally. Today, do you think everyone has the freedom to choose what they actually want to wear? Does everyone express their personality without embarrassment? I hope the new idea of fashion such as genderless and unisex fashion will spread broadly, and more people will accept it in the future.



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～ファッションとジェンダー～ 橋本葉奈

日本では、トレンドに比例して店頭や街で似通った服を目にすることが多々ある。しかし、私は人目の気にしすぎや流行による服装の画一化は個性を見出せていないような気もしてならなかった。留学先のカナダでは日本ほどファッションや外見・体形などに固執していないように感じられた。現地校では制服がなかった為、カナダの若者のファッションを間近に見ることができたが、日本よりもカジュアルでラフな恰好をしている生徒が多いようだった。流行についても存在はするが、日本ほど顕著に表れているところは殆ど目にしなかった。こうして日本とカナダではファッションについて様々な違いがあることを知っていくうちに、ファッションにおける男女や国ごとの考え方の違い等に興味を更に持ち、ファッションとジェンダーをテーマに選んだ。

衣服の起源を調査する過程では、当時男性も布を腰に巻いたスカートの起源とされるものを身に着け、衣服の見た目において大きな男女差はなかったことがわかった。服を着る最初のきっかけは実用目的であったが、社会が大きく複雑になるのに従い、服を着る理由も変化していく。男性は活動しやすさを大事にしてきたが、女性の場合はそれより理想の美しさやシルエットを迫及してきた。これは男性の理想を女性に強いた結果ともいえ、その観点では女性の服装は男性によって歪められてきたとも考えられる。

そしてカナダで行ったインタビューを基にファッションにおける男女の違いについて考えたところ、そこには多くの固定概念があることに気が付いた。一例として「スカートは女性が着るもの」という考え方が挙げられる。今日人々の身の回りにある SNS やテレビ等が現在の私たちのファッションの在り方・考え方に影響を及ぼしており、この影響が固定概念や男女格差をうみ出し得る。このように男女の洋服・ファッションは「文化的に」定義されているが、私はそこに服をどのように着るかについて決まりがある必要はないと思う。ファッションは国籍や性別に関係なく、個性を表現できる重要な手段であるにも関わらず、全般的に観てファッションにおける平等でない男女間の違いはまだ残っている。将来的にジェンダーレス・ユニセックスファッションが更に広まり、より多くの人々がファッションの新しい考え方を受け入れ、そして、より多くの人々が本当に着たいと思える服を平等に着ることのできる社会になることを私は願っている。

VOCALOID and Gender

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Introduction

VOCALOID is a singing voice synthesizer software based on human voices. You can edit the voices, and make songs with them on the computer. Some VOCALOID have visual aspects, like Hatsune Miku, but some VOCALOID don't, like Lola and Leon. It depends on the editing or the songs, but the voice of some VOCALOID performers sounds like a neutral voice, so it's sometimes difficult to judge the sex of some VOCALOID. But all of the VOCALOID software is definitely male or female virtual singers. For example, Hatsune Miku and Lola are female singers, and Leon is a male singer. VOCALOID software programmes are edited by someone who is called a VOCALOID producer. Of course they are human, so they are either male or female.

In this thesis, I will discuss the ratio of male to female VOCALOID software programmes and producers, the issues associated with VOCALOID, and offer my opinion on some possible solutions to these problems.

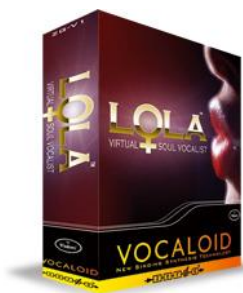
Background research

I have many hobbies, but of all my hobbies, I have known and liked VOCALOID the most, and for the longest time. I have liked them since I was 11 years old. I have researched about it a lot. I like to listen to their songs, edit them, and draw them.

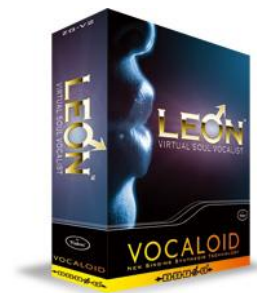
I have two VOCALOID 4 series software, and I sometimes made cover songs with them when I was in Adelaide, Australia. Before I went to Adelaide, I really wanted to show their merits to the people of Adelaide through this research project.

Before I went to Adelaide, I thought few people knew about VOCALOID, but after I visited there, I found out that many Australians know and like it, so it was surprising for me and also, it made me happy.

VOCALOID started to develop in 2000. In 2004, the English VOCALOID



software programmes, Leon (male) and Lola (female) were released.



More than 100 VOCALOID software programmes which sing in Japanese, English, Chinese, or Spanish have been produced since 2004. There are

currently about 80 products sold online in the VOCALOID official store as the VOCALOID 5 series voice bank. Hatsune Miku is one of the most famous VOCALOID software programmes, but actually, she isn't the first. She was

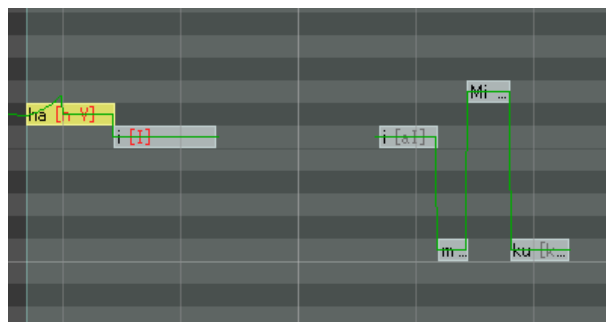


released as one of the VOCALOID 2 series in 2007. However, VOCALOID became popular all over the world after the hit of Hatsune Miku. She has performed live concerts many times, not only

in Japan, but also overseas, in America, France, Germany, England, Indonesia, China, Mexico, and Australia.

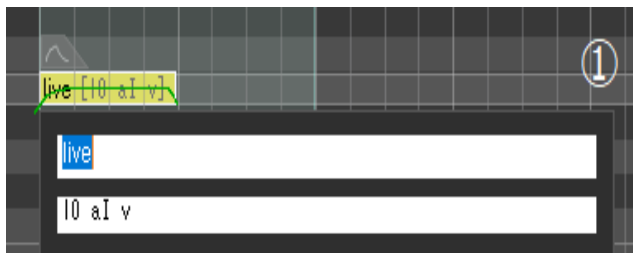
VOCALOID was designed to be used as a virtual singer for computer music creators, however VOCALOID can not only sing, but also talk, if we can understand the notes of words which we want them to talk. For example, when I

edited on a VOCALOID interface, like in this picture on the right, the software will say "Hi, I'm Miku."

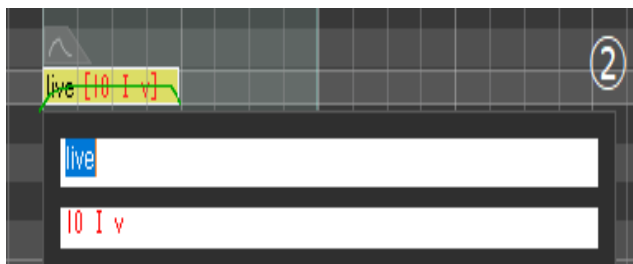


Anyone can buy and use VOCALOID software if they have their own computer and are willing to pay at least 17000 yen, but VOCALOID is very difficult to use for many people, because it's complicated. When I first

purchased and used VOCALOID software, I was really surprised how



complicated and difficult it was to use. For example, when VOCALOID software sings the



word “live”. It has two pronunciations: /lɪv/ and /laɪv/.

Picture 1 is when I typed “live”

into the typing space of lyrics on the VOCALOID interface. The software sings /laɪv/. When I want them to sing /lɪv/, I have to type in a space of phonetic sign (picture 2). We have to think about vowels and consonants when we edit the Japanese VOCALOID.

Many people who use VOCALOID have a lot of knowledge about not only VOCALOID editing, but also computer music, because most of them make background music with other software to make their original songs.

Supporting Arguments

In this section, I will discuss the ratio of male to female VOCALOID software and producers, the issues associated with VOCALOID, and offer my opinion on some possible solutions to these problems.

I asked 10 questions about VOCALOID, work, and gender to 6 people who live in Tokyo and Adelaide.

My interviewees are as follows: Nami is male, and Lua is female. They are VOCALOID producers who make VOCALOID songs as “*Luna” in Japan. Sean is my friend who likes Japanese anime, and lives in Adelaide. He knows a little about VOCALOID. Owen is my school friend who likes Japanese jazz music, and lives in Adelaide. He also knows a little about VOCALOID. Mike is my close school friend who lives in Adelaide. He likes Japanese anime, but he didn’t know about VOCALOID, so I presented some knowledge about VOCALOID before the interview. Cady is my close school friend who lives in Adelaide. She didn’t know about VOCALOID, so I presented some knowledge about VOCALOID before the interview.

My interviewees answered that they like and think female VOCALOID is better and will sell more than male ones. I agree with them. Also, according to

the VOCALOID official store, my interviewees are correct. In the VOCALOID official store (VOCALOID -the modern singing synthesizer-), 47 female and 14 male VOCALOID 5 voice banks are sold. It doesn't sell all of the VOCALOID series software, but I estimate that female VOCALOID software have higher sales than the male ones in VOCALOID official store. Most of my interviewees like Hatsune Miku, because she is popular and they like her songs. Many female VOCALOID singers have a nearly human voice, more so than male ones. Their voices are similar to anime singers, so it may be a familiar sound for many listeners. Also, the visual effects of Miku and other female VOCALOID characters are more popular and cuter than the male VOCALOID.

In contrast, when I asked my interviewees what they think about women VOCALOID producers, Nami and Lua answered "I think there are few women producers. We have few chances to meet them at events." I agree with that. Although there is no exact data of the ratio of male to female producers,

since some of them keep their gender secret, in my opinion, the number of men VOCALOID producers is much higher than women VOCALOID producers. I've been to

164
 Cosmo@bousouP
 OwataP
 KurousaP (Whiteflame)
 Chyo-choP (Papiyon)
 40mP
 n-buna
 Ryo (member of supercell)
 Hachi
 Shina Mota (Howahowa P)|

③

VOCALOID events a couple of times, but I rarely saw women VOCALOID producers there. Also, when I randomly chose 10 famous VOCALOID producers (image 3), I realized they were all men.

One theory is that VOCALOID producers need a lot of knowledge about computer music. This relates to engineering skills, and statistics show that 80% of engineers are men (We Can Do Better, 2018).

In summary, the problems of VOCALOID and gender are:

1. The sales of female VOCALOID software programmes is much higher than male VOCALOID software programmes.
2. The number of male VOCALOID producers is much higher than female producers.

As you can see, there is an issue of inequality between genders. How do we solve these problems? Firstly, let's look at software sales. I think it's quite a serious problem because it affects VOCALOID producers' songs. One possible solution for the lagging sales of male VOCALOID software is to buy and use more male VOCALOID software than female ones. This may be difficult because



as we have seen, many people like female VOCALOID software programmes more than male ones, so, the company which makes VOCALOID products need to make a stronger effort to advertise male VOCALOID more. I would also suggest updated vocalist and character designs for new VOCALOID software. I think male VOCALOID characters could gain popularity through updated designs. For example, picture 4 is a VOCALOID 4 series male software from YAMAHA, Fukase. Before this software programme was released, the character design was adopted by VOCALOID listeners on illustration communication service, Pixiv. He is *“based on voice samples of Fukase - lead singer from SEKAI NO OWARI (The End of the World), a new generation and the most renowned group in the Japanese music scene today.”*(VOCALOID4Library Fukase)

Picture 5 is Fukase, a singer who the VOCALOID 4 software is based on. He



⑤ and his band are really famous, not only in Japan, but also overseas, so I think male VOCALOID became more popular when his VOCALOID was released.

In this way, we can increase the popularity of male VOCALOID software and related products.

Next, how do we increase female VOCALOID producers? My interviewees and I think that it's not very important to increase them. Cady, when asked what she thinks about female VOCALOID producers, replied that "Everyone is different, there are different producers who share the same idea, whether they are male or female." Also, Lua also answered about female VOCALOID producers, "I've never really cared about the gender of VOCALOID producers. I respect VOCALOID producers who make nice songs, whether they are female or male." I agree with Cady and Lua. Of course, increasing women VOCALOID producers is a positive thing, because new VOCALOID songs which are made by women VOCALOID producers can be more popular VOCALOID industry same as if men VOCALOID producers increase. Furthermore, some women may be encouraged to make VOCALOID songs after seeing women VOCALOID producers. But, a VOCALOID producers' work is to make music using their artistic sense and their computer music skill. So, gender should be irrelevant in the VOCALOID industry.

Conclusion

I enjoyed researching for this thesis and I was able to learn more about VOCALOID. In the supporting arguments, I discussed about the ratio of male to female VOCALOID software and producers and offered my opinions on some possible solutions to make a more equal ratio of their gender. Some possible solutions for the lagging sales of male VOCALOID software are to buy and use more male VOCALOID software than female ones, and the company which makes VOCALOID products should make a stronger effort to advertise male VOCALOID more. VOCALOID producers need computer music skills and their artistic sense, so their gender does not influence their work as a VOCALOID producer. If we find our favourite male VOCALOID and tell them, VOCALOID software could become more equal than it is now. This is what we can do to solve the problem of VOCALOID and gender.

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ボーカロイドとジェンダー 畑中 日菜子

ボーカロイドとは、初音ミクに代表される、音楽制作ソフトウェアとそのキャラクターのことである。

あまり知られていないが、実は世界初のボーカロイドは、2004年にイギリスで発売された、女声の LOLA(ローラ)と男声の LEON(レオン)だ。それ以来これまでの約15年で、販売終了商品も含めると、実に5言語100以上のボーカロイドが発売されてきており、現在ボーカロイド公式オンラインストアでは、80ほどのボーカロイドが VOCALOID5 シリーズのボイスバンクとして発売されている。

ボーカロイド自体は最低でも17000円あれば買うことができ、パソコンにそれをインストールすればすぐに使うことができる。ただし、使いこなすにはパソコン音楽(DTM)に関する専門知識を必要とする。例えば、ボーカロイドを編集するソフトの歌詞入力画面(background researchにある、①と②の画像がそれだ)には、歌詞を入力する場所の下に、発音記号を入力する場所がある。日本語の歌詞を入力する場合、タ行やサ行の音は、この発音記号の調整をしないと、不自然になることがあるのだ。また、ボーカロイドを使い楽曲を作る人たちは、ボーカロイドプロデューサー、略してボカロPと呼ばれる。ちなみに、今回この論文のためのインタビューに協力してくれたなみさんとあさんは、男女ボカロPユニット*Luna(ルナ)の2人だ。また、シンガーソングライターとして活躍する米津玄師は、ハチ名義のボカロPでもある。

私はこのボーカロイドとボカロPの男女比に着眼し、ジェンダーに関する問題を調べた。ボーカロイドのソフトウェアは明らかに女声のものが多く、一方のボカロPは男性のほうが多いのだ。インタビューと調べの結果、前者のソフトウェアについては、ボカロPの曲作りに影響する問題である。これは、男声ボカロの知名度を上げることで解決すると考えた。後者のボカロPだが、彼らは音楽センスと高度な専門知識を駆使して楽曲を作るので、仕事上男女比は関係ないであろう、という結論に至った。男声ボーカロイドの知名度を上げるため、彼らの関連商品を購入すること。それが、ボーカロイドに関するジェンダー問題を解決するため、私たちができることではないか。

NAKAMURA GIRLS' HIGH SCHOOL

Nakamura International Course

Thesis Projects

～概要～

中村高等学校国際科では、所属生徒全員が高校2年次に1年間の海外留学(英語圏)を経験します。留学中に研究計画に沿って調査を進め、課題論文を作成します。

2018年度中村高等学校国際科3年生は、「ジェンダー(社会的・文化的に創り出された男女の違い)」というテーマに果敢に挑戦しました。

少子高齢社会の日本。様々な分野で女性の活躍が期待されています。一方、家庭や職場などでジェンダーの不平等は存在します。世界経済フォーラムにより毎年公表されるジェンダーギャップ指数においても日本は下位に位置しています。

こうした状況の中で、「ジェンダー」というテーマは、女子校の場でこそ取り組むべき課題だと言えます。グローバルキャリアという視点を軸に、「ジェンダーフリー(ジェンダーにとらわれない)」社会のあり方を生徒1人1人が追究しました。

留学前に論文のテーマを決め、調査方法を学びます。留学中も本校の教員(英語を母国語とするネイティブスタッフ)の指導も受けながら、現地の多様な人々にインタビューを実施、さらに図書館や資料館など必要な機関を訪ね、フィールドワークを行います。調査結果を整理し、帰国後に論文としてまとめました。昨年度に引き続き、その成果を刊行いたします。

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