

STEPS Students Report

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There is a concept of "Genfukei" in Japan. It is an image of a special place in one's memory which relates to his/her personal identity. This word was first invented by Okuno Takeo, a Japanese literary critic, in his book "Genfukei in Literature" in 1972. Since then, there have been many researchers who have studied about genfukei in various fields (literature, psychology, geography, landscape design, and so on). Some researchers have suggested that there are collective genfukei which are shared by people in a region or a country. For example, Okuno (1972) argues that Japanese people have their own national genfukei as the typical image of villages in a rice field in rural area. However, there have been only a few empirical studies which focus on such a "collective genfukei." Furthermore, if there is such a "national genfukei", it would be necessary to research genfukei in other countries than Japan in order to understand it. However, there have been only a few genfukei studies in foreign countries.

In this program, we (Prof. Nourkova, Albina, and I) researched genfukei in Russia. In order to study about collective aspects of genfukei, we defined and used three kinds of genfukei concept: personal genfukei, local genfukei, national genfukei. This is a new approach in the field of genfukei study. Furthermore, we tested psychological function of genfukei and its influence on one's current attitude and behavior.

We have conducted a questionnaire survey in Russian. The number of participants were 83. All of them were students of the faculty of psychology in the Lomonosov Moscow State University.

The questionnaire had two part. Part 1 was about genfukei and its function. In part 1, first of all, we explained the concept of genfukei in Japan because there was no concepts like it in Russia. After that, we defined three kinds of genfukei. "Personal genfukei" was defined as "the place which is the most important for you personally." "Local genfukei" was defined as "the place where you feel that you are an inhabitant of Moscow (or a resident of some other town or village)." "National genfukei" was defined as "the place where you feel that you are Russian." Next, for each of the three genfukei, the participants were asked to answer 10 items for description and characteristics of that genfukei (when they experienced it, what the place is like, what they did there, feelings, meanings, and so on), 15 items of TALE scale (a popular scale of measuring psychological functions of autobiographical memory), 8 items for characteristics of the memory (Vividness, memory

frequency, sensory details, emotional intensity, and so on).

Part 2 was about attitude and behavior. In part 2, the participants were asked to answer (1) attitude toward nature (40 items), (2) behavior toward nature and environment (23 items), (3) experience of nature in one's childhood (19 items), (4) knowledge about environmental problems (12 items), (5) environmental values (8 items), and (6) scales by Kaiser et al. (1999) and Milfont & Duckitt (2010) (48 items: Environmental knowledge, enjoyment of nature, environment movement activism, personal conservation behavior, ecocentric concern).

The analysis process is not completed yet, but in part 1 result, we found some interesting genfukei which seems unique to Russia (dacha, Red square and so on.). We are now conducting factor analysis, multiple regression analysis, and cluster analysis, but this is only on the way.

