

【英文要旨】

Self-reliance and the Support Network of the Individual in Old Age

—A Comparison of Japan, South Korea, and Korean Residents of Japan—

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The aim of this dissertation is to clarify the relationship between self-reliance and the support network of the individual in old age by means of an empirical investigation based on case studies and data on Japan, South Korea, and Korean residents of Japan of the generational traits of the elderly and the actual state of intergenerational relationships.

This research was motivated by the author's interest in the following two issues. The first (and the root inspiration for this research) is the issue of what can be learned with respect to the process of ageing in South Korea from the ageing experience in Japan, which is socio-culturally very similar to South Korea. The second issue is the focus of society in recent years on the self-reliance of the elderly. It is the perception of the author that over-emphasis of the "image of the self-reliant senior citizen" may result in alienation of the portion of the elderly population that is not self-reliant. This dissertation thus examines the current situation of the elderly from the point of view (counter to current research trends) of why there is an elderly population that is not self-reliant and how their lifestyle and attitudes can be characterised within the larger trend toward emphasis on self-reliance.

In order to achieve a comprehensive grasp of the lifestyle and attitudes of the elderly and to examine the issue of financial security during old age, this dissertation addresses two different themes. Section 1 (Chapters 1 and 2) examines, from the perspective of financial support for the elderly, the balance between the generations and the sexes in the Japanese population as well as the child-parent support relationship. Section 2 (Chapters 3 and 4)

analyses the lifestyle and attitudes of the elderly in South Korea and elderly Korean residents of Japan, in comparison to Japan. Through these data-based empirical analyses, the author examines the correlation between generational traits of the elderly and financial security in old age, as well as the relationships between these generational traits and the family/public sector in the support network during old age.

Chapter 1 focuses on the fact that elderly females are found at the hub of old age-related problems and that one reason for this is the strong influence of demographic factors. After examining the intergenerational balance of the population and gender differences as indicated on the population index, this chapter considers, from the point of view of support relationships during old age and "continuity" of lifestyle, what kind of effect these demographic factors have on lifestyle during old age.

Various changes in society, including the ageing of the population, have resulted in a substantial decline in the ability of the next generation to support the elderly. This has led to a gradual increase in emphasis on the image of the self-reliant senior citizen. However, a variety of gender differences (on the elderly population index) continue to expand from year to year and, as a result, women have a far greater degree of dependence on the next generation than do men. This indicates a conflict between ideal and reality--that is, between the image of the self-reliant senior citizen and the reality of elderly females who are highly dependent on the next generation. This conflict is particularly evident in the striking gender differences in intergenerational relationships with respect to care-giving.

Chapter 2 examines the kind of support activities that take place intergenerationally--i.e. between the elderly parent and his/her child--and the kind of gender differences that are observable in these activities. Overall the proportion of "no exchange" in parent-child support relationships is extremely high, and parent-child relationships based on intra-family support are quite self-reliant. Also, gender-based deviation is evident in key deciding factors for support--such as distance between places of residence, perception of family, and norms for financial support--and there is still a strong tendency for support to be provided mainly to the parents of a son.

Chapter 3 looks at the correlation between generational traits of the elderly and their support network in old age--a correlation which prescribes, to a great extent, the lifestyles

and attitudes of the elderly in both Japan and Korea and compares the current state of affairs in these two countries.

Japan and Korea have many socio-cultural similarities, and with respect to financial support for the elderly, too, the reality that it is difficult to expect intra-family support in old age is common to both countries. However, with respect to provision for a social security system and generational traits of the elderly, there are many differences between the two countries. In Japan, generational traits of the elderly are virtually uniform; they are also on approximately the same level as those in Western countries. On the other hand, in Korea, there are extremely large disparities between cohorts and between the sexes and, in addition, the mean level is low. Thus individual variation in intra-family support and the immaturity of the social security system produce an even more negative effect and cause imbalance within the elderly population to become even more fixed. Nevertheless, the present-day idea that the elderly should be self-reliant is projected deeply into the perception of the elderly in Korea that they are "supportees," and the discrepancy between this perception and reality results in a great deal of confusion. When this situation is compared to that of Japan, it can be said that although the perceptions of the elderly in both countries are similar, the disparity between their actual lifestyles is great.

Chapter 4 focuses on the point that the lifestyle of elderly Korean residents of Japan is largely prescribed by the correlation between generational traits of the elderly and their support network in old age. First, population statistics are used to clarify both the ageing process and the process of shift toward permanent settlement in Korean residents of Japan. Then a lifestyle-history case study of an elderly Korean resident of Japan is presented and the history of the relationship between elderly Korean residents and the Japanese social security system is examined, from the point of view of financial preparation for old age. Through these analyses, the author makes it clear why an old age security policy that takes into consideration the generational traits of first-generation Korean residents of Japan is an issue of great urgency.

As a result of changes in the population of foreign residents of Japan, elderly Korean residents are gradually becoming a less visible presence. However, elderly Korean residents continue to account for over 80% of elderly foreign residents of Japan, and the proportion of

the elderly itself is high--almost the same as that in Japan. Further, from a longitudinal investigation of the population shift in Korean residents of Japan, it is clear that this population is developing differently from not only that of other foreign residents of Japan but from that of Japan and Korea as well. Here the trend toward permanent settlement and the characteristics of the ageing process of long-term residents are very distinct.

Incidentally, the work records of elderly Korean residents of Japan in the Kawasaki Study show that, although many people worked long-term for long hours, ethnic and job discrimination meant that they were only able to obtain low-paying jobs in fringe sectors. Thus very few people were able to prepare financially for old age. Second- and third-generation Korean residents are in a similar situation, and this was observed to be a factor contributing to the attenuation of support attitudes as well as making intra-family support difficult. Furthermore, because Korean residents were excluded from the Japanese social security system until the mid-1980's, the number of people with no pension is overwhelmingly large. Their lifestyle during old age is quite different from that of elderly Japanese people, whose primary source of income is their publicly-funded pension.

In conclusion, it can be said that a strong attitude of self-reliance in the elderly was observed in all three of the societies targeted in this dissertation--i.e. Japan, South Korea, and Korean residents of Japan. This can be regarded as a result of the development of a standard-level foundation for self-reliance in old age, but it can also be interpreted as a reflection of demographic factors and prevailing views that encourage self-reliance in the elderly. This is because even in Japan, which has a stable social security system and stable generational traits (in comparison to Korea and Korean residents of Japan), the reality is that it is relatively difficult for elderly females, in comparison to males, to prepare financially for old age. Women are thus forced to undergo many changes in old age and are even now in a position of instability.

Moreover, the situation in Korea and of Korean residents of Japan--populations that do not receive public support--is even harsher, and individual self-reliance as a generational trait of the present-day elderly population is extremely difficult to attain. What is more, the reality--in contrast to the understanding and expectations of the general public--is that the elderly do not even receive support from their families. This gap between attitudes and

reality gives rise to confusion--which, it can be said, suggests the danger in total commitment to the image of the self-reliant senior citizen.

This dissertation includes a supplementary chapter at the end that is based on methodology somewhat different than that of the rest of the dissertation. This final chapter looks at three representative literary works depicting the care of elderly parents and examines how care-giving has changed over the fifty years of the post-war period. It can be said there has been a shift from an era in which there was neither public nor private participation in care-giving to an era in which, although there was recognition of the need for public support, gender-based division of labour in care-giving was not perceived to be a problem, and finally to an era in which everyone is obliged to participate in care-giving.