

Abstract

According to the standard assumptions in cultural psychology, people in a culture think and behave in culturally specific ways as they repeatedly engage in cultural tasks. Therefore, it is generally expected that Japanese people acquire interdependent psychological processes as they grow older and are exposed to more cultural experiences. To test this assumption, we conducted two studies of independence and interdependence by using Japanese samples that each included a wide age range of respondents. Contrary to the assumption, our results consistently showed that Japanese respondents scored higher on the *engaging independence* scale and lower on the *disengaging interdependence* scale with increasing age. We also found the cross-over effects were not observed in regard to the participants' preferences (the ideal state of the self) and were only observed in their actual selves (the actual state of the self). We discuss these results in regard to social adaptation.

Keywords: interdependence, independence, age, self-construal, social adaptation