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Tokyo Zentai Club: Subculture or Identity Crisis over Youth in Japan Urban Area?

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Abstract

The rising of urbanization in Japan is going to advance after 1945s, while Japan Government absorb workers excessively to develop infrastructure and economic growth. As a pioneer, many workers from remote provinces gathered in Tokyo, serve the country as salaryman or labor, called Generation X. Owing to them, Japan became a prosperous country in 1980s, but contrary created Generation Y and Generation Z who categorized as a consumptive society, good earned, but lack of spiritually experience self-identity crisis. They joined Tokyo Zentai Club, a community of urban youth living in Tokyo, peculiarly wear colorful-spandex-tight-suit covered head to toe, spending nights by chit-chat inside members. This paper will describe the identity construction of Tokyo Zentai Club members, associated as a form of liquid modernity toward Generation Z. Miura Atsushi through Nihon Yokai-ron, adopted Liquid Modernity concept by Zygmunt Bauman. This concept explains that the personal construction of Generation Z within society is liquid, unrigid, and easy to follow the flow. In this case, means an individual experiencing an identity crisis. It found that Tokyo Zentai Club members claim this action as different ways to express self-identity through false identity. They are classified as sub-problem of unconnected society (muen shakai) try to be a part of liquid society through the urban community. The majority member is Generation Z, who lack personalities and have self-identity crisis affected by the bubble economy burst in 1991. This false identity is used by members as escaping strategy to deal with an urban stressful life and unconnected society in Japan.

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Generation Z, Identity Crisis, Subculture, Tokyo Zentai Club

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