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ABSTRACT

This paper presents research on dreams of college male and female students during a 10-year interval. In Japan, there have been a number of studies on dreams, but there has been no study of dreams using the Hall-Van de Castle Scales. For this reason, a comparable study was conducted between dreams collected in 1986/7 and 1996/7. It questioned whether the content of dreams had changed in that period and whether there were differences reported by either sex. Characteristics in social interaction, aggressiveness, friendliness, and sexual interactions in dreams were collected and compared. There were some changes noted in correlation of item analysis scales. Differences were seen in relation to aggressiveness and friendly actions with male and female characters, and familiar and unfamiliar characters. Differences were not only compared between of male and females characters, there were also comparisons of social interactions and chronology. From the viewpoint of a dynamic analysis of dreams, correlations of items were examined by the Pearson's correlation coefficient. (JDM)

On Social Interactions through the Reported Dreams of Japanese

Students by the Hall and van de Castle Scales

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Toyohiko Kato has been interested in dreams, especially these of adolescence. His way of analysing dreams is from a standpoint of psychoanalysis. He is a licenced clinical psychologist and serves as Associate professor at Kinki University in Japan.

In Japan, there have been a number of studies on dreams, but there has been no study of dreams using the Hall-van de Castle scales. For this reason the author conducted a comparable study between dreams which were collected in 1996/7 and in 1986/87.

This investigation addresses two questions ; 1) Have the contents of the dreams been changed in 10 years? 2) Are there any sex difference in 10 years?

In this report, characteristics in social interaction, aggressiveness, friendliness and sexual interactions in dreams were collected and compared.

METHODS

The author collected 1000 dreams according to the Hall-van de Castle scale norms for five dreams each of 50 males and females undergraduate students in '86/87 and '96/97 at Kinki University, Kansai University, and Seito Women's Junior College. These students come from about the same socioeconomic levels, that is the middle and upper-middle classes. Their dreams were collected in psychology classes in respective universities. The dreams were reported by the students in standardized report forms.

The author selected folders - each of which contained a series of 10-15 dreams - that had been obtained from students between the age of 18-21. The 5 dream reports that met the criterion, that is, the report should be written with in 50-300 words in length were randomly selected from the folders of 100 male and 100 female undergraduate students. Although the Hall-van de Castle system of content analysis comprises a large number of categories, the following categories were selected: characters; aggressiveness, friendliness, and sexual interactions.

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Scoring of all these dreams based on the Hall and van de Castle was done by the author.

Four character classes were scored: animal, creature, human characters; males, females, both characters, and indefinite, and familiar-unfamiliar. Familiar characters are those known to the dreamer and family members, relatives, friends and acquaintances, and prominent persons. Unfamiliar characters are those the dreamer does not know or cannot identify.

Three social interactions were scored: aggression, friendliness and sex. Aggression involves physical aggressions that included murder, attack, chasing-confining, and destruction and verbal aggressions that involved serious threat, verbal activity, and covert feeling. Total aggressions were divided by the number of characters and dreams. Friendly interactions included marriage, physical contact, inviting·dating, helping·protecting, gift·loan, verbal means, and covert feeling. Total friendliness was divided by the number of characters and dreams. Sexual interactions meant sexual intercourse, petting, kissing, sexual overtures, and sexual fantasies. Total sexual interactions were divided by the number of characters and dreams.

The formula for the significance of the difference between male and female, and the '86/'87 reports and the '96/'97 reports was applied. The significance level was either at 0.05 and 0.01.

RESULT

Comparisons of Character between males and females, and in the '86/87 reports and the '96/'97 reports are presented in Table 1.

Table 1

average per a dream (SD)

Character	'86/87		'96/97	
	m	f	m	f
Male	m:3.82 (2.72)	f:2.98 (2.06)	m: 4.60** (2.61)	f: 2.58 (1.95)
Female	m:1.96* (1.76)	f:3.64** (2.16)	m: 1.24 (1.36)	f:3.44* (2.61)
Familiar	m: 4.38 (3.24)	f:5.86* (3.34)	m: 4.46 (2.95)	f: 4.94 (2.82)
Unfamiliar	m: 3.34 (2.36)	f:3.2 (2.73)	m: 3.56 (2.40)	f: 3.30 (2.89)
Animal	m: 0.48 (0.97)	f: 0.38 (0.67)	m: 0.44 (0.81)	f: 0.64 (0.94)
Creature	m: 0.10 (0.30)	f: 0.12 (0.33)	m: 0.10 (0.30)	f: 0.12 (0.33)

T test * : p < 0.05 ** : p < 0.01

As to the characters, there are five significant differences. As to the male characters, there is a sex difference in the '96/97 reports : males have a higher proportion than females. As to the female characters, two sex differences: both females in the '86/87 reports and the '96/97 reports have a higher proportion than their counterparts. A chronological difference is seen in males: the '86/87 reports males have a higher proportion than ones in the '96/97 reports. For familiar characters, there is a sex difference: in the '86/87 reports, females have a higher proportion than males.

Comparisons of Social interactions between males and females, and in the '86/87 reports and the '96/97 reports are presented in Table 2.

Table 2

average per a dream (SD)

Social interactions	'86/87		'96/97	
total agg.	m: 2.90 (2.19)	f: 2.72 (1.58)	m: 3.10 (2.77)	f: 2.84 (2.48)
physical agg	m: 1.94 (2.00)	f: 1.30 (1.34)	m: 1.94 (2.06)	f: 1.70 (1.84)
verbal agg.	m: 0.96 (0.96)	f: 1.42* (1.18)	m: 1.16 (1.58)	f: 1.14 (1.67)
Friendliness	m: 1.82 (1.56)	f: 2.48* (2.37)	m: 1.50 (1.34)	f: 1.62 (1.32)
Sex	m: 0.44* (0.91)	f: 0.02 (9.14)	m: 0.16 (0.58)	f: 0.08 (0.27)

T test *: $p < 0.05$, **: $p < 0.01$

As to the social interactions, there are three significant differences. As to the verbal aggression, there is a sex difference in the '86/87 reports: females have a higher proportion than males. As to the friendliness, there is a chronological difference in females: the '86/87 reports females have a higher proportion than these in the '96/97 reports. As to the sex, a sex difference is seen in the '86/87 reports: males have a higher proportion than females.

From the viewpoint of a dynamic analysis of dreams, correlations of items which are categorized in Character, Aggression, Friendliness , and Sex that are divided with males and females both in the '86/87 reports and in the '96/97 reports are examined by the Pearson's correlation coefficient.

Animals are correlated with some of aggressions (including aggression, physical aggression,

and verbal aggression) in the '86/87 and the '96/97 males and the '96/97 females except the '86/87 females. Male characters are correlated with physical or verbal aggression in all. While for the '86/87 males, female characters are correlated with verbal aggression, too. Unfamiliar characters are correlated with physical aggression in all except the '96/97 males.

As to the friendliness, correlations with males and females in the '86/87 reports, males in the '86/87 reports females, and females in the '96/97 reports are seen. And there are correlations with familiar characters in the '86/87 males, with unfamiliar characters in the '96/97 females.

As to the sex, there are correlations with the opposite sex except the '86/87 females, because one person of the '86/87 females reported a witnessed interaction by other female, not a dreamer herself.

DISCUSSION

Hall reported that there had been very few changes in what college students were dreaming about in 1980 compared with dream reports in 1950, while times had greatly changed since 1950. For instance there has been, it is said, a sexual revolution, a liberalizing of attitudes about sexual behavior. In this report as to the Japanese males and females also, investigated from a point of view of chronological differences, there have been no great changes in the differences and similarities of their reported dreams by the Hall and van de Castle scales between in the 1986/87 reports and the 1996/97 reports, and there have been a few changes in sexual differences, as Hall pointed out.

Although there are a few changes through the content analysis method, some changes in correlations of items of content analysis scales are found. The differences are seen in relation to aggressiveness and friendly actions with male and female characters and familiar and unfamiliar characters between in the '86/87 reports and the '96/97 reports are discovered. Through a restricted number of dreams, the author would like to point out that the representativeness of the unstableness and the surface of human relations have partially had an effect on dreams, though the author would not suggest the continuity hypothesis that all dreams are continuous with waking life. Today in Japan, it is said that adults can't understand what young men and women think about because of their poor and surface interactions, or so called "sirake" in Japanese.

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