
Awareness and Perceptions of Feminist Concepts by US and Japanese Female College Students

JAPN 403 Midterm Presentation
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Significance of the Study

- Childhood
 - Grew up during the “Girl Power” age
- Study Abroad
 - Experience raised new questions about feminist ideas
 - How do Japanese women perceive the same concepts
- University courses taken in Japan and USA
 - Women in Japan
 - Social Issues in Japan
- In this study we want to:
 - Understand what female university students perceive as feminism
 - If there are the ongoing equity issues for women in society

Related Terms

Feminism	The theory of the political, economic, and social equality of the sexes/organized activity on behalf of women's rights and interests (Merriam Webster Dictionary, 2017)
Girl Power	The idea that women and girls should be confident, make decisions, and achieve things independently of men, or the social and political movement that is based on this idea (Cambridge Dictionary, 2017)
Intersectionality	The complex, cumulative way in which the effects of multiple forms of discrimination (such as racism, sexism, and classism) combine, overlap, or intersect especially in the experiences of marginalized individuals or groups (Merriam Webster Dictionary, 2017)
Misogyny	A hatred of women (Merriam Webster Dictionary, 2017)

Research Questions

1. What perceptions exist about women and what do university students perceive as feminism?
2. What are the ongoing equity issues for women in their society that need to be addressed and what do women think of their futures?

Research Background outline

- ★ Summary of Feminist Movements
- ★ Timeline of Feminist Movements
- ★ Modern Feminism

Summary of Feminist Movements (JAPAN)

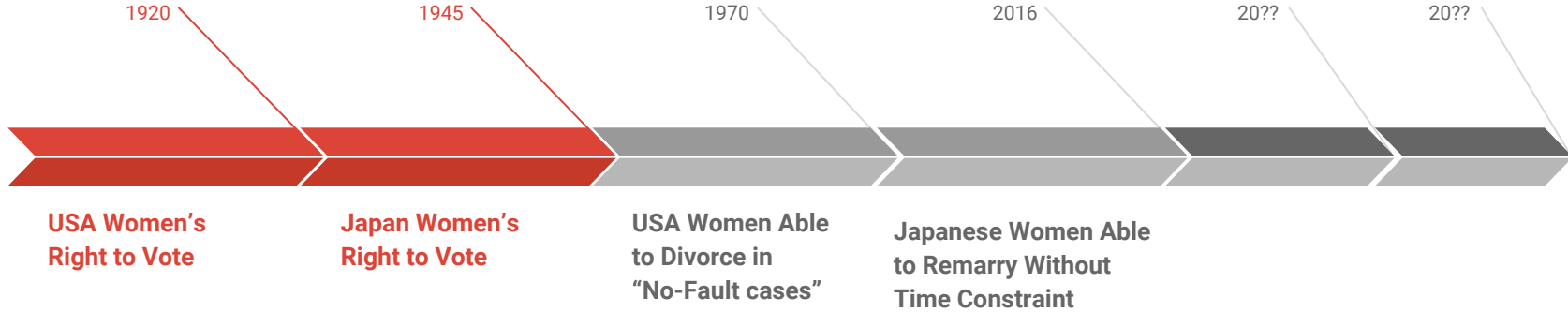
- ★ Meiji Restoration (1868 -1912)
 - Trafficking of women was restricted
 - Women were allowed to request divorces
 - All children get an elementary education
 - “Good Wife, Wise Mother”
- ★ Post World War II Era
 - 1945 women received the right to vote
 - Section of the new constitution drafted in 1946 was dedicated to guarantee gender equality.
- ★ Women’s Liberation (1960s-1980s)
 - Based off Radical Feminism in the USA and New Left in Japan
 - Free both sexes from patriarchal society and Capitalism
 - Access to birth control
- ★ 1990s-present
 - Sexual Harassment rights
 - Inequality in workplace
 - Maternity leave/Child care access
 - Equal Pay

Iwasawa (1991), Shigematsu, (2012)

Summary of Feminist Movements (USA)

- ★ First wave Feminism 1868-1930
 - Women's Suffrage
 - Gender Equality progress
 - Right to vote - 1920
- ★ Second Wave Feminism 1960-1980
 - Sexuality
 - Family/Reproductive Rights
 - Workplace rights
 - Domestic Violence issues
- ★ Third Wave Feminism 1990-2012
 - Diverse Identities/Intersectional
 - Reproductive Rights/Birth Control
 - Domestic Violence/Sexual Harassment
 - Autonomy
 - Equal Pay

Timeline of Feminist Movements (USA & JAPAN)



Research Method

Participants:

- ★ Total of 60 Female University Students (30 Japanese and 30 American)

Demographics:

- ★ 30 Female Japanese University Students (Age 18-28)
- ★ 30 Female American University Students (Age 18-28)

Research Instrument:

- ★ Google Forms (Japanese, [English](#))

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