

Abstract

The thesis submitted deals with the topic of marriages in Interwar Japan through an analysis of the women's magazines (*fujin zasshi*) issued between 1920-1941. The women's role change brought about a gradual shift from a traditional *ie*-family structure to a new type of a partially atomized two-generation family. Consequently, the roles of man and women in a family have been revised since then. In relation to the modern thoughts incoming from the West, the Japanese started to perceive new ways of getting married, such as the liberal marriage (*jiyū kekkon*) or the love marriage (*ren'ai kekkon*), which have broken the old conventions of the traditional go-between marriage (*miai kekkon*).

The purpose of this study is to show the views and opinions of men and women on marriage, establishing the family, spouse relationships, etc. by analyzing the women's magazines and to answer the research questions. The analysis is based not only on the regular magazine articles, but also on the editorial interviews (*zadankai*) and counseling columns (*mi no ue sōdan*).

At first, I introduce the women's magazines, their brief history, purpose and characteristic features. The following chapter discusses the historical background of the women's position from the social point of view, rather than political, and then mentions also other essential aspects of marriages and family changes. The analytical part of the thesis is three-fold. The analysis consists of the men's and women's ideas about the ideal marriage and spouse, then the conditions for choosing a partner, the relationships before the marriage and lastly the attitudes of the young generation toward marriage - liberal marriage, love marriage, early and late marriage, unmarried partnership and the choice of being unmarried.