Diversity of timing
– Focused on “family formation” in Germany and South Korea
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Abstract
This study (in press) shows that there are differences in family formation for Germany and South Korea in terms of the meanings and periods depending on the respective socio-cultural backgrounds.

Germany and South Korea in particular have similar statistical demographical trends in terms of them both being low fertility countries where marriage rates are decreasing, population is aging, the number of single-person households is increasing, and divorce rates are increasing. However, it was found that there are differences between the two countries when it comes to the socio-cultural meaning and the rate at which these things are taking place.

Given such differences, it was considered that when examining variable-related characteristics for “family,” which has definite cultural background qualities, rather than analyzing the superficial trend in a fragmentary way, it was more important to gain an understanding of the contextual meaning of “family” for the respective societies.

For the feasibility of comparing different cultures, G. Simmel’s theory of culture and his concept of the stranger, and E. Todd and G. Hofstede’s theories were used to examine how families get classified and how cultural characteristics get classified.

R. König and H. Rosenbaum’s viewpoints on family formation were examined, and with a structural approach and a contextual approach, concepts of „temporalization,” „task,” and „role” were identified and used as a basis for the variables analyzed.

The analysis was conducted as follows.
Step 1) Compare specific items between German and South Korean respondents (continuous mean comparison, categorical chi-squared test) → To obtain a P-value
- Describe the meanings of specific items for each country.

Step 2) Compare the male and female groups for Germany (sex was used as the example; other items applied similarly) → P-value

Compare the male and female groups for South Korea (sex was used as the example; other items applied similarly) → P-value

- Describe individual characteristics for each country’s respondents by making comparisons within the scope of Germany and South Korea

Findings - About error discovery
Results of frequency analysis revealed an error in which recoding was done with differing concepts for South Korea and Germany with respect to marital status. Hence, this study performed missing value handling for civil partnership using modes.

Methodology
1. Using data.
To compare data of different countries, OECD data were used, as well as ISSP (The International Social Survey Programme) 2012 data provided by GESIS (http://www.gesis.org/en/issp/home/), in particular the database on Germany and South Korea included the family and changing gender roles IV questionnaire.

2. Data analysis
- Frequency, percentage, mean and standard deviation were found with descriptive statistics.
- T-test, chi square test, and one-way ANOVA (Duncan’s test for post-hoc test) were performed.
- Internal consistency verification was done using Cronbach’s α coefficient to ensure reliability.

Interpretation
Phenomenon : low fertility states : similarities
Culture Context : difference family concept
A different policy direction depending on their perceptions of the family and the right time for family formation.

T1 : Marriage
T2 : Germany
T3 : Childbirth
South Korea