

はじめに

このテキストは著者Edward K. Chan氏が「アメリカサブカルチャー論」という講義で実際に扱ったトピックの内容を教科書向けに書き下ろしたものである。Chan氏はアメリカSF小説研究、トランスナショナル・フィルム・スタディーズの専門家で、アメリカ文化史、メディア論、アメリカンサブカルチャー、ポピュラーカルチャーなどの授業を勤務校で担当している。アメリカジョージア州のケネソー州立大学、愛知大学国際コミュニケーション学部を経て、2016年春からは早稲田大学文学学術院、文化構想学部で教鞭を執っている。

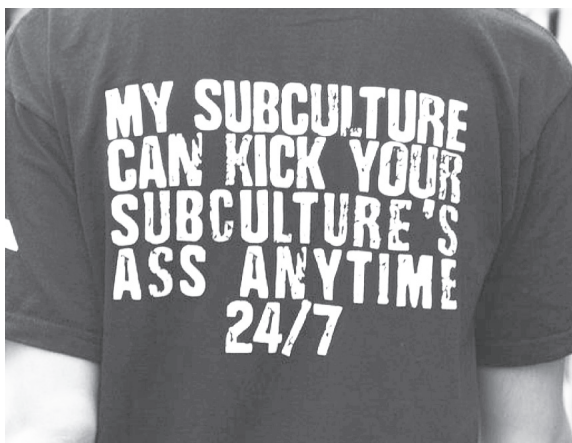
アメリカの歴史や文学に関する従来の授業では主流文化 (mainstream culture) が話題になっているが、そこではけっして出会うことのない興味深いアメリカの「おたく」文化に関する情報を、このテキストは提供してくれる。ここでのサブカルチャーの議論を通して、アメリカ文化を別の角度から、より深く総合的に捉えることができるだろう。また、異文化としてのアメリカ文化に対する理解が深まることは、英語を学ぶ意欲にもつながるだけでなく、グローバル化された時代の人材に求められる多様性 (diversity) を身に付けることができるにちがいない。

本書で扱われているトピックは、コスプレ、コミック・ブック、スタートレック、ヒップホップ、サーフィン、スケートボード、美少女コンテスト、LGBTQ+など多岐にわたり、それらはEntertainment, Music, Lifestyle, Sportsの4つのカテゴリーに分けて解説されている。読んで楽しく、興味深いトピックばかりだが、どの章も平明で明晰な英文で書かれているので、リーディングの教材として関心のある章から読むことができるし、異文化理解、アメリカ文化論などの講義で役立てることもできるだろう。各章にはVocabulary, Reading Comprehension, Topics for Small-Group Discussionが付いているので、復習、グループワーク、レポートなどに活用していただきたい。

最後に、英文問題についてご協力くださったJoan Gilbert氏にお礼申し上げます。また、本書の出版にあたって、適切なお助言をたまわった英宝社編集部の宇治正夫氏、下村幸一氏に心より感謝申し上げます。

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相本 資子



Chapter

1

by Till Krech from Berlin, Germany

What is Subculture?

Vocabulary

Choose the appropriate word below.

1. Mary felt so much stress that she ate an () amount of cake.
2. Japanese people are madly in love with cherry blossoms because of their() beauty.
3. During World War II, Japanese soldiers' attitudes were regarded as () because sometimes they committed suicide.
4. This magazine specializes in the scandals of Hollywood ().
5. Iguazú Falls is one of the largest and most () waterfalls in the world.

bizarre / celebrities / excessive / spectacular / ephemeral

●このChapter理解のために

「サブカルチャー」とは「主流文化」ではないものと著者は規定する。「アメリカンサブカルチャー」はけっしてエキセントリックではなく、複雑な社会現象のひとつである。

In the fields of sociology and cultural studies, different subcultures have often been studied. In particular, those kinds of youth culture that seem “spectacular” (e.g., punk rock) because they incorporate “wild” or outrageous styles (e.g., Mohawk hair styles) are especially attractive to researchers. However, there are many different types of subcultures that are not necessarily related to youth culture and are enjoyed and participated in by adults as well.

Of course we need to define the term “subculture” from the beginning; however, no one definition can truly capture the passion, enthusiasm, and ephemeral qualities of any given subculture. Nevertheless, we must try. Perhaps it would be best to start with a basic definition of the term “culture”: the way a particular group of people live their lives; a shared pattern of behaviors, attitudes, and ways of thinking about the world around us. In 1871, the British anthropologist Edward Tylor defined culture as the entire way of life of a group of people: “knowledge, belief, art, morals, law, custom, and any other capabilities and habits.”¹ More recently, the American anthropologist Clifford Geertz defined culture as the way a group of people understands reality handed down from one generation to another using symbols.² In colloquial usage, culture often refers to the lifestyles of particular ethnic groups. Another general way of thinking about culture is as “high” culture—“the best which has been thought and said in the world”³—versus popular or “low” culture (e.g., television, Hollywood cinema, pop music), generally considered to be merely “entertainment” and not a serious topic of study. As we can see, there are many ways to define culture, but perhaps the most useful definition for our purposes in this book is the idea of “mainstream culture”: the most popular elements of the social and artistic life of a particular group of people. As the prefix “sub” suggests, with subcultures we are dealing with the social and artistic life that is apart from mainstream culture. Subcultures are alternatives to mainstream culture that are not shared by the majority of the people. Instead, they are a culture that is shared intensely by a small or sometimes large group of people, but not the majority of the population.

Subcultures are created by people who share a very strong interest in a particular activity or thing. They often devote a lot of time, money, and energy to their involvement in the subculture, if not devoting their entire lives to it. Generally, the members of a subculture meet at communal gatherings (e.g., Comic-Con, where

- 3 **spectacular** 「人目をひく」
- punk rock** 「パンク・ロック」 → Chapter 5 参照
- 3- **incorporate** 「組み入れる」
- 4 **outrageous** 「突飛な」
- Mohawk hair styles** 「モヒカン刈り」
- 11 **ephemeral** 「短命の」

- 21 **colloquial usage** 「慣用法」

- 31 **prefix** 「接頭辞」

- 40 **if not** ~ 「とまではゆかなくても」

- 41 **communal** 「コミュニティーの」
- Comic-Con** = comic convention
→ Chapter 4 notes p.19 参照

thousands of comic book fans gather to buy, sell, and trade comic books and other related items). Subcultures like “Trekkies” (people who love all aspects of the Star Trek franchise) are made up of thousands of “fans.” We should note that the term “fan” derives from the term “fanatic,” which Merriam-Webster defines as “marked by excessive enthusiasm and often intense uncritical devotion.” Merriam-Webster defines “fan” as “an enthusiastic devotee (as of a sport or a performing art) usually as a spectator” or “an ardent admirer or enthusiast (as of a celebrity or a pursuit).” What is notable about all these definitions is that they emphasize a high level of devotion that goes beyond casual interest.

In fact, most subcultures seem to have an inherent mystery or secret to be learned by the outsider. The members of a subculture have in-depth knowledge of the subculture because they live their participation of it and spend a great deal of time engaging in it. For those on the outside of the subculture, the activities and practices might seem bizarre or eccentric or even exotic, but to the insider they make perfect sense and even sometimes seem “natural” (as seen, for example, in dressing as a fictional character in cosplay).

Subcultures, like cultures, are complex social phenomena that involve many aspects. One of the most obvious characteristics might be a certain style of fashion (e.g., mohawk hair styles). Often, there is also a special language associated with a subculture (there are many examples in hip hop). Next, there are organized events where the community can gather and meet old and new friends. It is important to stress that subcultures are not just disconnected activities by various people. Instead, they are shared by many people who create communal bonds with one another.

All cultures around the world have their own subcultures within them, but the subcultures we will study in this textbook are all from the U.S. While the U.S. is not unique in having subcultures, the many types of American subcultures are definitely related to the U.S. being an intensely media- and consumer-oriented society with a mixture of people from many different countries.

Our hope is that, after you read this textbook, you will see the wide range of subcultures that exist in the U.S. and have a clearer understanding of American culture with all its peculiarities.

3 **Star Trek franchise**

「日本語で言うシリーズに近い用語」 Star Trek のキャラクターや世界観の使用権許諾。→ Chapter 2 参照

5 **Merriam-Webster**

「アメリカで最も著名かつ最大のシェアを持つ辞書」

6 **excessive** 「過度の」

14 **in-depth** 「徹底した」

17 **bizarre** 「風変わりな」

27 **disconnected** 「一貫性のない」

33 **-oriented** 「～志向の」

1 *Primitive Culture, Volume 1* (New York: Putnam, 1920), 1.

2 *The Interpretation of Cultures* (New York: Basic, 1973).

3 Arnold, Matthew. *Culture and Anarchy: An Essay in Political and Social Criticism* (London: Smith, Elder and Co, 1869), viii.

E X E R C I S E S

1. Reading Comprehension

1) Mark T for true and F for false.

1. All subcultures are related to youth culture. ()
2. "Low" culture is generally considered an important topic of study. ()
3. The author thinks that one of the most useful definitions of culture when studying subculture is the idea of "mainstream culture." ()
4. Subculture fans might think their activities are natural. ()
5. Subcultures are simple social phenomena. ()

2) Answer the questions in English.

1. What is "low" culture?

2. How does the author define subcultures?

3. Who creates subcultures?

4. What do the attendees do at Comic-con?

5. What is notable about the definitions of "fans"?

6. What are the characteristics of subcultures?

2. Prefix and Suffix

		meaning	an example	your example
prefix	sub-	of a smaller size of a subordinate nature	subculture	
prefix	de-	down from, away, off	derive	
prefix	un-	not	uncritical	
suffix	-ology	a subject of study	sociology	
suffix	-ous	forming adjectives; of the nature of; characterized by	outrageous	
suffix	-ee	denoting a person described as or concerned with	devotee	

3. Choose the best answer.

- Subcultures are
 - shared by a lot of people.
 - so eccentric that they are not valuable to study.
 - apart from mainstream culture.
 - not related to the lifestyles of particular ethnic groups.
- The members of a subculture
 - do not use a lot of time but do use a lot of money.
 - are usually alone because they are strange.
 - do not have in-depth knowledge of the subculture so they are not intelligent.
 - devote themselves to the subculture.
- We study subcultures in the U.S. because
 - they are exotic.
 - we can understand what “high culture” is.
 - we can understand American society as a society consisting of many different kinds of people.
 - they are culture for young people.