



ベトナムと日本の違う所

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私は日本に住んでいるベトナム人としてベトナムと日本の違う所がわかりました。深く理由を分析しないし、どっちが良いとも言えないし、ただ日本人に少しでもベトナムの文化と生活習慣を知って貰えばいいなって書きました。



- ①日本ははっきり四季がありますがベトナムは東南アジアの国で赤道に近いのでただ二季あります。乾季は10月から来年の五月にかけて、雨季は6月から9月にかけて雨が降っています。
- ②十二支はちょっと違います。日本は羊年ですけどベトナムは山羊年です。日本はウサギ年ですけどベトナムは猫年です。さらに日本はイノシシ年ですけどベトナムは豚年です。それは三つの違う所です。面白いですね。
- ③庶民の乗り物。今は日本で庶民の乗り物は車や電車やバスなどですが、昔、電車と車がまだ普及してないときは庶民の乗り物は何でしょう。ベトナムでは庶民の乗り物はバイクですね。簡単な理由は電車はまだありませんし、車は関税のために高額すぎて、バスは遅いし、運転危ないし、便利ではないものです。バイクは一人一台どこでもいけるので便利なものです。
- ④大人になっても実家に住んでいる人が多いです。幼い時から大人になるまで親にお世話になっているので、恩返しです。親といっしょに住むのは一般的です。現在ベトナムでは年金をもらっている年配の方まだ少ないのです。
- ⑤人の年は二つもあります。例えば世界の年は5歳だけどベトナムの年は6歳です。生まれたばかり赤ちゃんも1歳と計算します。その理由は9か月以上お母さんのおなかにいましたので。
- ⑥日本では朝ごはんもちろん自分で作るかスーパーで買ったパンやインスタント麺類ですね。だけどベトナムでは朝ごはんは外で食べる習慣があります、フランスパンや麺類が多いです。早朝から販売する屋台がいっぱいありますので前日から明日の朝ごはん考えなくてもいいです。さらにベトナムでは、7時から始まる会社と学校が多いです。
- ⑦日本の学校で部活するのは普通だけどベトナムでは部活はほぼありません。ただときどき学校内で運動会を行います。だからスポーツは上手ではないかもしれない。
- ⑧ベトナムのお坊さんと日本のお坊さんはずいぶん違います。お坊さんになるとお肉とお酒を飲んではいけなく、結婚もできない。しかし日本のお坊さんはやってはいけないことはないのです、面白いと思います。
- ⑨結婚披露宴について。実際に私は日本の結婚披露宴に参加したことがないのですが、テレビを見るとそんなに盛り上がりがないと思います。逆にベトナムの結婚披露宴はとても盛り上がります。踊りとか歌を歌いたい人は申し込んでから順番に歌えますので、とても楽しいです。

まだまだいっぱい違う所がありますが、今回はこれで終了とさせていただきます。

SOME DIFFERENCES BETWEEN VIETNAM AND JAPAN: A BRIEF DESCRIPTIONS

Pham Tan Phung (Vietnam)

As a Vietnamese person living in Japan, I have gained an understanding about some of the differences between Vietnam and Japan to a certain extent. I do not intend to deeply analyse the reasons for such differences and I cannot suggest which countries' ways are good either. I only hope that through this essay Japanese people will get to know about the culture and the customs related to daily life of Vietnam at least to a little extent.

- (1) Japan has four distinctly recognisable seasons, but Vietnam has only two, because it is a country in Southeast Asia situated near the equator. Dry season is from October to May while wet season (rainy season) is from June to September.
- (2) Considering the twelve zodiac signs of the year, there are three differences between the systems of the two countries. For the years of the sheep, the rabbit and the wild boar in Japan, Vietnam has the corresponding signs of goat, cat and pig respectively; so, in these three situations, the two countries have different signs for the same year. Don't you think that is interesting?
- (3) Modes of transportation of ordinary people: In Japan, there are cars, trains and buses as means of transportation nowadays. How about in the past when trains and automobiles were still not in widespread use? What types of vehicles did ordinary Japanese people use? In Vietnam, motorcycles and scooters have been the most popular modes of transport. The simple reasons for this are as follows: there is no proper train system yet and owning a car is too expensive due to extremely high customs duties. Buses are very inconvenient because they are never on time and driven rather unsafely. On the other hand, motorbikes are very convenient because a person can go anywhere very easily in a motorbike.
- (4) Many Vietnamese choose to live at their parent's house even after becoming adults. According to Vietnamese way of thinking this is only natural, because parents bring up their children since infancy until reaching adulthood, therefore, it is the children's turn to show their gratitude by living with the parents and taking care of them in their old age. Even at present, only a few elderly persons receive a pension in Vietnam.
- (5) Another interesting matter is that there are two ways of calculating a person's age. For example, a child who is 5 years old according to general standards is considered as a 6-year old in Vietnam. A new-born baby is considered as a 1-year old. The reason behind this view is that a baby has already been alive for nine months or more inside the mother's womb.
- (6) In Japan, usually breakfast is taken at home; in my case either I prepare breakfast myself or buy bread or instant noodles at the supermarket the previous day. However, in Vietnam, people customarily eat breakfast outside. Vietnamese mostly eat French bread or noodles for breakfast. There are so many stalls selling foods from early in the morning. So, we do not need to worry since the previous night about what to prepare for the next day's breakfast. Furthermore, in Vietnam the day starts very early. Many companies and schools begin from 7'o clock in the morning.
- (7) It is quite usual to participate in extra-curricular activities at school in Japan. In Vietnam, such school activities are almost non-existent. But sometimes sports festivals are held in schools. Not getting many opportunities to involve in sports as kids may be a reason for Vietnamese to be not that good at sports.
- (8) Buddhist priests are present in both Japan and Vietnam. However, the practices of Vietnamese monks are very different from those of Japanese monks. In Vietnam, when a person becomes a Buddhist priest, eating meat and drinking liquor are not permitted. Also, getting married is prohibited as well. It is interesting therefore, to note that there are no such restrictions in the case of Japanese monks.
- (9) About wedding receptions: I have not got the opportunity to attend a Japanese wedding reception yet. However, from what I've seen on television, wedding receptions seem not that lively. It is quite the opposite in Vietnam as the guests enjoy dancing and singing. Those who want to sing have to make a request so that the order of singing can be decided. It's really fun.

There appears to be many other differences between the two countries. However, this time I will limit my observations to the points mentioned above.