

The Representation of Cosmetic Surgery and Makeup in Japan and Anglo-American Countries : An Analysis from a Cultural Perspective

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Based on the view that the body is an intersecting site for power relations in society such as gender and race, this research focuses on Asian women's bodies on which beauty practices, particularly cosmetic surgery, one of the most typical modern example, are performed. This present report overviews the related theories: while some look at these bodies as a reflection of asymmetrical racial power relations, the others explore the possibility of the subversion of the dominant power structure. An introduction to these critical theories in the West in this report aims to share theoretical knowledge and activate discussions on this issue in Japan.