

On the seasonal transition from winter to spring in Europe and the “seasonal feeling” relating to “Fasnacht” in comparison with those in East Asia (Toward an interdisciplinary activity on climate and cultural understanding education)

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As mentioned in the introduction of the EGU2016 abstract (Kato et al., submitted to CL5.06/AS4.9), there are many stages with rapid seasonal transitions in East Asia, resulting in the variety of “seasonal feeling”. The seasonal cycle has been an important background for generation of the arts. On the other hand, around Germany located near the western edge of the Eurasian Continent, there are so many music or literature works in which the “May” is treated as the special season (comparison of the climate and songs on “spring” (or “May”) between Japan and Germany was tried in a book by Kato, H. and K. Kato, although written in Japanese).

The Japanese researchers on German Literature suggested that there are basically two seasons “winter” and “summer” around Germany, with the transitional stages of spring and autumn. The concepts of the battle between winter and summer, and driving winter away, and so on, around Germany seem to show rather different seasonal feelings from that around the Japan Islands (Oshio 1982; Miyashita 1982; Takeda 1980). A traditional event there called “Fasnacht” for driving winter away is held in March or slightly earlier stage (Takeda 1980; Ueda and Ebato 1988). Kato et al. (EGU2016, submitted to CL5.06/AS4.9) will report the synoptic climatological features on the seasonal transition from winter to spring in Europe based on the daily data, by comparing with that in East Asia.

In this presentation, we will discuss on the climatological background for the “seasonal feeling” leading to such as the battle between winter and summer, driving winter away, including “Fasnacht”, also by referring to some songs (children’s songs, etc.). At the same time, the analysis results on the seasonal transition from winter to spring in Europe in comparison with those in East Asia by Kato et al. (EGU2016) will be also referred to. On the other hand, although it is around the end of March when the “wintertime pressure pattern” on the daily surface weather maps in East Asia tends to disappear rapidly, the seasonal feeling there changes considerably also around the middle of February (in spite of the rather lower mean temperature than in early winter). Thus we will also compare with those around Japan.

Deeper knowledge on the seasonal cycle would contribute greatly to considering the detailed response of the regional climate to the global-scale impacts such as the global warming, as well as the cultural understanding as mentioned above. Besides, we do think that the recognition of the delicacy of such seasonal feelings would often lead us to an essential insight into comprehending such detailed seasonal cycle of the climate systems. Finally, we will also discuss on the development of interdisciplinary study plan on climate and cultural understanding education, based on the above presentation.