

Study of African diaspora dance from Haiti, Cuba, and Brazil
 ~ Based on a one-on-one interview with Professor Y. Daniel PhD ~
 Natsuki Hayashi
 Shikoku University/Ritsumeikan University Doctoral Course of Sociology

Research content: African Diaspora Dance (hereinafter abbreviated as ADD) is the general term for the dance originated in Africa and transmitted by African Diaspora scattered all over the world with the influence of various local cultures. This article is about a summary and a consideration from the results of two one-on-one interviews with Professor Yvonne Daniel PhD (hereinafter abbreviated as Daniel), a leading expert in ADD research in Haiti, Cuba, and Brazil.



Daniel photo by author 7/22/2017



Carnival in Philadelphia
 England 2014
 Photo: Christian Brown
 Courtesy: Global Grooves
 Cabasa Carnival

Purpose of the trips: The first trip was to interview people involved in ADD in the San Francisco Bay Area, where ADD is thriving. A one-on-one interview with Professor Daniel was conducted with the cooperation of Amara Tabor-Smith (hereinafter abbreviated as Smith), a dance instructor at the University of California, Berkeley (hereinafter abbreviated as UCB). In order to deepen the content of the treatise, it was necessary to conduct a further interview with Daniel on the second trip. In the second trip, there

were intensive lectures and dance performances by a dance instructor from Brazil who was traveling to the United States, and the main purpose was to observe their participation.

Local activities: Under the guidance of Daniel & Smith, I collected literature at the Anthropological Library. The first interview with Daniel was conducted on July 22, 2016, and after that, the interview was analyzed with an IC recorder. The interview survey for the second trip was conducted on March 6, 2017. In the second trip, participants were observed by participating in an intensive course by a Brazilian dance instructor and appearing in performances. I also conducted an interview survey with the participants of the course and the performers of the performance.



After the performance (8/11/2017)

Research Results: First, I met Professor Daniel, who is a leading expert in ADD research, and I was able to conduct two one-on-one interviews, which was a great achievement. What Professor Daniel gave about the characteristics and roles of dance was very interesting.

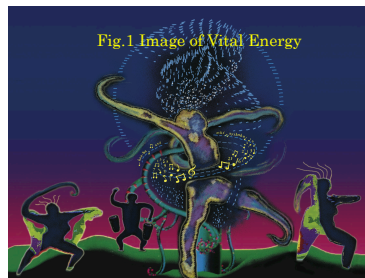


Fig.1 Image of Vital Energy

Drawing #8: Planes of Existence as Horizontal, Sagittal and Coronal Planes

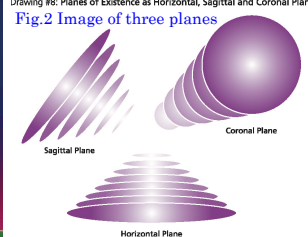


Fig.2 Image of three planes

(Fig.1-2 provided by Daniel)

As a characteristic of dance, Vital Energy is emitted from the "dancing body" and fills the space (Fig. 1). Vital Energy has the role of guiding the people in the space from the daily (Horizontal Plane) to the extraordinary (Sagittal & Coronal Plane) and enabling them to move between these three dimensions (Fig. 2). The idea was derived from Laban's dance theory and the concept of kinesiology, and I was given the task of verifying and considering this through other research trends. Participant observation of dance mainly participates in Afro Brazilian dance courses and performances, and this original experience will deepen the knowledge of dance and enable multifaceted consideration.