Designation as Cultural Property and Practices by “Bearers”
——Focusing on the Context of Two Dances——

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ABSTRACT

This article considers practices that how local communities interpret traditional dance which gain recognition as cultural properties. A traditional dance called Shiraishi Odori has been designated as a cultural property by the national governmental agency in 1976. This cultural property has features of a tourism resource. On the other hand, the dance has been inherited by the local community in a manner rooted in the context of their everyday lives. It is possible that tourism creates conflicts in the process of inheriting the dance. Therefore, it is necessary to clarify how local communities attempt to deal with external conditions.

Shiraishi Odori has been passed down over the generations on Shiraishijima Island, Okayama Prefecture. Shiraishijima Island is in the Seto Inland Sea. An island designated as a national park and place of scenic beauty, it has accepted the development of tourism. This article considers how the local community attempts to reconcile external conditions with their daily lives.

Key Words: the practices of local community, traditional culture, cultural property