Comparative Essay

There are many countries in the world and each country has its own different culture. I am from Japan, and my culture is Japanese, meanwhile, my host mother is from Canada. My host father is from the United States, but has lived in Canada since he was 5 years old. Therefore, my homestay family’s culture is Canadian. I compared these two countries by focusing on three cultural dimensions which are Long Term Orientation, Uncertainly Avoidance, and Individualism, and the two countries have very different cultures.

Firstly, Canada has lower uncertainty avoidance than Japan. Canada is 48% and Japan is 92%. It means that in Canada, people tend to accept new things easily. It might relate to one of the reasons which Canadian people chose the government party of Liberal. In Japan, on the other hand, it is difficult for people to accept new things, so they tend to avoid them. Japanese also like to do their tasks in the same way even if there are other better ways.

Secondly, Canadian people have a tendency toward short-term orientation (64%). On the other hand, Japanese people have a tendency toward long-term exposure (88%). It means that in Canada, people prefer thinking about the now than thinking future and in Japan, people like to think more about the future than the now. Therefore, Canadian people value spending money on fun activities. In contrast, Japanese people have worth to save their money for their future.

Thirdly, Canada has lower masculinity than Japan. Canada is 52% and Japan is 95%. It means that in Japan, gender roles are separated more clearly than in Canada. The Japanese focus on getting achievements in their jobs. On the other hand, Canadian focus more on their quality of life than job results. According to “The Global Gender Gap Report 2022” by the World Economic Forum, Japan was ranked 116th of 146 countries. Canada was ranked 25th. It is a fact that Japan has much higher masculinity than not only Canada but also other developed countries.

In conclusion, Canada and Japan have quite different cultural points about a culture by comparing the cultural dimensions of both countries. This report focused on three cultural dimensions, Long Term Orientation, Uncertainly Avoidance, and Individualism. Canadian tend to accept new things and spend money easily, and value, their quality lives more than their jobs. On the other hand, the Japanese tend to avoid new things, save money for their future, and value earning some results. By comparing both countries, the important thing is to know the differences in both cultures and to understand another country deeply.