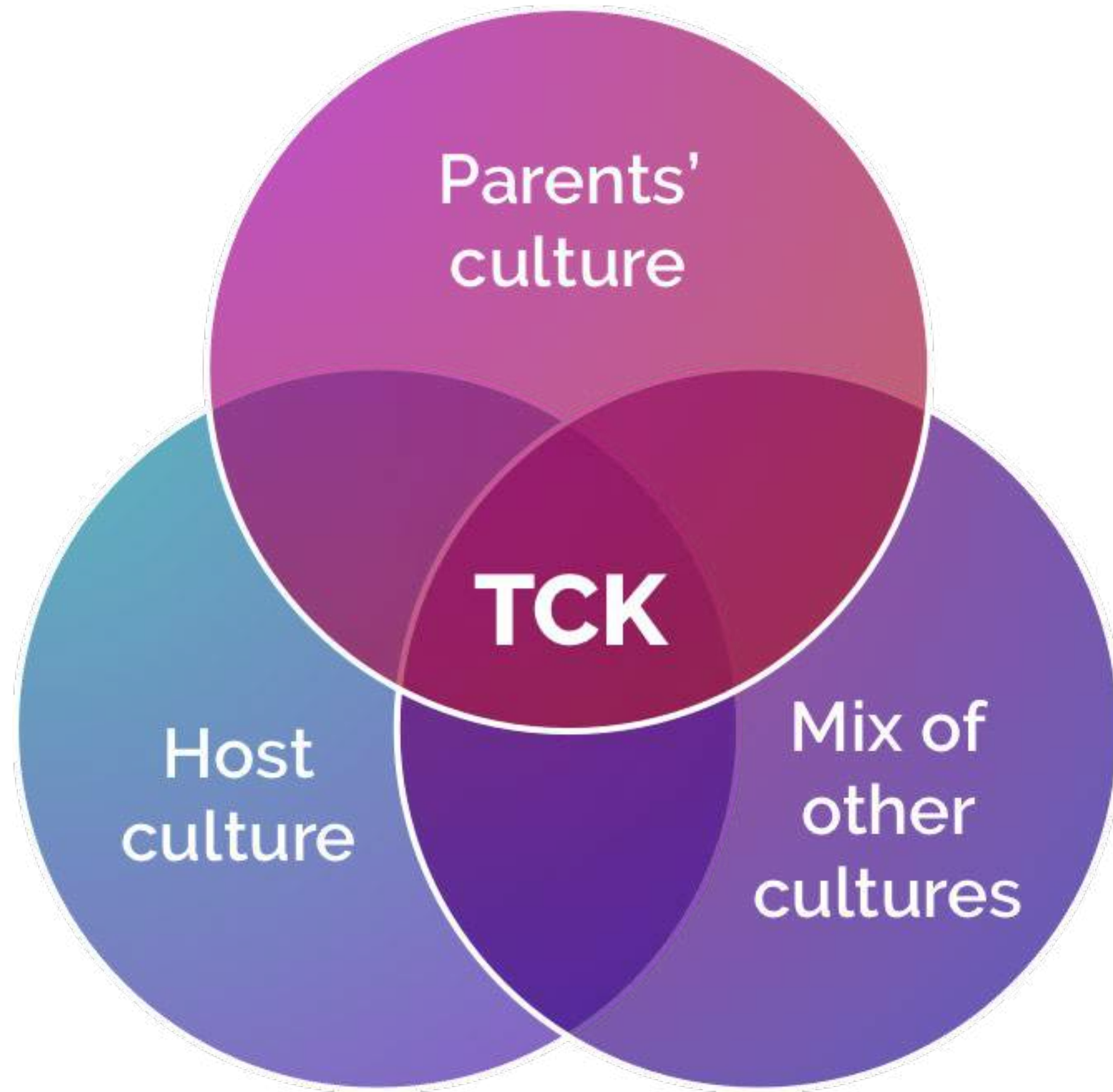




# The Identity Development of Third Culture Kids Living in Japan

Senior High School at Sakado, University of Tsukuba  
W201901-1





# The Issues TCK are Facing

- Identity Crisis
- Learning the language
- Lack of information
- Getting into high school
- Getting used to Japanese school system

# Research Question

What are the experiences and the things Third Culture Kids go through in the process of forming their identity?

# Methodology

1

## Questionnaire

30 students from highschool and university answered 19 questions regarding their upbringing, and their identity.

2

## Discussion

6 students from highschool and university gathered to talk about their experience living as a third culture kid in Japan and its effect on their identity development.



# Questionnaire

## 1. Background

Country of birth

Background

## 2. Culture

- language spoken at home
- friends' nationality
- what your culture means to you
- describe your culture in 3 words
- language spoken outside home

## 3. Identity

- how would you answer the question "what's your nationality?"
- the best things Japanese people did/ said to you, that you liked
- how would you like Japanese to treat foreign kids
- what influence do you have on Japanese as a foreign kid
- things that foreign kids should keep in mind as they live in Japan
- where do people think you are from

# Discussion

## 【Time and Place】

Time : 24th, August 10:00~12:00

Place : UTSS 1A classroom



## 【参加者】

- High-school student whose parents are from China and Japan
  - University student whose parent are both Ghanaian
  - University student whose parent are both Ghanaian
  - University student whose parents are from Nigeria and Ghana
  - University student whose parents are from Uganda and Japan
- ※All the participants were born in Japan

卒業研究 在日外国人の子の文化的アイデンティティ形成について

## Let's talk cultural identity

～文化的アイデンティティについての考えよう～



**Date:** 8月24日  
**Time:** 10:00~12:00  
**Place:** 筑波大学附属坂戸高校

※今回の対象は純外国人・日本と外国のハーフの  
高校1年~3年生5名限定です。



How would you answer the question, “who would you consider yourself as ?”

<b>Answer</b>	<b>Half Japanese 21 people</b>	<b>Neither parent is Japanese 9 people</b>
Foreigner	3	7
Biracial	14	0
Japanese	4	2



# What is the reason for your answer ?

	Foreigner	Biracial	Japanese
1	Nationality	Blood	Thinking
2	Up bringing	Proud of it	Up bringing
3	Blood	Neither foreign nor Japanese	Nationality

# Things Japanese kids said/did to you that you didn't like

“You should be able to run fast because you are black.”

Stereotypical  
Comments

→ They get offended if they can't say that about themselves

# Things Japanese kids said/did to you that you didn't like

Why can't you speak Japanese like us since you were born and raised in Japan ?  
Why can't you get full marks on English tests even though you are a foreigner?

Language  
Knowledge

→It's difficult for them to have full knowledge of one language because they were raised in a multi-cultural environment.

# Conclusion

Third Culture Kids face identity problems such as identity crisis, and they often have a hard time adjusting to a new culture. By going through this process, they are able to have a strong sense of themselves.



# 【Recommendations】

In order for us to live together in harmony, we must learn to accept differences and be open minded. We also need to be more understanding towards people with different backgrounds and culture so that they can feel welcome into the new place.

# 【References】

語言由来辞典「アイデンティティー」 <https://gogen-yurai.jp/identity/> (10月20日)

コトバンク「アイデンティティークライシスとは」 <https://kotobank.jp/word/> (10月20日)

出入国在留管理庁「令和3年末現在における外国人数について」

[https://www.moj.go.jp/isa/publications/press/13\\_00001.html](https://www.moj.go.jp/isa/publications/press/13_00001.html) (10月20日)

厚生労働省「日本における外国人の人口動態2013」

<https://www.mhlw.go.jp/toukei/saikin/hw/jinkou/kakutei13/index.html> (10月20日)

厚生労働省「日本における外国人の人口動態2018」

[https://www.google.com/url?sa=t&source=web&rct=j&url=https://www.mhlw.go.jp/toukei/saikin/hw/jinkou/kakutei18/dl/12\\_betu.pdf&ved=2ahUKEwjolKCvuz6AhXNad4KHUkYCGQQFnoECBEQAQ&usg=AOvVaw2b5zq07nV5AZpiE35j\\_F0c](https://www.google.com/url?sa=t&source=web&rct=j&url=https://www.mhlw.go.jp/toukei/saikin/hw/jinkou/kakutei18/dl/12_betu.pdf&ved=2ahUKEwjolKCvuz6AhXNad4KHUkYCGQQFnoECBEQAQ&usg=AOvVaw2b5zq07nV5AZpiE35j_F0c) (10月20日)

厚生労働省「日本における外国人の人口動態」

[https://www.mhlw.go.jp/toukei/saikin/hw/jinkou/kakutei21/dl/12\\_betu.pdf](https://www.mhlw.go.jp/toukei/saikin/hw/jinkou/kakutei21/dl/12_betu.pdf) (10月20日)

CCS世界の子どもと手をつなぐ学生の会「外国にルーツを持つ子が抱える問題」[https://ccs-](https://ccs-ngo.main.jp/issue/)

<https://ccs-ngo.main.jp/issue/> (10月20日)

Abemaネクストルネサンス「アイデンティティーを構成する7要素」 <https://ameblo.jp/japan-mission/entry-12040816774.html> (10月20日)

Thank you!

The background features a vibrant pink color with various abstract shapes in yellow and orange. These shapes include wavy lines, circles, and irregular blobs, some with white highlights. A large, stylized pink number '2' is positioned in the lower right quadrant of the image.