

Learning about multiculturalism in Nara through the Halal Map

1. Motivation behind Research Paper

My topic is "to reach true multiculturalism in Nara.' Do you know about multiculturalism? It means everyone admits the differences of cultures across the world to each other and live together equally. I am in the "power of global " seminar. I studied immigrants and refugees around the world, unconscious prejudice and the truth of religions. I and fellow students of the seminar were attentive to not having prejudices to religions unconsciously. So I thought that there were a lot of people that had not recognized it.

2. Introduction

The aim of this research paper is to promote multiculturalism in Nara by producing a Halal map. For it, research was conducted on what information would be useful and beneficial to local inhabitants and tourists who are not only Muslims but also Japanese.

Information for this research paper was collected in two ways. Firstly, we had an interview with a person from the Nara Tourism Division and got advice on how to make the map for visitors. Also, we visited a few restaurants that handle Halal food. The research group spoke to store clerks and learned about their businesses.

3. Results and Analysis

The team producing the Halal map, including myself, went to Sarusawa Inn. We listened to people in their facilities and a person who works in the Nara Tourism Division. They looked over the Halal map which we made. Then, they told us that it's most important to produce it from a tourist's point of view. We should be more creative to make the Halal map tourist-friendly. This could be done in three ways. Firstly, make the words easy to read. We made the Halal map for Japanese people. So, we needed to use Hepburn romanization (the most widely used system of romanization for the Japanese language) so people in all countries can read it. Secondly, we had to display the information on the map in a way that was easy to understand. Popular maps usually use easy signs. We also had to place symbols of shrines and temples. It will be easy for tourists to find the location. And we needed to accommodate them getting new information as the maps were updated. It is impossible to assume when people will use the map, so we have to update information every day once it is published. A person who works in the Nara Tourism division told us using a QR code would be a good idea. Moreover, we created a website and suggested a QR code links to the map. Every time information changes, we can update it on the website. It's possible to share new information after tourists take in a QR code with their smartphones.

We also went to PY halal kitchen and interviewed an employee there. PY halal kitchen is a restaurant that provides halal food in Nara City. He said, "Restaurants that are introduced in Halal maps need to qualify." This means having Halal certification and official recognition by a Halal Certification Organization. In fact, to provide halal foods only is the only way to gain Halal certification. By the way,

this restaurant provides halal food and does not use antiseptic solutions because Muslims can't deal in alcohol for religious tradition. We didn't know about Halal certification. If we introduce non-halal foods to Muslims, this incident will develop into an international problem.

4. Conclusion and Future Problems

I think it's an essential connection for people in the world to stand for our life. By recognizing multiculturalism, people can connect and live in peace. Our production theme was done with the hope that the Halal map would help tourists, including Muslims, to visit Nara Prefecture with peace of mind. But, it changed through this project. I came to think that we need to work on ourselves as a goal. I will take concrete examples from this project. For example, we called restaurants to be featured on the map, planned designs that tourists can understand easily and went to Sarusawa Inn. They have independent attitudes. We walked by ourselves. So, we want to say that the Halal map was realized by us. We believe that the process of creating the Halal Map and the effects it will bring to society itself will be the attitude of multiculturalism that we will realize in our own way.

In the future, we will collect these production results. After that, we have to consider how to convey multiculturalism to people in other areas.

5. Reflection

Talking about multiculturalism and finding its weaknesses are easy. I was able to think about what I was doing for the problem through this project. In recent years, pleas of social problems commencing with human rights issues have increased. But

circumstances surrounding the people concerned have not changed a lot. So, I think our project is a good result for multiculturalism. We have also learned that in order to convey this appeal to people, it is essential to design maps that are eye-catching and easy for people to use. I think it's important not only to communicate but also how it is delivered to people's hearts and minds.

6. Work Cited

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