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***Hafu* in Japanese Society: Name Shifts as an Indicator of Changes in the Image of *Hafu* in Japanese Society**

Hafu is a word often used to describe people who have one Japanese and one foreign parent in Japan. Although *Hafu* is still the most popular word to describe such people, the name has been changing in postwar Japan. At first, children of mixed heritage were called *Konketsu* (mixed-blood) which then shifted to *Hafu* meaning “half Japanese”. Since both words can be considered discriminatory, terms such as *Daburu* (double), *Kokusaiji* (international kids) and ‘mix’ have emerged. Interestingly, despite *hafu* being perceived as almost an individual category of race or ethnicity in Japan, studies that focus on minorities in Japan tend to overlook them. By focusing on changes in the ways they have been called, this paper will examine the peculiar position of *Hafu* and their image shifting within Japanese society and even within minorities (cultural others) in Japan. This paper will discuss the need of recognition of people with transnational/transcultural backgrounds, and aim to go beyond discussions that treat minority groups as cultural others and allow Japanese to construct the self image of “us Japanese”.