

POS-049

## **Practical Research on Appreciation Guidance of Opera Focusing on the Effects and Role of Music for High School Students**

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### **Abstract**

According to the national music education for senior high school in Japan, appreciation of synthetic art such as opera and kabuki in music education aims to relate music to many elements such as libretto, stage sets and performance of singer. However, in my lessons, most students seemed to focus on the plot or feeling of characters, excluding music in synthetic art. Therefore, I supposed that it would be effective to focus on the motif, which suggests change of characters' feelings or situation in the drama.

The purpose of this study is to examine how high school students come to understand the role and effect of music in opera by concentrating on the motif. The methods of research are as follows.

In this research, I analyze descriptive words on the worksheet and observe the students, through the three lessons to first year high school students. The aim of the lessons is to understand the mood and role of the melody called "Motif of Destiny" in *Carmen* composed by Bizet. The students try to play the melody on the keyboard so that they can fully appreciate to it. After students listen to "Prelude" including the "Motif of Destiny", they came to appreciate three scenes I chose ("Habanera" in first act, "The flower's song" in second act and Finale of forth act) in which the motif of destiny is skillfully used. The students freely wrote about the role of motif after appreciating the three scenes. I analyzed their descriptive words with KH Coder. So, two main things were shown from these activities. First, many students were able to listen to where the motif was used in each appreciated scene. Based on that, the students thought about the role of motif and related the motif to the three scenes. Second, they could understand characters change of feelings as well. From these results, it could be said that the students were able to appreciate the opera with a focus on music.

There are only a few previous studies about synthetic art in music education. Consequently, I feel that it is necessary to further research about the connection of both music and drama. Furthermore, it will also be necessary to understand the cultural and historical background of synthetic art.