

「さとり世代」 “The Enlightened Generation”

Tom Gally

「さとり世代」とは

『朝日新聞』が教育面のシリーズ記事「いま子どもたちは」で今年の4-5月に「さとり世代」について連載。その第1回(4月24日)に掲載の解説によれば、主に2002-10年度の学習指導要領で学校教育を受けた**ゆとり世代**(1980年代半ば以降生まれで現在の年齢は10代-20代半ば)とほぼ重なるとみられ、「明確な定義がないが、①車やブランド品、海外旅行に興味がない ②お金を稼ぐ意欲が低い ③地元志向 ④恋愛に淡泊 ⑤過程より結果を重視 ⑥ネットが主な情報源 ⑦読書好きで物知り——といった特徴があるとされる」。(編集部)

The first computer password I ever used was *satori*.

The time was around 1979, and I was a graduate student at the University of Chicago. Every term, the

university gave each student 25 dollars' worth of computer time, which we could use to run programs through the terminals¹⁾ located in the library. A friend of mine had become hooked on²⁾ a text-based computer game — one where³⁾ the computer would type out a situation (“You are standing at the front gate of a castle.”) and you were supposed to type in commands (“Knock on the gate.”)— and he suggested that I try it, too.

I spent a few dollars' worth of computer time trying to play the game, but I could never seem to guess the right commands. (“I don't understand what you mean,” the computer would keep responding. “Please try again.”) So I told my friend my user name and password, and he used my remaining money to keep playing the game. The password I had chosen was *satori*.

I had probably learned the word from the title of a book by Jack Kerouac, *Satori in Paris*.⁴⁾ Like a lot of young Americans, I had gone through a period when I was engrossed in Kerouac's autobiographical novels — *On the Road*, *The Dharma Bums*, others. The word *satori* also appears in the poems of Kerouac's friend Allen Ginsburg,

1) terminal コンピューター端末.

2) become hooked on . . . …に夢中になる.

3) one = a text-based computer game. where は, そのゲーム空間, 場で行われることを説明するための関係副詞.

which I also read.

According to the *Oxford English Dictionary*, the word *satori* first appeared in English in 1727, in the translation of a German book about Japan. In the 20th century, the word was used first in writings about Japanese Buddhism; later, it took on a hipster cachet⁵⁾ through the works of Beat writers like Kerouac and Ginsburg. But it was still an unusual word, and I think I chose it for my password to show off my exotic vocabulary.

Although it might be translated as “an epiphany” or “enlightenment,” *satori*’s nuances are difficult to convey through any single word in English. Last year, I wrote a paper for a European academic journal about the use of Japanese-Japanese dictionaries (*kokugo jiten*) by learners of Japanese as a second language. Because some of the journal’s

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- 4) 邦題『パリの悟り』。「自伝的なアイデンティティ探究のフランス旅行を扱った」1966年の小説。後出のタイトル2つは前者が代表作『路上』(1957年)。後者は邦題が『禅ヒッピー』『ジェフィ・ライダー物語——青春のビートニック』『ザ・ダルマ・バムズ』と変遷。「作者[ケルアック]自身と[詩人 Gary] Snyderをモデルに、禅の悟りを求める旅を描く」1958年の小説。(以上「 」内は研究社『20世紀英語文学辞典』Kerouac 項より)
- 5) **take on a hipster cachet** おしゃれな[進んでる]響きを帯びる。**hipster**には後出の Beat 世代・ビート族 (**beat generation**)、ヒッピーの意味もある(研究社『リーダーズ英和辞典 第3版』)。**cachet**は「(世間が認める) 特色」といった意味。

readers might not be familiar with such dictionaries or able to read Japanese, I decided to annotate in detail the dictionary entry⁶⁾ for one Japanese word. I needed a word that a learner might want to look up and that⁷⁾ would be difficult to understand solely from the translations in bilingual dictionaries.⁸⁾ After some thought, the word that I chose was *satoru*, the verb corresponding to *satori*.



The mass media like generations.⁹⁾ During the past few decades, the American media have tossed around¹⁰⁾ terms such as the Greatest Generation (those who grew up during the Depression¹¹⁾ of the 1930s and served¹²⁾ in World War II), the Baby Boom Generation (people born after the war), Generation X (those born from the mid-1960s to around 1980), Generation Y (their successors,¹³⁾ also called the Millennials), and Generation Z (today's teenagers).

6) entry (辞書の) 見出し項目.

7) a word を先行詞とする 2 つめの関係詞節を導く that (主格).

8) bilingual dictionaries (2 か国語辞典) とは和英辞典 (Japanese-English dictionaries) などのこと.

9) The mass media . . . マスメディアは世代というものを好む.

10) toss around 〈ある表現などを〉持ち出す, 出してみる (『研究社—ロングマン 句動詞英和辞典』).

11) the (Great) Depression 大恐慌.

12) serve in a war 戦争に従軍する.

13) their successors Generation X の次世代.

In Japan, we have seen *dankai no sedai* (Japan's baby boomers), *shinjinrui* (the new breed), *dankai junia* (the baby boom juniors), and *yutori sedai* (the pressure-free generation).

The *yutori sedai*, who were born from the late 1980s to the mid-1990s, got their name from the relaxed educational standards — fewer class hours, less demanding curricula — that took effect in 2002. This lighter load, combined with a rebellion against their parents' competitive status-seeking¹⁴⁾ during the economic bubble of the 1980s, has supposedly made the *yutori* generation less brand-conscious,¹⁵⁾ less ambitious about work and money, more accepting of things as they are.¹⁶⁾ Because this same combination of wisdom and resignation¹⁷⁾ supposedly characterizes the transcendence of people who have achieved Buddhist *satori*, and because *yutori* and *satori* rhyme,¹⁸⁾ and because there's something a bit comical about referring to unambitious young people by an exalted Buddhist term, this cohort¹⁹⁾ is

14) cf. seek status 社会的 (に高い) 地位をめざす, 社会的に認められようと努める (研究社『新編 英和活用大辞典』status 項).

15) brand consciousness なら「ブランド意識」.

16) accept things as they are 物事があるがまま受け入れる.

17) resignation 諦観.

18) *yutori* and *satori* rhyme 「ゆとり」と「さとり」は韻を踏む.

19) cohort 統計学では「コーホート」. 特定の期間に出生や結婚のような出来事を経験した集団 (三省堂『大辞林 第3版』).

now being called the *satori sedai* — the *satori* generation.

I have long doubted whether the generational categories favored by the media really exist. Although I was born in 1957, the peak year of the baby boom in the United States, I see little of myself or of friends my age²⁰⁾ in the media stereotypes²¹⁾ of “boomers.” Among college-age Japanese²²⁾ now, I know a few who are indeed calm and resigned, but I also know some who are driven²³⁾ and striving and many more who are somewhere in between. Overall, they don’t seem very different from young people twenty or thirty years ago.

In any case, it’s better to think of people not as types or groups or generations but as individuals. Rather than *yutori sedai* or *satori sedai*, I would like to propose a new term: *hitori sedai*, the generation of each person, the generation of every one of us, now and forever. Maybe that’s the term I’ll use for my next password.

20) friends my age 同年代の友人。

21) see little of . . . in the stereotypes …はステレオタイプにはほとんど当てはまらないと思う。

22) college-age Japanese 大学生の年代の日本人。

23) driven やる気満々の (研究社『ルミナス英和辞典 第2版』)。

(注釈の日本語は編集部による)

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