Intercultural Communications: Comparative essay

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What do you think about national character in your country? If people have different culture and custom, they have different national character as well. I am from Japan, and I am staying with homestay family who are from Canada now. Then, I realized that Japanese people always beat around the bush, but Canadian people are very straightforward. In this essay, I tell you huge differences of cultural dimension between Canada and Japan such as Individualism, Uncertainty Avoidance and Long-Term Orientation.

Firstly, Canada has an individualism and Japan has a collectivism. In Canada, each employees have responsible for themselves like their work achievement and their own identity. They can separate their private life and work life. However, in Japan, most important thing is having loyalty to the group they are belonging such as company and family. They hold value in achieving the goal with team. Therefore, they work out a schedule to work as a team, and they prioritize work over personal life.

Secondly, Japan has higher uncertainly avoidance than Canada. It means that Japanese employees avoid taking a risk and prefer ensuring the success even if it takes time. They are afraid of failing and they are conservative people. On the other hand, in Canada, people like challenging something new. They think that taking a risk is a good chance to learn and improve. They have confident to get over the difficulties.

Thirdly, Japan has a Long-term orientation and Canada has a Short-term orientation. Japanese people aim attention at their future, and they believe that the continuation of doing something is what is important in their life. Also, they work hard to save money for the future. For instance, they save up for retirement fund and the future of their child. But Canadian people focus on the present and put emphasis on getting results in a short period. Most of them are not too concerned about their future unlike Japanese people. Now is most important for them.

In conclusion, Japan and Canada have different cultural aspects and I can see them from people’s lives. In Japan, people are collectivist person, risk-averse and they keep doing their best to get something in the process. On the contrary, in Canada, people are individualist, and they believe risk-taking leads to success. Also, Canadian people are result-oriented person. Therefore, I think that there are huge differences of national mentality.