A STUDY ON THE INFORMAITAIZATION AND THE TRANSFORMATION OF DOMESTIC SPACES THROUGH THE RECEPTION OF NEW ICTs

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[SYNOPSIS]

Since the emergence of new information and communication technologies based on digital technique, the "informatization" of Japanese society has entered a new stage. Of particular importance is a deep penetration of new ICTs such as the Internet and personal computers into our everyday life. And in keeping with this trend, the information environment in Japanese households which had been stabilized basically on the mass media and fixed phones for several decades is now rapidly changing. However, despite a profound implication of this change, we have not acquired even the rough understanding of the reality of new ICTs in Japanese households.

With these points in mind, at first, this research project aims to construct a theoretical framework to examine the reception of new ICTs in domestic space. Confronting this theoretical issue, we critically review the model of domestication of technologies developed by R. Silverstone et.al and add some theoretical modification from the viewpoint of Actor Network Theory. And secondly, based on this theoretical examination, we conducted an ethnographic survey on cultural integration of new ICTs into Japanese household and suggest that we should pay attention to the techno-social character of households. Furthermore, to examine the possibility of novel relationship between users and producers of technologies, we conducted participant observation in educational workshop on computer literacy for children in Bunkyo-ku, Tokyo.