
Abstract

Psychological and social factors in the process of engagement in dialogue among survivors of the battle of Okinawa

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This study explored the factors that influenced Okinawan World War II survivors to break their silence and engage in dialogue about their experiences. Four support group participants were interviewed, and their narratives were analyzed using a Trajectory Equifinality Approach. They shared their experiences of mutual support during post-war chaos and their struggles with legal and administrative testimonies. Influential factors included the impact of U.S. military bases, the historical milestone of Okinawa's reversion, and encounters with other survivors, prompting them to reconsider the significance of sharing their stories. After careful consideration and empowered by support, they reconstructed their narratives, openly discussing their war experiences. Desires to honor the deceased and contribute to peace, influenced by societal contexts, were also linked to their storytelling. The study highlights that articulating war experiences is shaped by psychological, developmental, and social factors, emphasizing the need for a broader understanding of trauma and the importance of advocacy by clinical psychologists and therapists.

Keywords: Okinawan survivors of World War II, dialogue, support group, trauma, Trajectory Equifinality Approach
