Yasukuni Shrine

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Abstract

Have you ever been to Yasukuni Shrine? In Japan, the problem of a visit to Yasukuni Shrine has been discussed for a long time. As a matter of fact, the prime minister Nakasone, Hashimoto, Koizumi, and Abe visited to Yasukuni Shrine in the past. Every time those prime ministers visited there, there were both arguments for and against not only in Japan, but also in foreign countries. Although some people said that Japanese people should visit to Yasukuni Shrine in order to reminisce people who had been killed in the war, I suppose that it would mean praise of the war. Therefore, in this essay, I will outline both opinions, concluding that I disagree with a visit to Yasukuni Shrine.

First, I would like to explain the problem of a visit to Yasukuni Shrine. To begin with, Yasukuni Shrine is located in Tokyo and it was built by the Emperor Meiji in 1869. However, after the end of the World War Ⅱ, Yasukuni Shrine was changed into the shrine managed by the religious corporation (Fukuda, 2017). Moreover, a lot of the war dead were enshrined there, for example soldiers, nurses, and students that were killed, struggling against enemies in the war.

Judging from how Yasukuni Shrine was established, visiting to Yasukuni Shrine means that people worship lives of the war dead. In Japan, people tend to believe the human soul is immortal, so most people visit and pray in a shrine to respect it. According to Prime Minister Koizumi, the reason why he visited and worshiped Yasukuni Shrine was that he comforted lives of people who fought for their country and killed in the war and that he reflected the past, pledging to renounce war. Namely, people tend to visit the shrine for a memorial and peace. Thus, it is natural that people visit Yasukuni Shrine, appreciating lives and peace.

However, on the other hand, some people criticized people for visiting Yasukuni Shrine. In 1980’s, as class-A war criminals were enshrined to Yasukuni Shrine, people not only in Japan, but also in neighboring countries, including China and Korea opposed visiting Yasukuni Shrine (Fukuda, 2017).

I regard a visit to Yasukuni Shrine as a symbol of the Japanese virtue which it is the best to fight for Japanese and be enshrined as a hero. People might glorify past Japanese militarism owing to a visit to Yasukuni Shrine. In fact, some Japanese people are apt to regard losing their lives for Japan as a virtue like the kamikaze special attack corps. I feel that a visit to Yasukuni Shrine means justifying these tragic faiths. Above all, as I mentioned before, in Yasukuni Shrine, a lot of people killed in the war were enshrined, including class-A war criminals.

Besides that, a visit to Yasukuni has been causing political issues among neighboring countries. Although there are several reasons why these issues were led, one of them would be that Yasukuni Shrine paid no attention to a will of the bereaved. Hence, Japanese people, especially the prime minister, should refrain from visiting Yasukuni Shrine in order to make diplomatic relations better.

To summarize, I disagree with a visit to Yasukuni Shrine for two reasons. First, it would mean approving of the war and class-A war criminals. Second, neighboring countries indicated critical attitudes for it, so Japanese people should abstain from worshiping Yasukuni Shrine.

REFERENCES

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Corpus Analysis Addendum

The topic of my persuasive paper is the visit to Yasukuni Shrine. I chose this topic because I have a great interest in prime minister’s visit to Yasukuni Shrine. There was a general election this month in Japan, so I suppose that I have to understand this issue in order to judge the right politician. In my essay, I would like to express the idea that Yasukuni Shrine was made in the past. In Japanese, this would be expressed by *Tateru* (建てる) . My dictionary lists several possible lexical items: set up, build, and install.

To clarify this, I used British National Corpus, BNC, which can be found at <https://www.english-corpora.org/bnc/>. I found the following examples.

It appears that *set up* is used to make groups and organizations, as in the following:

  and Law A Level, if there's an Amnesty International I would like to **set** **up** a group in the college I hope you're involved in local groups

   so long, I've completely forgot about it. We do when we **set** **up** this group we asked for a

representative Ah, yes

we've sort of **set** **up** a special group for the 2.

However, *build* is used for the construction of building. For example,

 were dug up to commemorate the atrocity. And plans are already afoot to to **build** a church

there called the Cathedral On Spilt Blood. Edvard Radzinsky -- an author

  Up to 81,000 tonnes of steel would be used to **build** the pylon towers.

Thus, in my persuasive paper, build would be appropriate for my sentence:

Yasukuni Shrine is located in Tokyo and it was built by the Emperor Meiji in 1869.