

問題 次の英文を日本語に全訳しなさい。

Social stratification is concerned with the patterning of inequality and its enduring consequences on the lives of those who experience it. All of us live within pre-existing relations of unequal power; status or economic resources; and these unequal relations surround and constrain us, providing the context of our interactions, inevitably affecting the choices we make in life, opening some channels of opportunity, and closing off others. This is a condition of social life (individual choice is always limited by the choices of those around us), but stratification is concerned with how some have more freedom and choice than others. Money, power or influence give those who possess them greater control over the external forces which affect us all, and open doors which might otherwise be closed. The point of stratification analysis is to see how such inequalities persist and endure – over lifetimes and between generations. Going to university, for example, opens the door to higher-level, better-paid jobs. So someone who cannot take up a university place because they cannot afford the fees will be affected by this throughout their life, in the sort of career they can get, and in the level of their lifetime earnings. If we start off as unequal, these disadvantages are likely to accumulate and be reinforced over our lifetimes. As the old phrase has it: ‘the rich get richer, and the poor get poorer’.

The study of stratification is therefore the study of how inequalities between individuals at any given point in time are reproduced between and across generations. As Otis Duncan argues, the difference between *inequality* and *stratification* is that ‘social *stratification* refers to the persistence

of positions in a hierarchy of inequality, either over the life time of a birth cohort of individuals or, more particularly, between generations’ (1968: 681). The notion of *inter-generational transmission* is important here. Inequality in one generation affects inequality in the next. The resources that are available to us growing up as children affect the success of our schooling, and so our eventual occupational careers, and the lifestyles we adopt as adults. However, this means there is also an impact on the *next* generation, since our social position influences the resources to which our children have access, and so their life-chances too. Here the social location of children constrains the choices of their adult lives, and the choices of *their* children, quite independent of their individual efforts. So social stratification also looks at the extent to which advantage (or disadvantage) is handed down from one generation to the next, reproducing the pattern of inequalities between individuals and groups over time.

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