

Introduction: The nursing diagnosis of "anxiety of death" (hereafter referred to as death anxiety) occurs when a patient is aware of death and feels that death is a threat. To diagnose "death anxiety" in clinical practice, matching the patient's response including the patient's behavior, with diagnostic indicators is essential. However, the patient's verbal expression does not necessarily mean "I am close to death, so I am anxious." In a survey on the actual application of the nursing diagnosis "death anxiety" to the end-of-life stage, nurses found it difficult to match patient responses with diagnostic indices (Shimomai et al. 2016). Additionally, even if fear and anxiety differ from neuroscience, the linguistic expressions of the patients are "painful," "scared," "restless," and "worried." Judging whether such words and actions are an expression of "death anxiety" or "fear" due to awareness of death is difficult. What is important for nurses who perform a diagnosis is whether the patient is expressing a response due to awareness of death. Therefore, herein, we reviewed how Japanese people express "end-of-life" linguistically to explore what language they use when they feel that their death is imminent. The definition of "end-of-life" varies from researcher to researcher. It is a time, however, when death is approaching. We believe that how people express this end-of-life period provides clues as to whether they are aware of death. We therefore aimed to review how Japanese verbally express "end-of-life" to explore the language they use to express this once they sense that their death is near, and to use this as a clue to determine if a patient is aware of their imminent death.

Methods: We searched for the top 100 best-selling books on "death and the end of life" on Amazon, as well as books held by the National Diet Library and local public libraries, using the keyword "end-of-life." The search period was September 2022 ~ November 2022. Analysis: Since it is the patient who expresses awareness of death, we analyzed how people generally express 'end-of-life.' In the analysis ①, we checked the themes and contents of 100 books on "End of Life" in the "Top Selling Ranking" published by Amazon to find books on the theme of death and the 'end-of-life', and excluded specialized books (texts, etc.) aimed at medical professionals. (2) Books from the National Diet Library and local public libraries were searched according to method (1). The selected books were only those that can be viewed online or in libraries. (3) Excerpted verbal expressions of people who had been notified of having a life-threatening disease and had received some explanation of the prognosis.

Study on the Timing to Apply the NANDA-1 Nursing Diagnosis of "Death Anxiety"

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Table 1. List of subjective expressions of death

Year	Title	Author	Publisher	Subjective expressions of death (speculative interpretation)
Mar, 1973	Gan to tatakatta Ju-nenkan Shi wo mitumeru Kokoro	Hideo Kishimoto	Kodansha Ltd.	「wakare no toki (The time has come to say good-bye, never to meet again.)」, 「Kamae ga dekiru (I have a strong sense of intention, Ready to face death.)」, 「Dosoku no mamade zukazuka to norikondekuru Muhousha no youna mono...Ningen no chikara dewa tomeru-kotomo ugokasu-kotomo dekinai. (Death comes against human power, Human power can not compete.)」, 「Shinanakereba naranai. (I have to die)」
Jul, 1980	Rinshi-kanja no Kea no Rion to Jissai	Tetsuo Kashiwagi	The Jpn Research Institute Ltd.	「Ryoushin no motoni ikouto omoimasu. (I want to go to the place where my parents are already dead.)」 「Watashi ha mou dameda to omoimasu. (I don't think I can do it anymore.)」 「Anoyo he sakini ikimasu. (Dying first.)」
Dec, 2009	Gan wo ikiru	Tsuneo Sasaki	Kodansha Ltd.	「Mou-ichido ikitai. (I want to live again.)」, 「Ikitai. (I really want to live.)」, 「Ookina zentaitekina "wakare" to kangaeta. (I thought that "Farewell" was big and whole for me.)」, 「Shi toha Jangle de atta Toru noyouni jissaini osoiakattekuru. (Death really hits me like a tiger in the jungle.)」
Jun, 2014	Jibun de kimeru Jinsei no Oikata	Keiko Higuchi	Minrrva Shobo Head Office, JPG.	「Inochi no owari. (The end of my life.)」, 「Jinsei saigo no mukaekata. (How to accept the end of my life.)」
2015	「Omukae」 sarete Hito ha iku Shumatsukiryō to Mitori no Ima	Shigeko Okuno	POPULAR PUBLISHING CO., LTD.	「"Omukae" genshou. ("invisible", "something comes to pick me up", "from the land of dead" phenomenon)」
Mar, 2016	Shiniyuku-Katei wo Ikiru Shumatsuki-Gankanja no Keiken no Shakaigaku	Shimon Tashiro	Sekaishisha-Kyogakusha Co., Ltd.	「Kokuchi. (Notification my death.)」, 「Ryoyou kankyou no sentaku. (Choose my healing environment.)」, 「Nanika wo nokosukoto. (Leave something special my life.)」, 「"taiken" means experience.)」
May, 2017	Shinu-toki hajimete kizuku Jinsei de Taisetuna-koto	Shuichi Otsu	GENTOSHA INC.	「Jinsei no owari. (The end of my living.)」
Jan, 2018	Hito ha sukuenai ga 「Iyasu」 koto ha dekiru	Yozo Taniyama	Kawade Shobo Shinsha Publishers inc.	「"shi" to mukiaukoto ha "Jibun" to mukiaukoto. (Facing "death" means facing "myself".)」, 「Shi no kanasimi. (The sorrow of my death.)」, 「Wakare no tsurasa. (The pain of parting with death.)」, 「Konoyo. (This life., This world.)」, 「Kokoro-nokori. (I have some regrets.)」
Dec, 2019	Boku ha Shinanai	Ken Toneyama	SB Creative Corp.	「Kamisama kousan desu. Subete wo yudanemasu. (God, I surrender everything.)」, 「Shinenai. (I don't want to die yet.)」, 「Shinunoga kowai. kowai. kowai. kowaiyo. Dameda dameda sinitakunai. (No, I don't to die.)」, 「Iya shinanai. (I will never die.)」
May, 2022	Iki-kata Jouzu	Fumino Ishikura	GENTOSHA INC.	「Iyo-iyō shiki mo chikai to kakugo shita. (I realized that my death was finally approaching.)」, 「Shi ha konoyo kara anoyo ni ikudake. (Death is just going from this world to the next.)」

Findings: Four books were selected from Amazon's top 100 best-selling ranks. Additionally, in a search of the National Diet Library, 17 of 343 books and 12 books from local public libraries were selected. The language of people who are aware of their imminent death included: "The end has come," "I don't want to die," "I'm afraid of dying," "I don't want to, I don't want to die," "I'm done with it," "I've been welcomed," "My body is decaying," "The end of life," "The end of my living," "There is something left to do in this world," "Death is inevitable," "Dying first," "Withering," "It is over," "It is finally over," and "No, I don't want to die." See the Table 1 List of subjective expressions of death.

Conclusion: When patients felt that their own death is near, there were those who denied or rejected death, those who accepted their inevitable fate of death, and those expressing their body's image, such as "decaying" or "withering," terms used to express the end of the life of a plant.

Implications on clinical practice: The end of life means that the person has little time left, and patients' awareness of their own mortality may lead to "death anxiety." Therefore, it can be said that the timing as to when "death anxiety" occurred was when the patient became aware of imminent death and made a verbal comment concerning death. In this study, the scope of the search was very narrow because only readable books were analyzed, and non-verbal expressions were not included. In the future, empirical research is needed to determine how to judge a patient's death anxiety from nonverbal expressions.

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