

# Positive and Negative Effects of Status on Longevity: Evidence from the Two Comparable Literary-prizes in Japan

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**Abstract** We show that winning a prize can have both positive and negative effects on longevity, by using the dataset of the two comparable literary-prizes in Japan, which are the Akutagawa and Naoki prizes. In the Akutagawa prize mainly for rookie novelists and serious literature, the winners exhibit 67.5% lower mortality than the nominees. The increase of longevity is estimated at 3.3 years. On the other hand, in the Naoki prize for experienced novelists and popular literature, the winners exhibit 35.4% higher mortality than the nominees, and the reduction of longevity is estimated at 3.3 years. These results indicate the possibility that the positive effect is weakened when novelists already have had stable socio-economic status. In addition, for those novelists, winning a prize could lead to unhealthy outcomes. The contribution of our findings is in answering why the previous studies showed differential effects of winning prizes.

**Keywords:** Status, Longevity, Mortality, Cox's Proportional Hazard Model, Time-dependent Covariates, Time-dependent Coefficients

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