Ideological problems of JSL education in Japanese universities

Will we devote ourselves to economic supremacy or to cultivation of alternative values?

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My presentation focus  
JSL education in Japanese universities

Q1  
What is the current situation and controversies in your field in terms of policy, pedagogy, testing, and so on?  
↓  
Political situation

A Plan for 300,000 Exchange Student

• 2000: Start presenting new policy for globalization  
  • 2008: “A plan for 300,000 exchange student”  
    – 2008: 123,829 → By 2020:300,000  
    – “to expand the flow of people, resources, money and information as a part of ‘globalization strategy’”  
    – “to attract excellent international students strategically”  
    – “employment of highly skilled foreign professionals”  
      (Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology et al., 2008, 1 * Translated by Segawa from the Japanese version referring to English translation by Takashi Iwasaki, Susan Schmidt and Anthony Ogden, 2008)

2 grant project started by the Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology = MEXT

• The Global 30 Project  
  – 2009-2013  
  – To accept more international students  
• Top Global University Project  
  – 2014-  
  – To accept more international students  
  – To send more Japanese student abroad

Rapid declining birth rate and aging population  
↓  
International students  
↓  
Highly skilled human resources  
  to maintain and develop Japanese economic growth

Political situation

→  
Global 30 Project

–  
Top Global University Project

2000: Start presenting new policy for globalization

2008: “A plan for 300,000 exchange student”  
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  – “to expand the flow of people, resources, money and information as a part of ‘globalization strategy’”  
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2009-2013: The Global 30 Project

2014+: Top Global University Project

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Rapid declining birth rate and aging population  
↓  
International students  
↓  
Highly skilled human resources  
  to maintain and develop Japanese economic growth
Requirements of the grants for international students

• Improving JSL courses for international students
• Establishing new degree-seeking courses conducted in English

(MEXT 2009, 2014)

* Courses for international students might be shifting to be conducted only in English.

How can the JSL education in Japanese universities maintain or improve its presence corresponding to these political trends?

Answer 1
Education of business Japanese

• To find employments in Japan-related companies
• To keep working for the companies

Answer 2
Effective JSL programs for major studies

• Enabling international students to complete their professional courses without linguistic problems
• Ex. Iori (2013)

Q2
What ideological forces influence or challenge the policy and practice?

Does the JSL education in Japanese universities have to correspond to the educational policy?
Goal of policy for globalization
Enhancing international competitiveness of Japanese economy
JSL education makes international students into exploitable human resources for Japanese economic power

Recent critical research in JSL education studies (1990s-)
Linguistic and cultural norms ideologies
Imagined standard models of Japanese people and Japanese native speakers
Making learners include into and exclude from Japanese modeled norms

Controversial issues
Ideologies and pedagogies in JSL education
Will we keep teaching standards of Japanese people or native speakers?
OR
Will we keep looking for alternative possibilities?

Business Japanese
JSL program for major studies
- Meaningful for each student
- Supportive to economic supremacy in Japan

Q3
How can the challenges be overcome in the future?

Encouraging to find each task
Students finding each own task from their familiar issues= worldwide issues
To stop clinging to specific identity
To obtain plural and flexible identities
To cross borders without hesitations
Bringing up confidence and will of communication
• Essential elements to accomplish the tasks
  – Confidence: I can express my ideas to others with my own language resources.
  – Will: I will keep trying to express my ideas to others with my own language resources.
• JSL classrooms: Place to find better ways by expressing their own ideas with each other

From education of skills to education of alternative values
• Realization values in JSL education
  – Arbitrariness of national and linguistic norms
  – Complexity of identities
  – Potentiality of exchanging own ideas with each other
  (Council of Europe 2007, Segawa 2011)

From education of skills to education of values
• Current educational policy
  – Nationalism and economic supremacy
• JSL education need to make good use of own educational opportunities strategically
  – University, faculty, course, classroom, word

Let’s bring up the worlds’ citizens (Hosokawa 2012) who can solve their personal and world problems through communication with strong will and hope.

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