

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

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Q1

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



Political situation

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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)

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Rapid declining birth rate and aging
population



International students



Highly skilled human resources
to maintain and develop Japanese
economic growth

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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

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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.

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

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Answer 1

Education of business Japanese

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

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Answer 2

Effective JSL programs for major studies

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

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Q2

What ideological forces influence or challenge the policy and practice?

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Does the JSL education in Japanese universities have to correspond to the educational policy?

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Goal of policy for globalization
||
Enhancing international
competitiveness of Japanese economy
↓
JSL education makes
international students into exploitable
human resources for Japanese
economic power

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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

(Ex. Noro and Yamashita 2001,
Sato and Doerr 2008, Segawa 2008, 2012)

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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?

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

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Q3

How can the challenges be
overcome in the future?

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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

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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

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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)

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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

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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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This presentation is supported by
JSPS KAKENHI Grant Number
24652098, 26870061.

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