

Tokai University European Center (TUEC)

Japanese Language Education Workshop Spring 2016



A two-day Japanese language education workshop was held at TUEC on the weekend of April 31st & May 1st. The workshop was the thirteenth, so far, in TUEC's series of Japanese language education workshops aimed at Japanese language teachers in the Nordic countries, and held twice annually (in the spring and fall) since 2010. The workshop series targets institutions offering Japanese language education with primary focus being on universities with Japan studies programs. The spring 2016 workshop was organized in cooperation between TUEC and Professor Fusato Taniguchi of the Tokai Institute of Global Education and Research (TIGER).

With the title *“An Investigation into the Potential Related to Children Raised in Culturally and Linguistically Diverse (CLD) Environments and the Importance of Network Building: Considering language learning for CLD-children from the perspective of Japanese and bilingual education”* the workshop examined language education for children living in plurilingual or pluricultural environments and addressed the need for differentiating language education for such children.

Featured as main speaker was Associate Professor Hiroshi Noyama of the National Institute of Japanese Language (JSL Research Division), a longtime proponent of differentiated language education for CLD-children. Prof. Noyama's lecture, *“The Potential Related to Children Living in Culturally and Linguistically Diverse (CLD) Environments and the Role of the Japanese Language,”* presented an argument for differentiating Japanese language education for children growing up in a plurilingual environment by adjusting it to the level of ability in the child's other language. By doing so it was claimed that the child's interests are best served, both linguistically and developmentally, and that the plurilingual upbringing in this way can develop into an asset later on. Prof. Noyama conducted two work sessions in extension of his lecture, one focusing on the importance of network-building in plurilingual environments, and the other addressing Japanese as a heritage language.

Supplementing the main lecture and its related work sessions, six participants also contributed with presentations. The topics were 1) the current state and issues of a Japanese-speaking environment for

preschoolers: the Copenhagen kana-club case, 2) cross-linguistic influence on cognition, 3) an historical overview of mother tongue education in Sweden, 4) a study of intercultural adaptation of Danish university exchange students in Japan, 5) common instruction methods in foreign language and mother language acquisition, and 6) reflections on the first year of the Cappadocia Japanese school in Turkey.

The fall 2016 workshop again provided a free-talk session for discussing teaching experiences and sharing teaching tips. Topics introduced for discussion included ‘outdoor activity for language improvement’, ‘lesson ideas for students who remain behind and do not participate in study trips to Japan’ and ‘how to set standards of evaluation for Japanese tests without classroom participation & *kanji*-learning for high school students’.

The workshop gathered participants from a number of countries, this time including Denmark, Sweden, Finland, Germany, Turkey and Japan, and from university level institutions such as Copenhagen Business School and Aarhus University in Denmark; Lund University and Dalarna University in Sweden; and Erciyes University in Turkey. In addition, teachers from language schools, secondary educational institutions, adult education centers, the Japan Cultural Institute in Cologne (Germany), as well as freelance language teachers also attended.

TUEC is currently in the process of producing the workshop proceedings which will report in more detail on the content of the workshop (please direct any inquiries in this regard to TUEC). The proceedings will be made available on TUEC’s website upon completion (www.u-tokai.dk), alongside all previous Japanese language education workshop proceedings already available online.

TUEC’s spring 2016 Japanese language education workshop was supported by the Japan Foundation.



Associate Professor Hiroshi Noyama.



Work Session.



Presentation.



All Workshop Participants.