

# Why do I learn two or more Foreign Languages?

Japanese Foreign Language Education compared to European  
Bilingual Education

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SAKAI Kazumi,  
Keio University

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# What languages do I speak?

## Self-introduction

- ▶ born in Nakahara, Kawasaki
- ▶ Father: from Hokkaido
- ▶ Mother: from Adachi, Tokyo
- ▶ FL: from Middle School

# Are we Japanese monolingual?

- ▶ People from Sendai
  - ▶ People from Tokyo
  - ▶ People from Osaka
  - ▶ People from Kagoshima
  - ▶ People from Okinawa etc. etc.
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- ▶ Ambiguity of borders: language/ dialect.
  - ▶ I can speak language x: to what extent?

# Everybody speaks languages

- ▶ Everybody is a speaker of dialect(s).  
Standard language is taught at school or acquired through broadcasting etc.
  - Plural number of dialects within a language.
- ▶ The majority of people in the world are speaker of two or more languages.
  - in Japan
  - ex. in Indonesia

# A Japanese problem.

## 外国語 = 異言語?

- ▶ Foreign Languages, Fremdsprachen, Langues Vivantes
- ▶ 「外国語 Gaikokugo」
- ▶ We have to rethink: from “Gaikokugo Education” to “Language Education” including standard Japanese, dialects and “foreign” languages.
- ▶ Lacking of Language Policy and Language Education Policy.

# Why do you learn languages?

- ▶ fun
- ▶ to get to know foreign culture(s)
- ▶ to speak with people who do not speak Japanese
- ▶ for my study
- ▶ for my job
- ▶ for credits at school

# Reason 1

## ▶ Fun!

- ▶ 「トリビアの泉」: The human being is an animal who wants to get knowledge.
- ▶ Getting to know a new language, culture, way of thinking is simply fun.

# Reason 2

- ▶ You can make friends with people in various countries.
  - Just in English, you have merely superficial contacts.
  - Making good friends leads to greater interests in the target areas and countries.  
Vanishing hostility.

▶ **Making peaceful world**



# Reason 3

- ▶ You can get more information.
  - Limitation of knowledge you can get in English.
  - Advantage of having information resource in languages other than English.
  - You cannot make career in a global company if you speak only English.
- ▶ For Japan (government, communities, enterprises), it is dangerous to make decisions based on only Anglo-American information.
  - Japanese press is too much Anglo-American biased.

# 『英語を学べばバカになる』

“Learning English makes you foolish”  
Is that right?

- ▶ Professor Yakushiin (Tezukayama Gakuin University) 薬師院仁志 (帝塚山学院大学)
- ▶ Learning only English makes you foolish.

# Reasons on 3 levels

- ▶ personal level
- ▶ institutional level
- ▶ governmental level

# Language Education Policy in Europe

- ▶ Council of Europe 欧州評議会
- ▶ Common European Framework of Reference for Languages
- ▶ 1 + 2 Languages
- ▶ It is not rare to study a foreign language from grade 1.
- ▶ Examples in China, Taiwan, Korea etc.

# Reality of Bilingual Education in Europe

- ▶ Bilingual Education. What is it?
- ▶ Case 1: École Active Bilingue Jeannine Manuel (French-English)
  - Japanese from Grade 1
  - Another language from Grade 4
- ▶ Case 2: Europaschule in Berlin
  - English, French, Russian, Italian, Spanish, Turkish, Polish, Portuguese
  - 3 schools visited.

# Examples

- ▶ German-Turkish School (Middle and High School): History in Turkish
  - Grade 7 : three-field system
  - Grade 11 : Reformation
- ▶ German-French School (Elementary School)
  - two teachers for a class (a German and a French teacher), sometimes both at the same time for bridging.
  - a French nurse
  - practically 3 responsible people for a classroom

# Bilingual Education. Does it work?

- ▶ There were opinions against early foreign language education, but nowadays it is widely acknowledged in Europe.
- ▶ Bilingual children are better in any subjects in average. Reasons are now discussed.

# Purposes of Language Education?

- ▶ Making a peaceful society.
- ▶ generousness
- ▶ awareness
- ▶ Not only the minority but also the majority of a society (born Japanese people) must be ready for changing.
- ▶ Not a simple integration of immigrants.
- ▶ Respecting identities of other people.



# AOP-Project at Keio

- ▶ What we are doing now at Keio.
- ▶ Common Framework of Reference for Languages at Keio
- ▶ 1 elementary school, 3 middle schools, 5 high schools and 9 departments at the university level.
- ▶ L3 and L4 etc. at middle and high schools.

# Future Perspective in Japan

- ▶ Languages other than English are less studied at universities. Is it ok?
- ▶ Languages must be used. It should be shifted from learning a language to learning something in a language, especially on tertiary level.
- ▶ Early English education. But how?
  - emphasis on intercultural understanding?
  - language/ culture awareness?
  - teacher training?
- ▶ Needs to promote plurilingual education because of the increasing number of Chinese, Korean, Portuguese, Spanish speaking immigrants.

Let us discuss  
these issues  
together!

# Danke schön fürs Zuhören!

## ▶ SAKAI Kazumi

- [skazumi@hc.cc.keio.ac.jp](mailto:skazumi@hc.cc.keio.ac.jp)
- <http://web.hc.keio.ac.jp/~skazumi/>