

The Gap Between People's Belief on Language Learning and Reality

Shinji Sato, Ph.D.
Princeton University
ssato@princeton.edu



Questions

- Why do students have to learn a foreign language at school?
- Why do many universities have a foreign language requirement as part of their general education?



Foreign Language Requirement

- When you become proficient in a foreign language, you acquire more than a communication skill; **you become literate in another culture and gain another perspective on the world.** (Princeton University)
- **Studying languages teaches you to read well;** to listen well; to write clear, concise prose; to speak privately in conversation, publicly in discussion, and formally in speeches; **to judge your audience and regard your own words through the eyes and ears of others; and to do these things reasonably well in languages and world views other than your own.** (Butler University)

Why Learning a Foreign Language?

- To become a “global citizen”?
 - To bridge multiple worlds?
- Why?
- Borders of language and culture



Group Activity using Facebook

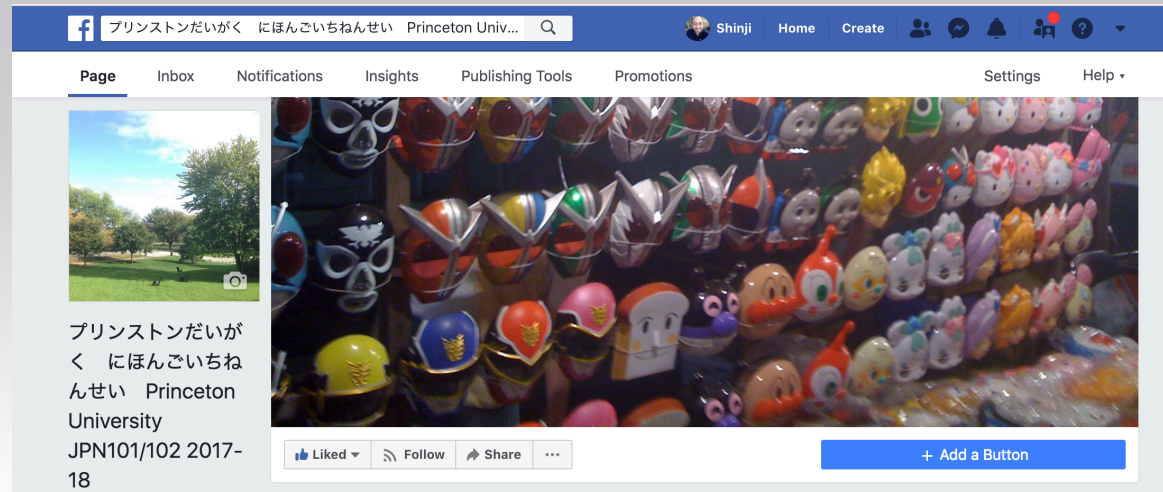
U.S.: Beginning-level Japanese (54 students)

Japan: Japanese Pedagogy Seminar (39 students)

- They formed a small group with 4-5 students.

Purpose

- Getting to know with each other well before video project



Tasks

1. Think about **the important things to consider when they introduce themselves on Facebook**
 2. **Write an introduction on Facebook.**
 3. **Find similarities (e.g., major, school year, hobbies, etc.) among your group members.**
- **Read other group's posts and reflect their own communication.**

Case Study 1



Armon (in the U.S.)

- Freshman
- Chinese American



Mina (in Japan)

- Foreign Language Major
- Studied in South Korea
- Studied English at middle and high school



October 3, 2017



こんにちは。 [redacted] です！みなさん日本語で自己紹介ありがとうございます 🙇

大阪出身です。わたしは去年一年間、韓国に留学していました。英語は苦手ですが、勉強中です。みなさん日本語がわからない時は英語で話してください！お互いがんばりましょう 😊

NOT SUCCESSFUL
ACCORDING TO STUDENTS

✓ Seen by 6

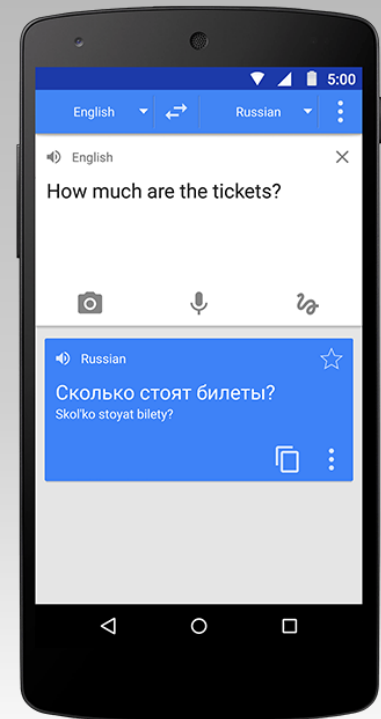


[redacted] こんにちは、 [redacted] さん。私もアニメを見ますから、どんなアニメを見ますか？映画？どこに行きましたか？最後に、趣味は何ですか？たくさんの質問をしてみんなさい！

Like · Reply · 25w

Learners' Beliefs on Foreign Language Learning

- I prefer “incorrect” Japanese that students came up with by themselves to “strange” Japanese translated by online translation. (Mina in Japan)
- I did not want to use English along with Japanese because it would prevent me from learning Japanese; I would read only English. (Armon in the US)



Common Beliefs (or ideologies) on Foreign Language Learning

Tollefson (2007)

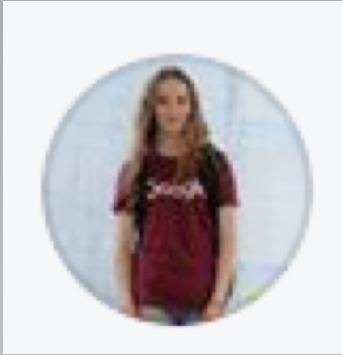
The field of foreign language education

- values uniformity and favors the constructs such as "target language," "native speaker," and "standard language"
- devalues language varieties or other languages other than the dominant one or the target language in a classroom

→ Fear of mixing languages in the field of second or foreign language education



Case Study 2



Francesca (in the U.S.)

- Born in Japan and raised in the U.S.
- Freshman
- Knows Chinese



Naomi (in Japan)

- Foreign Language Major
- Studied in China
- Studied English at middle and high school

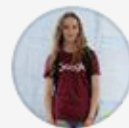


October 2 at 11:40pm

Hello! My name is [redacted]

大家好！我叫 [redacted]

はじめまして！ [redacted] です 🙄❤️



[redacted] 我也说中文因为在高中我学了. 可是我现在不学中文, 只学日文. 学过中文多少年了?

[See Translation](#)

[Like](#) · [Reply](#) · October 9 at 2:15pm



[redacted] 我在大学学了3年！但是我妈妈是中国人，所以我从小就讲的是中文



[See Translation](#)

[Like](#) · [Reply](#) · October 9 at 7:44pm



[redacted] ああそうですか. Your Chinese must be very good then! 🙄🙄

[Like](#) · [Reply](#) · October 9 at 7:48pm



[redacted] Thank you! You're it is good also Chinese also Japanese. Googleで翻訳(ほんやく)したので、英語(えいご)あってるかわからないです 🙄🙄

[Like](#) · [Reply](#) · October 9 at 7:59pm

Reality of Multilingual Users

Hobbies

- Computer Game Forum (Bennerstedt 2007)
- Anime Forum (Black 2007, Thomas 2007)

Workplace

- Multinational Cooperation (Kubota 2017)
- Markets (Pennycook & Otsuji 2015)

Language Learning

- Language Exchange (Sato 2017)



友達募集 ~

こんにちは。日本の多くの好きな韓国人です。lolもたくさん好きです。韓国サーバーでは、gold3

2016/02/12 23:15:51



友達募集スレッド その3

NA鯖と一緒にranked行ける方募集しています。只今シルバー1です。日本鯖来る前に一緒に内

2016/02/12 22:39:34



LOLを教えてくださいw

NA kazu0102 top,sup>mid >adc,jg 上手な方よければいろいろ教え

2016/02/12 19:31:53



チーム/グループメンバー募集スレッド その3

クランメンバーを募集します。25歳以上、性別不問 暴言や迷惑行為をしない方 VC : TS3

2016/02/12 18:27:46



クランメンバー募集

クランメンバーを募集します。25歳以上、性別不問 暴言や迷惑行為をしない方 VC : TS3

2016/02/12 18:26:49



友達募集スレッド その3

CBT一緒にやりましょう。今日から3日間夜から深夜までやるので一緒にやる人募集 スカイプOKの

2016/02/12 15:03:11



友達募集スレッド その3

【SN】 RedreS 【rank】 アンランク Lv.26 【Role】 どこでも 【Server

2016/02/12 14:20:27



日本人都sb

私は本当に酔った

2016/02/12 13:15:04



Lend KR server account, see plz

I have 5 account ALL LV. 30 連絡ください -----

2016/02/12 06:46:53



友達募集スレッド その3

【SN】 Merumore 【rank】 G5 【Role】 adc mid 【Server】 NA

2016/02/12 00:02:58



日本人都sb

真丟人。。

2016/02/11 19:44:12



Lend KR server account

My second account. 30 Lv - 16 Champ - 3300 ip pl

2016/02/11 19:15:53



Market

(Pennycook & Otsuji 2014)

M: Muhibb, T: Talib

M: Hey! Johnny fix up the stand! Here move these cherry tomatoes put them with them.

Let them do it. Let them do Hog's Breath ... If you wanna do anything, if my dad's not doing it start here.

T: هيا اد؟ كفاك؟ نينتا (=How much did it cost you? Two?)

M: Sorry. هانينتا رلاود (=Sorry. Yeah two dollars)

Language Exchange

(Sato 2017)

E: Emy, J: Junko

E: Oh. The...The English name?

J: Yes. English name.

E: The English name is *the Tale of Genji*.

J: Ah, Tale of Genji. や～だ～ (=Oh No!) I love the story.
Many many... many many writer.. Um...writer.. writer...
what...自分の解釈って...(=How can I say “their own
interpretation“?) 難しいな...(=It is difficult.) 解釈をして
...(=interpretate)

E: 解釈をして...(= interpretate)

J: 解釈(=interpretation)ちょっと待って(=hold on)

Reality of Multilingual Users

Pennycook & Otsuji (2015)

- It sheds light on **the ordinariness of linguistic diversity** as people go about their daily lives, getting things done, eating and drinking, buying and selling, talking and joking, **drawing on whatever semiotic resources are available.**

→Metrolingualism

Why is paying attention to the gap, beliefs, and self-evident notions so important?

Why is Critical Thinking Important?

→ Examining Self-Evident Notions

Critical thinking is important not simply because it facilitates in-depth analysis of objects as valued in higher education, but rather, we take the position that, **in order to create our future and that of our communities, critical perspectives are indispensable; that is, by questioning the existing frameworks and change them as needed** (Sato, Hasegawa, Kamiyoshi, Kumagai 2015, 2017)

Because ...



Critical Thinking and then...

Have Future Visions

- **What kind of language user would you like to become?**
 1. I would like to speak like a native speaker.
 - What kind of native speaker?
 2. I want to be treated equally like other (native) speakers.
 - Need to know more grammar and vocabulary?
 - Focus on communication strategies?
 3. You already know two or more languages!
 - You are more than “monolingual native speaker.”

Conclusions

Why do students have to learn a foreign language at school?

- “gain another perspective on the world”
- To become a better person and create a better community/world

Have Future Visions

- What kind of language user or person do you want to become?
- What kind of community do you want to create?

Not just students!

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