

An Analysis of Peer Feedback to Essays by Japanese Learners

From the Perspective of Feedback Instruction and Revision

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This paper, based on a survey of twelve students, analyses feedback (peer feedback) from students in peer response activities. When introducing peer response, instructions were given to only provide feedback on the content and organization of the essay based on various study items (logicality, composition etc). After the peer response activities were carried out, based on the peer response audio recordings, essays and follow up interviews etc and from analysing the peer feedback, it was found that instructing how to give feedback in relation to content and organization strongly influenced the content and validity of the feedback. Furthermore, as a result of analysing the relationship between the quality of the feedback and revision, students were able to grasp the validity of and adopt peer feedback in relation to content organisation, which greatly contributed to the revision process.

Based on the results of this study, it can be said that when carrying out peer response activities, the focus points of the feedback need to be clearly specified to the students, and it is important that the focus points be instructed in advance. This type of feedback instruction helps to improve the validity of peer feedback activities.

However, peer feedback between students doesn't always achieve the same results as does with feedback from the teacher. But it became clear that the students have the ability to judge the validity of the peer feedback to supplement some incomplete aspects of peer feedback. This is because students simply don't become passive when receiving feedback from other students but need to work independently in relation to the revision. When

carrying out similar activities in future, it will be necessary to explain that carefully judging the validity of peer feedback leads to students taking responsibility in revising their own work.

The issue hereafter will be to analyse peer feedback in greater detail. What impact does including detailed amendments to the feedback have on the revision will need to be analysed.

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