

Verifying the Effects and Problems of Japanese Language Education as a Bridge to Specialized Courses

AKUZAWA, Koyo (Kyoto University)

OKAMURA, Kayo (Seigakuin University)

KUROSAKI, Satoko (Seigakuin University)

TANAHASHI, Akemi (Human Academy)

Summary

This paper examines the effects and problems of Japanese university language education as a bridge subject to specialized courses. Specifically, we report the contents and methods of the subject of “Academic Japanese” (AJ), where the junior high school social studies textbook *Koomin (Civics)* was used as a teaching material, and clarify the effects and problems of AJ based on the results of the interviews with students. We found that the knowledge acquired in AJ, mainly vocabulary, helped the students to understand the specialized subjects, and that Japanese language education as a bridging subject enhanced the students’ motivation for learning. However, the results also showed the problems that AJ did not greatly help students absorb knowledge, improve their production skills, or foster their learning autonomy. Moreover, this study reveals that Japanese language education as a bridging subject faces limitations due to difficulties arising from the contents and teaching methods of specialized courses. Building on these findings, we argue that various measures are required to help students to learn independently, as well as improving and enriching the contents and methods of Japanese language education as a bridging subject.

Key words : bridging, collaboration, technical Japanese education, interview survey