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The Japan Association of College English Teachers

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[Foreword]

Evolving or merely changing?

Jiro Numano

Chairman

Chugoku-Shikoku chapter

Are we, as an organization or individual language teachers or whatever, evolving or merely changing? I suppose this is an on-going question.

But first, some greetings. Four years, or two terms as chairman of a chapter, have passed. It was quite an unexpected and unwelcome post for me when the responsibility was first suggested in a chapter board meeting held in Hiroshima in 2001. However, as I had greatly benefited from the JACET organization for so many years, I could not but accept the role after some hesitation. I was reminded of the saying, "It is more blessed to give than to receive"(Acts 20:35), though I did not mean to give, however felt I could not avoid assuming the role to repay what I had received.

Everything is changing, either evolving or simply changing. I would like to mention several cases I have observed during my past twenty-five years as a language teacher. First, regarding current secondary school English education around the nation. While it is the result of the so-called yutori education system meant to give pupils room to think, reason, and be creative, so that they could be equal to their counterparts in other advanced nations, the system has obviously led to a considerable decline in their English ability, as well as in other subjects. I think this could be regarded as a simple case of "change," and I anticipate a swinging back of the pendulum.

Next, EFL education methodology comes to mind. Here, most of the readers will think of this as a clear case of "evolution." We are all aware of the general developmental

sequence from the Grammar-Translation Method to the Direct Method, to the Audio-Lingual Method, then to the latest Communicative Approach under various different names and with related ideas. Each method claims to be the best, repudiating the preceding ones. We might be justified to ask here if this is a real case of evolving. When I prepared a paper on syllabus design to submit to 清华大学 (Tsinghua University) in 1998, however, I found that each stage has something which cannot be totally rejected. So I have some reservations. I even feel similar elements recurring each time some “ new method ” is brought up. A maxim aptly describes: “Is there anything of which one can say, ‘Look, this is new’? No, it has already existed, long ago before our time.” (Ecclesiastes 1:10)

Third, regarding EFL teachers, or our current state. Have we changed from being liberal arts instructors of English (as one of the basic education courses) into professors who teach at the graduate level, or into professors who teach English majors, or have we expanded our field of instruction beyond EFL courses to teach (English) linguistics, intercultural communication, and the like? Many, or most, of the readers here have been fortunate enough to move forward and upward in their careers. But, we know quite a few who have not been so fortunate and are daily coping with the students left behind. These colleagues of ours are often times heavily burdened with administrative chores. Here, we see a divide between the privileged educators and those who are not, but who must deal with drop-outs. In passing, let me share my humble observation regarding English teachers in Japan. I have often been surprised at the conspicuous lack of fluency on the part of Japanese English teachers. I feel many Japanese English teachers, young and old, should be making more efforts to develop fluency. I know this is a self-addressed admonition and I know there are many excellent Japanese English teachers in terms of spoken English, and I respect them. Also, I would like to see more English teachers learn another foreign language: that will help them understand their students’ standpoint and allow the teachers to come up with fresh ideas to teach.

Finally, if we look at the JACET organization itself. Is it evolving or simply changing or has it left behind necessary innovations? I observe it as undergoing two aspects of transformation. One, in leadership, seems to be shifting from outstanding individuals to organizational executives with various committees. Two, the organizational entity is about to change from an arbitrary association to a public corporate body, which is more accountable to society. Therefore, I can say that, according to needs of the times the JACET organization has been “evolving.”

In conclusion, not everything is evolving but many things, both human and nonhuman, are simply changing, often toward a lower level. However, it is also true that every individual being is striving for improvement or, at least, survival. We learn and mature through this process, which can be called “evolving.”

News from the JACET Office

Secretary General KIMURA, Matsuo

The possibility of a shift from the present voluntary JACET corporation to a future public JACET corporation has been seriously discussed from last year by the JACET Future Plans Committee members in collaboration with representatives of Shin-Nihon Ernst & Young, one of the big four world inspection corporations. In the semiannual meeting of the JACET Board of Directors on March 26-27 at Waseda University, the outline of a tentative but a comprehensive future plan for JACET as a public cooperation was introduced by Professor Jimbo Hisatake, one of the JACET vice-presidents, in charge of the future JACET plans. As a result of the discussions, in the meeting the future public JACET corporation plan was passed by common assent. The plan, with some amendments, will go into effect in the spring of 2007.

I thank all of you for your academic and practical efforts supporting JACET's progress throughout the year.

Chapter News

<Hokkaido Chapter Report>

Lecture Meetings

On October 29, the ESP Hokkaido SIG had their first open meeting. The meeting was chaired by Masashi Takemura (Hakodate National College of Technology) and the venue was the Dohto University Sapporo Research Center. Lectures included the "ESP Hokkaido 2005 research project: A study on the use and the need for English in Hokkaido business corporations" by Hisashi Naito (Asahikawa Medical College); "Research methods for need analysis: Who, what and how?" by Ken Urano (Hokkai Gakuen University); "An investigation on the need for English among the Department of Agriculture graduates of the Hokkaido Institute of Technology (a mid-term report) by Hiroko Miura (Hokkaido Institute of Technology); and "An Internet survey on the use and need for English" among adults in Hokkaido (a mid-term report) by Megumi Yamada (Hokkaido Pharmaceutical University).

On November 7, the second JACET Hokkaido lecture meeting was held at Hokkaido University. This event coincided with the OUP English seminar: Grammar and Dictionaries, in which lectures were given by Henry Widdowson (University of London) and Michael Swan (a writer who specializes in English language teaching and reference materials). The lecture titles were respectively, "Setting a Good Example: Dealing with Meaning in Learner Dictionaries" and "Usage Guides: Keeping up with the Language."

On February 11, 2006, the ESP Hokkaido held the second open meeting at the Dohto University Sapporo Research Center. Atsuko Yamazaki (Monotsukuri University) delivered a special lecture, "The Relationship Between the Present State of ESP Needs in the Manufacturing Industry and College English Education." Akiko Shibata (Senshu University, Hokkaido Junior College) also presented a mid-term research report, "A Questionnaire Regarding English Use and Needs in Hokkaido Business Corporations and Industrial Society."

On February 17, the JACET Hokkaido CALL SIG held a lecture meeting at Hokkai Gakuen University Sandra Fotos (Senshu University) gave a lecture entitled, " Five Features of a Superior CALL Facility: A case study of the CALL Facility of the University of Victoria, BC, Canada."

On February 18, the third JACET Hokkaido lecture meeting was held at Fuji Women's College. Koji Takeuchi (Sapporo International University, Junior College) presented a research report, "About the Effects of the Reader's Knowledge, Text Types, and Test Types on Readings in a Native Language (Japanese) and a Foreign Language (English)." A video lecture by Sandra Fotos (Senshu University) recorded on the previous day was followed by a symposium, "Designing CALL for Foreign Language Education: Case Studies in Each Institution." Yuri Nishihori (Hokkaido University) was the chair, and Yasushi Kawai (Hokkaido University), Tahara Hiroyuki (Sapporo University), Keiko Hayasaka (Hokusei Gakuen University) and Seiichi Miyamachi (Sapporo Gakuin University) were speakers.

Publications

The Research Bulletin of English Teaching, No.3 (The JACET Hokkaido Chapter Research Paper Collection) was published in March 2006. The 19th issue of the Chapter Newsletter will be issued soon.

(Yasushi Kawai, Hokkaido University)

<Tohoku Chapter Report>

Timeline of the Year 2005-2006

- 1) June 4, 12:00-17:10, Tohoku Gakuin University
 - Board Meeting
 - Annual Chapter Convention
 - Special Lecture (1) and Symposium
- 2) September
 - JACET-Tohoku Newsletter* No. 28 issued
- 3) October 1, 13:00-16:45, Akita University
 - Regular Meeting
 - Presentations (1), (2), and (3).

4) October

TOHOKU TEFL: JACET-Tohoku Bulletin Vol. 1 issued

5) December 3, 12:30-14:30, Sendai City Civic Auditorium

Board Meeting

Regular Meeting

Presentations (4), (5) and Special Lecture (2)

6) March 11, 12:00-15:00, AER Building, Sendai

Board Meeting

7) March, 2006

JACET-Tohoku Newsletter No. 29 (to be issued)

I. List of Special Lectures

(1) Jimbo, Hisatake (Waseda University)

“Communication and English Grammar from a Materials Development Perspective”

June 4, 2005, Tohoku Gakuin University

(2) Aizawa, Kazumi (Tokyo Denki University)

“Reading Texts and Vocabulary Learning”

December 3, 2005, Sendai City Civic Auditorium

II. Symposium

Theme: Communication and English Grammar

Chair: Ogata, Ryodo (Tohoku University of Art & Design)

Panelists: “Indispensable Formal Instruction”

Fukuchi, Kazunori (Sendai National College of Technology)

“English Grammar and Usage that Needs to be Taught Explicitly to Japanese Students”

Takahashi, Kiyoshi (Miyagi University of Education)

“Grammar in Context”

Jimbo, Hisatake (Waseda University)

III. List of Presentations

(1) “The Influence of Language Environment and the Personality Factors on EFL Learners’ Willingness to Communicate”

Tsue, Natsuko (Graduate Student of Akita University Graduate School of Education)

October 1, 2005, Akita University

(2) “Learner Autonomy and Culture: Universals and Specifics”

Cotterall, Sara (Akita International University)

October 1, 2005, Akita University

(3) “Perceptions in Language Teaching”

Ingram, David E. (Melbourne University Private)

October 1, 2005, Akita University

(4) “Corpus Linguistics: Gender Reflected on Society”

Narisawa, Yoshio (Tohoku Gakuin University)

December 3, 2005, Sendai City Civic Auditorium

(5) “Toward the Improvement of Elementary School English Activities in terms of Communication Competence”

Aizawa, Marie (Shokei Gakuin College) and Miyasone, Mika (Tohoku Institute of Technology)

December 3, 2005, Sendai City Civic Auditorium

IV. Publications

(1) *JACET-Tohoku Newsletter* 28, September 2005 issued

(2) *TOHOKU TEFL: JACET-Tohoku Bulletin* Vol. 1, October 2005 issued

(3) *JACET-Tohoku Newsletter* 29, March, 2006 (to be issued)

TOHOKU TEFL: JACET-Tohoku Bulletin Vol. 1 was published by Watanabe Yoshinori (Akita University), Itagaki Nobuya (Miyagi University of Education), Muranoi Hitoshi (Tohoku Gakuin University) and Sakuma Yasuyuki (Fukushima University). Three papers are included.

JACET-Tohoku Newsletter 29, including reports of the lectures and the paper presentations, is going to be issued in March, 2006.

(Muranoi, Hitoshi, Tohoku Gakuin University & Okazaki, Kumiko, Miyagi National College of Technology)

<Chubu Chapter Report>

Executive Committee Meetings

1. Date: February 11

Venue: Tokai Gakuen University Sakae Satellite Campus

Agenda: Honbu report, Chubu Chapter report, chapter executive committee members for 2006, Chubu Chapter memoranda amendments, 2005 chapter activity report and proposal for 2006, JACET annual convention chairs, IATEFL representative and 2006 Chubu Chapter convention

2. Date: February 25

Venue: Tokai Gakuen University Sakae Satellite Campus

Agenda: Honbu report, Chubu Chapter report, chapter executive committee members for 2006, 2005 interim account statement of Chubu Chapter, 2006 budget proposal, chapter annual convention steering committee appointments, Chubu Chapter Newsletter

Study Meetings

One study meeting was held at Tokai Gakuen University Sakae Satellite Campus on February 25.

Professor Masayuki SANO (Teikyo University) gave a lecture on "Improving Class by Action Research." Professor Yukiko KURU (Gifu Shotoku University), a member of Chubu Chapter Writing Research Group, gave a presentation titled "*Nihonjin gakushusha nitotte no eigo deno writing o kangaeru.*" A get-together dinner for participants and chapter members followed the study meeting.

Publications

JACET-Chubu Newsletter No.15 was issued on December 30.

(Yasumi MURATA • Meijo Univ.)

<Kansai Chapter>

Activities of the Kansai Chapter in early 2006 and scheduled activities for the middle of 2006 include the following:

2006 Spring Conference

Date: Ritsumeikan University

Place: June 3, 2006

The program for the Spring Conference will be available on the chapter web site (<http://www.jacet-kansai.org/taikai.html>) from the middle of April.

Seminar and Lectures

1. Second Chapter Lecture of the 2005 Academic Year

Date: December 10, 2005

Place: Co-op Inn Kyoto

Presenter: ISHIKAWA Yasushige (Kyoto University of Foreign Studies)

Title: Things to Consider before "Teaching Content": Rethinking Teaching Style

2. 10th Annual Graduation-Master's Thesis Seminar, chapter co-sponsored with the Kansai English Language Education Society (KELES)

Date: February 19, 2006

Place: Doshisha University, Imadegawa Campus

Plenary Speaker: Mike Bostwick, Katoh Gakuen

Title: Six Common Myths Surrounding Early Foreign Language Education

3. Third Chapter Lecture of the 2005 Academic Year

Date: March 5, 2006

Place: Campus Plaza Kyoto

Presenter: HAYASHI Keiko (Hiroshima Jogakuin University)

Title: Foreign Language Instruction and Parent-Child Interaction in Foreign Language Learning

Publications

JACET-Kansai Newsletter, No. 31 was published in January 2006. Current and back issues of the *Newsletter* can be accessed at <http://www.jacet-kansai.org/newsletter.html>

JACET Kansai Journal, Vol. 8 was published in June 2005. *JACET Kansai Journal*, Vol. 9 will be published in 2007.

Information on Chapter SIGs

The Kansai Chapter has 11 special interest groups that conduct research in a wide range of fields. For more information, please refer to the following web page: <http://www.jacet-kansai.org/kenkyukai.html>

Announcement

The Kansai Chapter will not hold a Fall Conference in 2006 because the chapter will host the 45th JACET National Conference at Kansai Gaidai University, September 8-10, 2006.

For further information on all the chapter's current and past activities, please refer to the Kansai Chapter web site at <http://www.jacet-kansai.org>.

(Robert J. Fouser, Kyoto University)

<Chugoku-Shikoku Chapter Report>

(1)Annual Chapter Convention

Date: June 11, 2005; Place: Shimane University

(A) Presentations [1]

Chair: Tadashi Nishida (Hiroshima University)

Deena Quadir Moriam (postgrad., IDEC, Hiroshima University) and Tadashi Nishida

(Hiroshima University): "Speaking Strategy Use by EFL Students in Japan and Bangladesh"; Vasantha Danapala (MA Student,

IDEC, Hiroshima University): "Language Learning Strategies: A Cross-cultural Comparison"; Joseph Nattress (Matsuyama University):

"Simulating Real-life Communication in the Classroom Using Impromptu Skits"

(B) Presentations [2]

Chair: Hironobu Matsuoka (Yasuda Women's University)

Tomoko Nakamura (Hiroshima International University): "Creating an E-Learning Pilot Program for Beginners Using Multimedia"; Hidetomo Torigoe (Takuma NCT): " Verbal Strategies to Keep Conversation Going "; Toshiaki Takahashi

(Yamaguchi University): "Hints for Improving ESL Teaching -- With Reference to the Teacher's Questioning Technique"

(C)Lecture

Osamu Takeuchi (Kansai University): "Before Starting a New EFL Program: Filling in the Gaps between Purposes and Evaluation"

(D) Symposium

Chair: Tadashi Nishida (Hiroshima University)

Theme: "New Attempts to Improve English Competence"; Panelists: Chiaki Iwai (Hiroshima City University): "Providing Opportunities for Authentic Language Use? In Reference to a Summer Intensive Course "Hiroshima and Peace" at Hiroshima City University"; Toshiyuki Takagaki (Onomichi University): "Activities for Raising Students' Awareness of Linguistic Realities of English"; Hideo Horibe (Hiroshima Institute of Technology): "Possibilities of International Student Exchange between Universities -- A Case Study of the UI-HIT Program"

(2) The 1st Steering Committee Meeting

Date: June 11, 2005; Place: Shimane University

(3) Seminar

Date: October 15, 2005; Place: Yasuda Women's University

(A) Presentations [1]

Chair: Chiaki Iwai (Hiroshima City University):

K. V. Dhanapala (IDEC, Hiroshima University): "A Cross-Cultural Study on English Language Learning Strategies in Japan and Sri Lanka"; Roger Nunn and Darren Lingley (Kochi University): "Using Mini-Lectures in University English Classes"; Yoko Nogami and Chiaki Iwai (Hiroshima City University): "A Comparative Study of Complaint Speech Acts in English and Japanese by Japanese College English Learners";

(B) Presentation [2]

Chair: Toshiaki Takahaashi (Yamaguchi University):

Tomoyuki Yokoyama (Hiroshima City University)"A Coordinated Way of Using a Content

Management System (CMS) and a Questionnaire Management System (QMS)"; Hironobu Matsuoka (Yasuda Women's University) and Tomoko Nakamura (Hiroshima International University): "About the Validity of the Order to Introduce the Restrictive and Non-Restrictive Relative Pronouns - Inspection through Historical English Textbooks and the Acquisition Sequence of Japanese Learners"

(4) The 2nd Steering Committee Meeting

Date: March 5, 2006; Place: Hiroshima International Gakuin University Items on the agenda:

The accounts for the 2005 fiscal year and the budget for 2006

Plans for 2006: the annual convention and seminars

The JACET Chugoku-Shikoku Chapter Research Bulletin

Change in chapter executives

Revision of chapter regulations

(5)Publication

The JACET Chugoku-Shikoku Chapter Research Bulletin Vol. 2 was issued in April 2005 and Vol. 3 will be published in April 2006.

Hidetomo Torigoe (Takuma NCT)

<Kyushu-Okinawa Chapter Report>

January 28

The 7th Steering Committee Meeting

February 4

SIG East Asia English Education 57th Seminar (Venue: Seinan Gakuin University)

Speaker: Shinichiro Ishikawa (Kobe University)

Topic: Size of the Target Vocabulary at High Schools in Japan and Korea: A Corpus-based Analysis of the English Tests from 1994 to 2005

March 11

SIG East Asia English Education 58th Seminar (Venue: Seinan Gakuin University)

(1) Speaker: Ikuko Inoue (Shiida Elementary School)

Topic: Meeting Okbaji, a Volunteer in Nepal

(2) Speaker: Chiyuki Takubo (Kurume University, Fusetsu High School)

Topic: An Introduction of the Exchange Program Between Shanghai High School and Kurume University, Fusetsu High School (part 1)

March 18

The 8th Steering Committee Meeting

March 18

Asia TEFL 2006 3rd Local Executive Committee Meeting

April

Kyushu-Okinawa Chapter Newsletter No. 22 to be published

May 13

The 9th Steering Committee Meeting

May 13

Chapter General Meeting (Venue: Seinan Gakuin University)

May 13

Spring Special Lecture (Venue: Seinan Gakuin University)

Speakers: Hisako Yamauchi (Kurume Institute of Technology), Hideko Nakano (Kyushu Kyoritsu University), Mariko Oda (Kurume Institute of Technology)

Topic: Human Resources Companies are Seeking in the Global Age

May 31

Deadline for submission to *Annual Review of English Learning and Teaching* No. 11

Official Chapter homepage: <http://www.n-junshin.ac.jp/jacet/>

(Toshihiro Shimizu, Kyushu University)

Main Articles on this Issue

Foreward (NUMANO, Jiro) ----- 1

Report from JACET Office (KIMURA, Matuso)

----- 3

Chapter News ----- 3

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