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Tandem Learning:

~ Effectiveness and Challenges for autonomous language learning between learners ~



Chair: Assoc. Prof. Toshinori TANAKA (Research Promotion Coordinator of Q-AOS)

Introduction







Key Words

Tandem learning

eTandem

Learner autonomy

Mutual learning

Collaborative learning

Multicultural coexistence

Associate Professor

Masako Wakisaka, PhD

International Student Center

Masako Wakisaka is an Associate Professor at the International Student Center of Kyushu University in Japan. She graduated from the Faculty of Letters and Education of Ochanomizu University in 2008. She majored in Japanese language education at the Graduate School of Letters of Osaka University, and obtained her PhD (Literature) in 2014. She then joined the International Student Center at Kyushu University as a lecturer in September of the same year and has been in her current position since October 2020.

Currently, she is the coordinator of the Japanese Academic Courses (JACs) for undergraduate international students of Kyushu University, where she teaches Japanese as a second language and Japanese culture. She organizes and conducts research on face-to-face tandem learning in Japanese university campuses and on eTandem between Japanese and German universities since 2008.

Tandem learning is a learning mode in which two people with different mother tongues work together in order to learn each other's language and culture based on the principles of reciprocity and learner autonomy. Originally introduced in Germany and France in the late 1960s, tandem learning was later developed under the influence of language policies associated with European integration and the mainstream language learning and teaching methods of that time, and since 1990s it has been widely implemented in various countries for foreign language learning. In Japan, tandem learning has recently been put into practice mainly in higher education institutions for the promotion of internationalization and to focus on autonomous learning in language education. In this seminar, I will introduce what tandem learning is and then discuss its learning effectiveness and challenges. In the future, the promotion of multicultural coexistence will become increasingly important in Japanese society. Through this presentation, I would like to discuss with you the future possibilities of tandem learning in various educational settings.