

## **“Cross-Cultural Understanding”**

We are forced to change the way of thinking in time of internationalized world. This world we live in is internationalizing rapidly and that change will never stop. The world requests us to have a new sense and skill to accept each personality of people and understand the difference between cultures for peaceful interaction and smooth internationalization. Despite this world’s big trend, in Japan, “Cross-Cultural Understanding”, the class to mainly understand the difference of culture, had been decided to disappear from the latest Japanese Educational Guideline of English. This learning will be more needed now. However, not only the correct meaning and contents of this, but also its existence isn’t popular among the Japanese.

Can Japanese people adapt to internationalized world without the education of “Cross-Cultural Understanding”?

This paper focuses on why Cross-Cultural Understanding skill is important and the essential point in worldwide interaction.

In order to make the Japanese posture and view of Cross-Cultural Understanding (hereinafter called CCU) clear, we conducted the interview about CCU for 237 students from 1<sup>st</sup> grade to 3<sup>rd</sup> grade of Funairi high school, including general course, Funairi International Communication Course (hereinafter called FICC) and teachers. The survey was conducted in 2020. The questioner had 15 questions such as “Have you ever been abroad?” and “Is it easy for you to understand cross-culture?” Almost of all questions had potions like YES or NO. After the survey, we counted the answers by grade and course, and make a list of all answers’ each sum. From the list, we found the gap between some specific groups’ answers.

We focused on the question, asking "Is your CCU enough?" The result shows interesting gap. We compared the data between 1st grades and 2nd grades who belong to FICC. 2<sup>nd</sup> grade of FICC has the CCU class every week. In other words, students of general course and 1<sup>st</sup> grade of FICC don’t have opportunities to take that class. We sort the data by grade and whether they have already got high English skill or not. This time, we use EIKEN grade as a standard to measure their English skill and students who have high English skill means who have EINKEN 1 or pre-1 grade. As a consequence of 1<sup>st</sup> grade students, who have high English skills answered “YES” to the question, “Is your CCU enough?” On the other hand, who do not have high skills answered “NO.” This difference of answer means that 1<sup>st</sup> grade tend to think that English skills are equal to CCU.

However, the result of 2<sup>nd</sup> grade students is different from them. Almost of all students, including students who have high English skills, answered “NO” to the same question. This result means that 2<sup>nd</sup> grade who have took CCU class tend to think that English skills are not equal to CCU.

Of course, whether they can speak English as a tool of communication or not is one of the keys for CCU. Each area have each background, cultural characteristic, religious thought and so on, and all of them have affected on their language for a long time. Therefore, the knowledge of languages helps to understand. However, as the result shows, CCU is not so simple. CCU is aggregate of many kind of contents, including histories, cultures, religion and so on, which influence on the language. Languages are part of CCU.

From the result, we realized that students find that the English skill is not CCU, and CCU has more difficult and complex meanings through CCU education. In addition, the result shows that the difference of the cultures, human beings and the world cannot be realized without experiences. The experience must be supported by their own curiosity, because the characteristic of culture, used languages, differences of people are too many to understand all them. First of all, CCU class will disappear from education in Japan. The end of CCU learning will never come and the chance to lean CCU won't be given by others, so when you lose your curiosities, that point is the end of learning.

The more you learn about CCU, the less confidence they have in their skills of CCU. This is not a bad trend, but the excess confidence of people who have never learned CCU is the matter. The more important thing and one of the biggest goal when you learn CCU, which has no end, is that realizing that “You know nothing and you have prejudices more and less.” Without this awareness, the prejudices and misunderstanding can lead to the frictions or wars. The better word will be realized by multidimensional understanding through CCU. What you need when you learn what has no end like CCU is you're your own curiosity.

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