

# **The Changing Meaning of Japanese Language Education in Career Development:**

An Analysis of a Narrative by Mr. S Who, after Completing a Course in Teaching  
Japanese, Works in a Profession Other Than Teaching Japanese

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## **Abstract**

This study analyzes the process of career development and the changing meaning of Japanese language education in that process, targeting Mr. S who chose a profession other than teaching Japanese after completing a course in teaching Japanese at university. The results of the analysis, based on the Trajectory Equifinality Approach, clarified that Mr. S came to recognize himself as a foreigner after a conflict with a Thai teacher in Thailand. This led to his desire to support foreign human resources through his relationship with foreigners living in Japan, after his return to Japan. In the process, the meaning of Japanese language education changed from “teaching Japanese to Japanese language learners” to “supporting foreigners living in Japan.” In educational programs that also include persons who have chosen not to become Japanese language teachers, it is crucial to create opportunities for students to talk about their careers and support the trainees in finding their own life’s purpose. In this way, the experience gained during the training stage will be meaningful no matter what profession they pursue.

**[Keywords]** career, meaning of Japanese language education, Japanese language education overseas, Trajectory Equifinality Approach, a person who has chosen not to become a Japanese language teacher