

The Expertise of Japanese Language Teacher Educators:

What It Means to Be a Proficient Educator of Teachers

from a Teacher Educator's Perspective

TSUBONE, Yukari (Osaka University of Tourism)

SHIMAZU, Momoyo (Kansai University)

NAKATANI, Junko (Osaka Sangyo University)

NISHIMURA, Miho (Seisen University)

KADOWAKI, Kaoru (Setsunan University)

Abstract

Although attention to the discussion and clarification of the qualities and abilities of Japanese language teachers has recently been increasing, the expertise of Japanese language teacher educators who train Japanese language teachers has not been fully investigated. This study examines the expertise of Japanese language teacher educators who are members of the Network of Japanese Language Teacher Educators (NJLTE) through analyzing their discussion of the question, “What does it mean to be a proficient educator of teachers?” Coding the content of the discussion reveals the following points of discussion concerning the characteristics of proficient Japanese language teacher educators: (1) definition of proficient, (2) learning support and teaching methods, (3) things to do for student teachers, (4) qualities of teachers, (5) things to do within the organization, (6) things to do outside of the organization, and (7) attention to social significance. A close analysis of these points reveals some professional features that reflect the expertise of Japanese language teacher educators rather than that of Japanese language teachers themselves. For example, asserting the presence of Japanese language education to other faculty members within an organization, and keeping aware of current policies on Japanese language education were found to be key differences between the roles of teachers and those of teacher educators. A questionnaire survey conducted after the discussion also shows that members of NJLTE believe it is necessary to disseminate information both inside and outside the organization to give people a better understanding of Japanese language education and teacher education.

[Keywords] Japanese language teacher educator, network, expertise,
Japanese language teacher training, being proficient