

Japanese as Lingua Franca in COIL (Collaborative Online International Learning) for Global Learning

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Abstract

Being the international collaborative learning as its pedagogical core, various factors such as time difference or lack of technological support may come into play as a challenge for a successful COIL course. For Japan-U.S. COIL, language proficiency could be a concern on the Japanese side as English commonly serves a lingua franca for collaborative work. English mediated COIL often has a potential risk to produce imbalance among the team members.

In the current project, two cases of COIL implementation were discussed in relation to the above mentioned issues. These courses were conducted in 2020 between the two Japanese and US institutions with the solid institutional support. Students enrolled in Japanese Pedagogy courses in Japan and advanced learners of Japanese in 4th-year language courses in the U.S. were paired to collaborate for four to six weeks, and they chose to apply Japanese as a lingua franca for communication medium.

Bio

Keiko Ikeda is a Professor in the Division of International Affairs, and KU-COIL Coordinator at Kansai University. Keiko is Vice-Director for the newly established organization at Kansai University, Institute for Innovative Global Education (IIGE). She is the principal project manager for the Inter-University Exchange Project funded by MEXT, 2018-2022 ("COIL Plus Program to Develop Global Career Mindset"). Ph.D. from University of Hawaii at Manoa in Japanese linguistics and foreign language education.