

## Through the Looking-Glass Called *JCHIP*—Internship Experience in Japan and Participating Interns' Views and Growth

Nobuko Koyama  
University of California, Davis

### Abstract

Japan Children's Home Internship Program (JCHIP) was established in 1993 to provide undergraduate students at the University of California, Davis (UCD) with overseas volunteer opportunities and full immersion experiences at children's homes (equivalent to orphanages or group homes in US) in Japan. Over two decades, JCHIP has expanded its affiliations and operations gradually to become a 10-week summer internship program with eight affiliated children's homes in Japan. Every summer, 13 to 15 students participate in this internship program.

In this talk, two case studies will be examined. Two interns of summer 2018 will be closely examined and analyzed for their growth and change in their views and perceptions about themselves and Japan based on semi-structured interview sessions. The findings indicate that benefits of a full-immersion internship experience are manifold regardless of interns' language proficiency levels, and that in some cases they advanced their language proficiency drastically.

### Bio

Nobuko Koyama is Associate Professor, Coordinator of Japanese Language Program and Faculty Advisor for JCHIP (Japan Children's Home Internship Program) at the Department of East Asian Languages and Cultures at the University of California, Davis. Dr. Koyama is a Japanese linguist specializing in literary discourse analysis, internship/study abroad, Academic Japanese, and Japanese reading/writing. Most recently she produced OER titled Getting to Know Japanese Language and Culture on YouTube with Professors Yuko Kato and Junko Hatanaka.