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# College Education under Globalization: Enhancing Language Skills and Knowledge in a College EFL Class

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**Abstract** : Globalization is often associated with the pervasive, positive influence of English as the current international language. It is also believed that English as such a powerful language has created social and economic divisions. In Japan, the Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology (MEXT) has been promoting English language education especially since 2013, without questioning the negative aspect of the language. The fact that a large number of school children and students in higher education are not confident in English and thus dislike the subject has been neglected.

In this paper, I will first refer to some issues related to globalization and English language education in Japan. Then, I will describe how I have incorporated cultural studies into a regular EFL class, where students have in-depth knowledge about their own history and culture, but are not confident in English. The class objective is to examine English-only language policy in the U.S. from its historical perspectives. Eventually, students are to think what English language is to Japanese people. Then the course procedure and the teaching materials I developed over the years will be introduced. The course was also aimed at developing students' linguistic, critical thinking and autonomous learning skills. It is hoped that this kind of instruction and learning materials are beneficial for developing students' language skills and knowledge.

**Keywords** : globalization ; content-based instruction ; U.S. English-only policy ; English education in Japan