

EVALUATION REPORT

GCOE CbLLE Program

Corpus-based linguistics and Language Education

Graduate School of Global Studies

Tokyo University of Foreign Studies

1) Project planning

Tokyo University of Foreign Studies aimed at an international collaborative research by taking up the challenge of an ambitious program which has a double objective: integration of research results obtained in several subfields of linguistics and language pedagogy. Considering all the presented documentation, we have observed that The Global COE program, especially with regard to the establishment of CbLLE, TUFS accomplished undoubtedly a high level academic performance.

This ambitious project which based on three key areas (Field and Corpus Linguistics and Linguistic Informatics) was clearly identified and accomplished by an impressive corps composed of 15 home-grown core members and supported by two research and teaching structures]: Research Institute for Languages and Cultures of Asia and Africa (ILCAA) and Graduate School of Area and Culture Studies of Tokyo University of Foreign Studies (GSACS). Three appointed professors and seven post-doctoral researchers have also participated at the project. As it is noted below, the project has also extended to an important international research network.

2) Originality

One of the major benefits of this project, which goes beyond a theoretical abstraction, although it is much needed, is to reflect on the impact of research in the development of teaching methods. Indeed, the theoretical ambition does not always show concerning its possible applications in educational outcomes. Yet the Global COE program provides us a good example of research in both theoretical and pedagogical utility.

3) Scientific quality

Resultant of a high-level international collaboration, the project report published three volumes gathering of a series of empirical research which is without contest, a contribution to applied linguistics. It shows an additional advantage by contribution to teaching methods.

4) International Contribution

CbLLE has given a good exemple of international collaboration.

At every stage of the five year program, we observe a keen attention to bring together specialists from a number of linguistically diverse countries (Japan, France, Germany, Spain, Russia, Turkey, India, Tailand, Meadle-Eastern and African coutries).

The contributions present in that way a rewarding mixture of home-grown researchers and external specialists. The age pyramid is also well balanced wth a considerable presence of young researchers.

5) Feasibility (Results)

If we remember that there are still linguists who think that corpus analyses is not a correct way to undertake the research, the results obtained in this project is a

convincing demonstration of feasibility which shows the complementarity of theoretical construction and teaching applications.

Finally, we note that the feasibility of corpus-based research applications to educational tools, is demonstrated in TESOL studies, ESOL project or studies in Japanese learning (Shibuya, Koayakawa, Urnima, v. I, p. 14).

Three substantial volumes came out at the end of five years sustained work, published by John Benjamins Publishing Company:

I- *Corpus Analysis and Variation in Linguistics*, Edited by Yuji KAWAGUCHI, Makoto MINEGISHI and Jacques DURAND, 2009, 400 pages.

The initiators of the project, start from a sociolinguistic observation already reported by Cicero as *colorata oratio* "colored speech", but not only —we find much attestations through many examples in other languages—, then focus their research on the differences between "good use" and linguistic variations in this first volume inclusive of eighteen contributions.

II- *Geographical Typology and Linguistic Areas*, Edited by Osamu Hieda, Christa König and Hiroshi Nakagawa, 2010, 322 pages.

The second volume edited by Osamu HIED, Christa KÖNIG and Hiroshi NAKAGAWA studies the areal factors influencing languages. Although the title is general at first glance, sixteen papers try to draw a linguistic geography of Africa, this continent being considered as the primary region for linguistic interest.

III- *Corpus-based Analysis and Diachronic Linguistics*, Edited by Yuji KAWAGUCHI, Wolfgang VIERECK and Makoto MINEGISHI, 2011, 394 pages.

The last volume brings a rich geolexical data from different linguistic contexts with a diachronic approach through fourteen contributions.

In the end, it is clear that the three volumes represent an important contribution in recognizing variationist sociolinguistics as a discipline in itself.

6) Scientific results

Accomplishments in the international collaboration have made evident the diversity of languages by empirical surveys which considered in particular the following research works :

- The “spoken” Swahili corpus constructed in 2011,
- The dialectal materials from the Seykhor variety and Ukhrul variety of Tangkhul Naga (speeches of India) (2008-2009),
- A web-based electronic dictionary of Russian: 10,000 entries are available for public access via internet,
- Thai-Japanese online Dictionary realized within the framework of the Thailand-Japan Cultural Exchange Promotion Society,
- Corpus Compilation of Data from Medium/Minor Language Groups the Hmong (China), Santali, Lhaovo, and other languages,
- "German Language Corpus Handbook 2008" : Introductory manual for the German corpora,
- COSMAS II via IDS (1.1 billion words) and DWDS (100 million words), (limited circulation for students on CD-R),
- "DWDS Japanese Language Platform Top Page Prototype" : (limited circulation for students in CD-R),
- Data Acquisition (gratis) from Institut für Deutsche Sprache : mk1 (Mannheimer Korpus 1),
- 2.57 million words; mk2 (Mannheimer Korpus 2) 0.41million words; bzk (Bonner Zeitungskorpus) 3.62 million words,
- Analysis on the corpus of Japanese textbooks (14,000,000 words),
- The current corpora of Spoken French (word tokens exceed 100,000),
- Creation of a Corpus of Spontaneous Conversation of French, Spanish and Turkish,
- Pronunciation corpus of Japanese learners of French.

The research results are published and made available to scientific community in and outside Japan through an international editor.

We notice also a sustained program of International Symposiums, Conferences and Colloquia, Support Programs for Young Researchers, seminars/workshops...

By this project, the validity of theoretical assumptions/propositions is tested by a rich range of empirical research.

7) Fostering young researchers

Seven young researchers participate throughout the all stages of the project. They are specializing in different fields (Malay and Bantu Languages, German and French studies, Japanese Grammar, and language education) and every one has already his identified achievements; participations to workshops, seminars and symposiums as well as in published contributions.

At a time when in Europe the trend is the consolidation of huge universities with several ten thousand students, TUFs, with a few thousand students, has just given its achievements by a fine example of efficiency.

Michel Bozdémir

Professor

INALCO, Pôle des langues et civilisations

65, rue des Grands Moulins

CS21351

F-75214 PARIS cedex 13

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Michel Bozdémir". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style with a long horizontal stroke at the beginning.