

# Outline

## **University rankings and entrance exams in Japan and England.**

- Chris Haswell discusses rankings at Kyushu University and test anxiety in Japan.
- Speakers discuss the importance of university entrance exams in Japan and the cultural norms surrounding them.

## **Linguistics, sociolinguistics, and applied linguistics, with a focus on the intersection of society, culture, and language.**

- Speaker 2 explains the difference between socio linguistics and Applied Linguistics, with a focus on the former.
- In 2013, speaker moved to Fukuoka after 7 years at Ritsumeikan, Asia Pacific University, and wrote a paper on attitudes towards English use in Asia while working on their PhD.
- Speaker 2 initially disagreed with advisor's assessment of their thesis topic, but later accepted their opinion and found value in keeping related research materials for inspiration post-PhD.
- Speaker 1 was surprised to hear that their advisor had initially deemed their thesis topic unimportant, yet it became one of the most cited papers.

## **PhD research and attitudes towards English language use in Asia.**

- Speaker 1 assumes PhD studies involve creating new models, but the speaker's advisor took out a section on a new model due to lack of interest.
- Speaker 2's advisor feedback led to the development of a new model, but the speaker felt unheard and unsupported in their efforts.
- Students at APU were more positive about using English compared to their compatriots.

## **Language use and perception in highly internationalized universities.**

- Students in Japan experience stress from communication with peers of different nationalities, criticizing each other's English.
- Speaker 2's PhD research focuses on international teaching assistants, exploring how they bridge linguistic and cultural gaps in highly internationalized universities.
- Speaker 2 enjoys socio-linguistics, particularly global Englishes and world Englishes, but found systemic functional grammar challenging during their master's degree.
- Speaker 2 expresses skepticism towards functional grammar, finding it unromantic and limiting in its approach to language.
- Speaker 2 and Speaker 1 discuss the idea of a universal grammar, with Speaker 2 expressing uncertainty about its existence due to the flexibility and variability of language.

## **Categorizing English speakers as native or non-native, with nuances and complexities.**

- Native English speakers and non-native speakers have different sensitivities towards categorization.
- Speaker argues against labeling language learners as "native" or "non-native," recognizing the complexities of language acquisition.

### **Language learning models and cultural factors.**

- Speakers discuss cultural and linguistic factors influencing perceptions of English language teaching models.
- Speaker 2 discusses the concept of "social capital" in the context of language learning, highlighting how people invest their time and energy into gaining proficiency in a language.
- Speaker 1 adds that 20 years ago, wealthier Japanese individuals sent their children to study abroad, but now it's more expensive and people are more selective about where they send their children.

### **English language learning and teaching in various locations around the world.**

- Speaker 1: Philippines seen as ideal destination for English language learning due to cultural appeal and affordability.
- Speaker 2: Investment in English language camps appeals to Japanese learners, despite higher costs in Singapore and Taiwan.
- Speaker explains how language use can be improved for better communication.

### **Language teaching methods for Japanese students, focusing on negotiation skills and cultural differences.**

- Speaker 1 emphasizes the importance of negotiation skills in language teaching.
- Speaker 1 discusses challenges faced by Japanese students in communication, including perfectionism and interactional styles.
- Speaker 2 shares personal anecdotes to illustrate how cultural differences can impact communication, including a story about watching a movie in Japan with a friend who spoke little Japanese.

### **Language learning strategies for Japanese speakers.**

- Speaker 2 shared experiences of communication barriers in Japan and England, emphasizing the importance of repetition and simplification in negotiation.
- Speaker 2 found it challenging to apply linguistics concepts in the classroom due to students' perfectionism and limited time together.
- Speaker 2 argues that standardized English tests are not designed to test language use in real-life contexts, but are instead focused on testing surface-level grammar and vocabulary.
- Speaker 1 agrees that there is a disconnect between what is tested in high school and college entrance exams, and suggests that a standardized speaking test could help address this issue.

### **How English language will change in the future, with a focus on globalization and intercultural communication.**

- Researchers aim to develop speaking tests that simulate real-life situations for L2 speakers.
- Speaker 2 discusses the evolution of English language modeling, highlighting the importance of understanding the language in real-time communication.
- Speaker 1 mentions the paper "A Global Model of English" and its potential to improve the appreciation of English usage in the Asia Pacific region.

### **Writing strategies for academics, including grant applications.**

- Speaker 1 advises young researchers to have a writing routine, but acknowledges it may not be practical for everyone.
- Speaker 2 suggests having an open document ready to go for quick writing sessions, even if it's just for 15-20 minutes.
- Speaker 2 discussed the importance of keeping a writing routine, even if it's not perfect, to keep ideas flowing and avoid restarting work from scratch.
- Speaker 2 and Speaker 1 discussed the format of grant applications in Japan, which can be formulaic and have many different sections, including sections on research subjects' rights and protection.
- Speaker 2 emphasizes the importance of an ongoing process for grant application development, citing the need to continuously improve and refine the document based on feedback and new information.
- Speaker 2 acknowledges that it's not just one thing that can torpedo an application, but rather a cascade of factors, including methodology, materials selection, and budget request.

### **Language learning and stalking the British national rugby team.**

- Speaker 2 focuses on practical Japanese language learning for work-related purposes.
- Speaker 2's wife discovered the English rugby team's pre-2015 World Cup training camp location in Japan.
- Speaker 2 meets rugby player Sonny Bill Williams, who is "a big unit" (140 kgs) and takes a picture with him.
- Speaker 2 receives compliments from starting players, including Sonny Bill Williams' cousin, who plays for Rotherham.

### **Linguistics and research methods with an English coach in Japan.**

- Speaker's wife is from Japan, which is a favorite place of England rugby coach Eddie Jones.
- Speaker meets Eddie Jones in a cafe and takes a photo with him, despite being nervous.
- Speaker 2 discusses starting a podcast focused on research methodologies, with Speaker 1 as a potential guest.
- Speaker 1 and Speaker 2 discuss linguistic imperialism and pronunciation, with plans to discuss further in a future episode.