

TITLE: Teaching Culture to Japanese Students

ABSTRACT

Culture teaching is said to be one of the most crucial parts of a foreign language education curriculum, and I believe that the leading goal of such process is not only to improve the students' intercultural awareness, value orientations, attitudes, and behaviors in the target language, but also to carry out those intercultural connotations into practice. Through my experience of teaching both Chinese and English for more than 10 years in Japan, I found it most difficult to help Japanese students overcome intercultural barriers, the reason of which lies in its geographic isolation from any of the continents and the traditionally well-preserved ethnic nature ---- conservativeness and integration.

In this paper, I would like to illustrate this point through analyzing some of the culture shocks encountered by my students during their processes of identifying and understanding foreign culture. I would also like to introduce some of my strategies to deal with such problems, and some of my suggestions to teachers, which may practically help them fulfill the most significant task of culture teaching ----- to reproduce those culture systems in target societies through negotiation with local people.