

**Examining Japanese Teachers' Use of L1 in English  
Classes:  
Frequency, Function and Reasons behind them**

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## **Introduction**

A new Course of Study (Japanese Educational Guideline) was introduced to senior high schools in Japan (MEXT, 2009). Its most striking statement, “classes, in principle, should be conducted in English (MEXT, 2009, p. 92),” caused heated discussions among teachers and researchers in the country. Moreover, MEXT (2013) revealed a plan of introducing this principle to Japanese junior high schools as well. These announcements of the new policy on English education implies that in the near future, the main medium of instruction for English lessons will be English, not only in senior high schools, but also in junior high schools. In other words, teachers are expected to utilize their English in facilitating classroom communication more frequently.

As supported by many previous studies, it is clear that L2 (target language) input is crucial for second language acquisition (e.g., Krashen, 1981; Krashen & Terrell, 1983). English teachers play a significant role as a resource of L2 input in the classroom by providing students with as much input as possible, especially in EFL environments where students do not have enough opportunity to be exposed to English in a daily basis. It might be ideal that English lessons should be conducted in English in all aspects. However, we should not exclude learners’ L1 (first language) in the classroom. There is also a role which L1 plays in lessons (e.g., Levine, 2011; Turnbull, 2001).

Although there are numerous literature about L1 use in EFL

contexts, studies concerning teachers' actual use of L1 and L2 in the classroom are limited in Japan. How much L1 and L2 are used by a teacher in the classroom? What L1-use functions are applied in lessons? When and how are the functions applied, and why? This paper researches teachers' actual L1 use in the Japanese classroom, focusing on its frequency, function, and reasons for use.

## **Chapter 1. Previous study**

There has been much heated debate about L1 and L2 use in the classroom (Hall & Cook, 2012). Some researchers have argued about exclusive L2 use in lessons (Krashen, 1981, 1982, 1985; Krashen & Terrell, 1983; Mitchell, 1988). From the view of the study of second language acquisition, Krashen (1981, 1982, 1985) contends that input is crucial for learners to acquire a second language. In addition, he proposes that input provided for learners should be  $i+1$ , a little ahead of learners' current levels. Taking his claim into consideration, it seems to be natural and ideal to conduct lessons in English to expose learners to L2, and at the same time exposing learners to L1 seems to deprive them of opportunities to receive L2 input. The lack of L2-input opportunities is one of the issues in English education, especially in an English-as-Foreign-Language (EFL) environment where learners do not usually receive L2 input in a daily basis. Cook (2001) also claims that language lessons in EFL contexts should expose students to more L2 input, implying that teachers have to conduct lessons in English. Therefore, in terms of second language acquisition theory, to guarantee

a large amount of L2 input in the classroom, teachers ought to provide as much L2 as possible in lessons.

Conducting lessons in English plays a role to improve learners' motivation (e.g. Koga & Sato, 2013; Sato & Koga, 2012). The researches of Koga and Sato (2013) and Sato and Koga (2012) show that the L2 use of a teacher in lessons can influence learners' motivation positively. In the study of Sato & Koga (2012), a teacher conducted 15-week lessons almost all in English (L2). Before and after all the lessons, Willingness To Communicate (WTC) of the students was measured. WTC can be defined as one's motivation to initiate communication (e.g., MacIntyre, 2007). After the 15-week lessons, learners' WTC was improved. On the other hand, in the survey of Koga and Sato (2013), a teacher conducted a debate task through 15-week lessons and mainly used Japanese (L1) to explain the content of lessons. The result showed that learners' WTC was not improved after the 15-week lessons. These researches imply that by using L2 in the classroom, teachers can improve students' motivation. It seems to be effective to conduct lessons in English for improving learners' motivation.

However, contrary to the exclusive-L2 position, more recent researches show that L1 should be incorporated in lessons (Cook, 2001; Cummins, 2007; He, 2012; Macaro, 2001, 2006, 2009; Sato, 2009, 2015; Seong, 2013; Turnbull, 2001; Turnbull & Arnett, 2002). Cook (2001) claims that, although it is crucial to provide more L2 input in the classroom, L1 plays a role in the classroom. The research of He

(2012) shows that the mother tongue is a valuable resource for L2 learners to scaffold themselves in understanding L2 by taking advantage of similarities and differences between the first language and the target language, and of learners' conceptual understanding in L1. In the Japanese EFL environment, Sato (2009) argues that teachers can switch from L2 to L1 at the right moment in lessons and suggests that teachers can use L1 in a restricted manner for the following: to modify or simplify teachers' L2 utterances, give crucial information about homework or tests, explain abstract expressions, establish teacher-student rapport, and maintain students' attention. In the similar EFL situation in Asia, Seong (2013) also proposes a balanced use of L1 in the L2 classroom in Korea: use of L1 when it is necessary (e.g., helping reduce learners' anxiety), use of L1 in their task, use of L1 supplementary materials (e.g., grammars, difficult expression, and idioms), use of bilingual dictionaries under the guidance of the teachers in the L2 classroom, and use of L1 in planning and producing the L2 writing on certain topics. The proposal of Seong partly corresponds with one of Sato, meaning that learners' L1 should be utilized in the EFL environments.

The discussions above about use of learners' first language and target language lead us to have a question: How much L1 or L2 should be used in the classroom? Atkinson (1987) argues that the percentage of L2 in the classroom should be about 95%. Macaro (2011) suggests that teachers should spend 80% of a lesson time in L2. Turnbull (2001) as well as Cook (2001) warns that teachers might rely too extensively on

L1. Their arguments have in common that teachers have to provide more exposure of English for learners as a prerequisite. Sato (2009, 2015) also emphasizes the necessity of teachers' increased use of L2 in the classroom in the Japanese EFL environment. It is clear from these arguments that although there is no clear answer towards the ideal percentage of L1 and L2 use in the classroom, teachers have to use their English.

To examine more the ideal percentage of L1 and L2 use in the classroom, it seems to be worthwhile to survey what is actually happening in the classroom. Many researchers already conducted studies about when and how teachers and students use a target language and a mother tongue in the classroom (Duff & Polio, 1990; Kimi & Shawn, 2014; Macaro, 2001; Polio & Duff, 1994; Rolin-Ianziti & Brownlie, 2002; Schweers, 1999). Regarding teachers' L1 use in Japanese English classrooms, some studies examined how much L1 teachers used (Hobbs, Matsuo & Payne, 2010; Mills, 2014; Moore, 2013; Osada, 2011). The findings show that the frequency of L1 and L2 changes, depending on external and internal variables such as teachers or teaching contexts. Other previous studies examined the reasons of teachers' actual L1 use in the classroom (De La Campa & Nassaji, 2009; Edstorm, 2006; Kang, 2008; Kimi & Shawn, 2014; Reza & Shahab, 2014; Wilkerson, 2008). Reza and Shahab (2014) identified the reasons of actual L1 use in the classroom through stimulated recall interview in which the participant teachers recalled the reasons of their L1 use in lessons. The result revealed that the teachers used L1 for students'

better comprehension, check students' comprehension, task/activity at hand, comparison/contrast between L1 and L2, students' emotional well-being, students' lack of comprehension, students' proficiency level and efficiency.

For examining the internal factors of teachers' L1 and L2 use in Japan, some researchers surveyed Japanese English teachers' belief towards use of L1 (Carson, 2014a, 2014b; Shimizu, 2006). The findings show that most of teachers regard use of learners' L1 as useful. On the other hand, others researched Japanese teachers' belief towards conducting lessons in English, or teachers' L2 use in the classroom (Miura, 2010; Tanabe, 2011; Tsukamoto & Tsujioka, 2013; Yamada & Hristoskova, 2011). Tsukamoto and Tsujioka (2013) conducted a questionnaire survey regarding Japanese English teachers' experiences in conducting lessons in English. Their findings indicated that those teachers who had received more in-service trainings in Communicative Language Teaching (CLT) taught English mainly in English. CLT demands teachers to use English as much as possible: thus, the amount of training received in CLT is likely congruent to training for teaching lessons in English. More in-service trainings provide more practice and experience to help teachers conduct classes in English. Other findings showed that, although many participants agreed with the idea of teaching English in English, some obstacles can still be encountered for doing so. Many teachers in the survey mentioned their English proficiency and their students' English proficiency and comprehension level as the reasons of difficulty for conducting lessons in English. The

same findings were found in other researches (Tanabe, 2011; Yamada & Hristoskova, 2011). Miura (2010) surveyed the anxieties of pre-service teachers, who wanted to become an English teacher, about using English in lessons. The results showed that pre-service teachers felt worried about speaking English in the classroom such as accuracy and fluency, that is, English proficiency level. Even before becoming a teacher, pre-service teachers seem to be worried about their English proficiency levels.

Thus, various investigations concerning teachers' L1 and L2 classroom use have already been conducted. However, not much study has been done yet in Japanese junior and senior high schools. Therefore, this study in Japanese secondary schools 1) examined teachers' L1-use frequency and 2) investigated their L1-use functions. Accordingly, I formulated the following research questions:

RQ1). What is the frequency of L1 used by Japanese teachers, and what reasons do they give for using L1 in specific lesson situations?

RQ2). What are the functions of L1 used by Japanese teachers, and what are their reasons for using L1 to accomplish these functions?

## **Chapter 2. Methodology**

### **2-1. Participant**

Three Japanese teachers of English, A, B, and C, who are graduates of the same class of a national university of education in Japan, participated in the study (Table 1). All participants hold a degree in

Bachelor of Arts (BA) in English Education. A teaches at a senior high school (SHS), and B and C are junior high school (JHS) teachers. They were all newly appointed teachers, and had already gained 10 months of teaching experience at the time of the study. None had experienced studying abroad in an English-speaking country. For their English proficiency levels, A and C had already passed the pre-first grade of Eiken Tests, Japan's most widely recognized English language assessment. In Eiken Tests, the pre-first grade is equal to the English proficiency level of B2 in CEFR and 80 score in TOEFL iBT. People who passed the pre-first grade can 'make explanations and express his/her opinions about topics relevant to a range of social, professional, and educational situations' according to STEP (2015). Teachers A and C can be regarded as proficient English speakers according to their Eiken Test results. Considering the performance garnered by B as an undergraduate student of the university, a professor of the university considered that B had the same level of English proficiency as A and C. Moreover, from the observation of the lesson videos of the three participants (in detail below), the same professor in charge of the English Education of the university where the participants had attended regarded them to have equal levels of English proficiency. At the time of the study, all of them were preparing to take the first grade of Eiken Tests. Thus, considering these variables, the participants can be regarded to have the almost same English proficiency level in this study.

Table 1

*Demographic Information of the Participant Teachers*

Teacher	School	Degree	Experience (in months)	English proficiency level (Eiken Tests)
A	SHS	Bachelor	10	Pre-first Grade
B	JHS	Bachelor	10	Not taken
C	JHS	Bachelor	10	Pre-first Grade

A's class (n=39) was composed of 16-17 years old second year SHS students. The overall academic level of the students in the school was high compared to students in other schools in the same prefecture. The students of A were regarded as Low-Intermediate English learners. The focus of the lesson observed was on reading by using a textbook.

B's class (n=19) was composed of 12-13 years old first year JHS students. Under the current educational system in Japan, students start to learn English as a subject from junior high school. In some elementary schools, students have a class to learn English once a week in the fifth and sixth grade. Most of students in B's class learned English in the same elementary school. However, in most Japanese junior high schools, students start to learn English from the basics of English (e.g., alphabet). In this study, the students of B would fall under Low-Beginner level English learners. The original class size was 40. Each class was subdivided into two English classes to teach in a small class. Compared to the other classes observed in this study, B had a smaller class size. The lesson focused on grammar, negative sentence

and interrogative sentence of past tense.

C's class (n=37) was composed of 13-14 years old, second year JHS students. Considering that they had learned English for almost two years (except learning in elementary school), the proficiency level of C's students would fall under Beginner. Lessons of C's class also focused on grammar. The target grammar was passive voice.

Table 2

*Information of the observed lessons*

	School	Students' number (age)	Students' English proficiency level	Lesson content (target)
A	SHS	39 (16-17)	Low-intermediate	Reading
B	JHS	19 (12-13)	Low-beginner	Grammar (past tense)
C	JHS	37 (13-14)	Beginner	Grammar (passive voice)

## 2-2. Data Collection

There were three steps in the data collection procedure in the study: lesson recording, stimulated recall interview, and questionnaire survey. To get the consent of the participants and to give them a broad explanation of this study including the date of observation, electronic mailing was used.

One lesson per participant teacher was recorded in order to calculate the frequency of English and Japanese used by the teachers in

their lessons. A video camera was used and was placed at the back of the classroom. The participant teachers used a microphone in their jacket pocket to capture clear audio interactions with their students.

Stimulated recall interviews were conducted with each teacher after the observed lessons to make them recall the reasons or thought processes for their actions in the classroom (Gass & Mackey, 2000). This approach is effective for teachers to remember what they were thinking while teaching (Reza & Shahab, 2014). In each subsequent stimulated recall interview, the teachers were asked the reasons of their L1 and L2 use while watching their lesson recording. The interviews were videotaped as well as the lesson recordings. The data for both the recorded lessons and the interviews were transcribed after each observation.

A questionnaire survey was administered in order to ask teachers about their beliefs regarding L1 and L2 use of teachers in the classroom. The questionnaire survey was conducted on the same day as the recording and interview. The first part of the questionnaire, developed by Yamada and Hristoskova (2011), asks teachers about their attitude towards classroom L2 use (see Appendix A). The second asks teachers' attitudes towards their own classroom use of L1 (see Appendix 2), which was based on Shimizu (2006), as well as the presumption that the teachers' L1 use in class is related to teachers' belief towards use of L1 and L2. For this study, the original questionnaire about L1 use on the second part was translated to Japanese, and the order of the questions was changed.

To maintain the reliability of the study, the following measures were taken: first, the teachers were not informed about the specific purposes of this study beforehand with regards to teachers' L1 and L2 use to capture the actual lessons. Second, an interval between lesson recordings and the subsequent stimulated recall interviews was minimized as much as possible. In the case of A and B, the interviews were conducted immediately after the lessons. However, the interview with C was held five days after the observation because of work schedule conflict. The language used in all the stimulated recall interviews and the questionnaire survey was the participant teachers' L1, Japanese, so that they could express what they thought exactly about their teaching in the classroom.

### **2-3. Data Analysis**

For the data analysis, the researcher 1) divided teacher speech into individual utterances, 2) classified the utterances into the category of L1 or L2, and 3) categorized the L1 utterances into their respective functions.

The researcher segmented the teachers' speech from the recorded lessons into individual utterances. In the previous studies, word count (De La Campa & Nasaaji, 2009; Moore, 2013), turn count (Swain & Lapkin, 2000) or both (Storch & Aldosari, 2010) was adopted to analyze the units of L1 and L2. For the use of turn count, Storch and Aldosari (2010) concluded that turn count is an inexact measure due to the variability of turn length. On the other hand, for adopting word

count, some problems arise in coding different languages. In the study of Moore (2013), which examined Japanese learners' use of L1 (Japanese) and L2 (English) in the classroom, word count was adopted to compare the frequency of their L1 and L2 use. However, a difference in how to count "word" between English and Japanese might influence the comparison of the total frequency of each language. Although coding two different languages originated from Europe seems valid to adopt word count (such as German and English in the study of De La Campa and Nasaaji (2009), the researcher considered the differences between the two languages in choosing the appropriate method for data analysis. A difference between different languages might influence the way to count each word. In this study, the standard of "utterance" from Kimi and Shawn (2014), based on the completion of individual sentences, was adopted to calculate the amount of English and Japanese. By using this standard, the two different languages can be dealt equally. In segmentation, there were some utterances that consisted of one word, which the researcher regarded as utterances as well.

Following the segmentation, each utterance was classified into primarily L1, primarily L2 or equal L1 and L2. Table 3 shows the explanation and examples of each category. In this table, some Japanese sentences or words are immediately followed by translations in English. The script used for translation was a modified version of the Hepburn system of Romanization. All the examples come from the present data.

Table 3

*Explanations and Examples of L1-and-L2-Utterances Category*

Category	Example
Primarily L1 (completely or mostly Japanese)	T: <i>Ansho nai desu, kyo wa</i> (You do not have a recitation test, today). <i>Ansho tesuto atta kana te in omou gurai, anmari itte nakatta to omou</i> (You are wondering whether you have a recitation test, because I did not say so much).
Primarily L2 (completely or mostly English)	T: So, last Friday, we practiced new words once. So, today, let's review. Let's repeat. Repeat after me new words again. Are you ready? So, please repeat. Let's go.
Equal L1 and L2 (almost same amount Japanese and English)	T: <i>Hai, tsugi</i> (OK, next), look at the board. T: <i>Hai, dewa, hoka</i> (OK, then, others), any of volunteer? T: Today is February... <i>Kyo, jugo nichika</i> (Today, it is fifteenth).

After the classification of teachers' utterances into L1 or L2, the percentage of L1 and L2 in the utterances of the three teachers was calculated. The teachers sometimes repeated the same sentences and words in the activities such as reading aloud and vocabulary check. In calculation, it is likely that the more teachers used the repetition of English words or sentences, the higher the percentage of English use would be. In this study, however, each word or sentence repeated by the

teachers in the lessons was calculated as one utterance.

Next, the utterances were categorized according to their respective functions of L1 use. Each utterance was categorized following the categories of De La Campa and Nasaaji (2009) which consists of 14 functions. However, while categorizing the utterances, four other L1 functions were identified. Therefore, the researcher added the four L1 functions into the category: *explanation*, *filler*, *nod*, and *discipline*. Table 4 shows the explanation of each category with an example based on the modified version of the L1-function category of De La Campa and Nasaaji (2009). Although some of the examples come from the data of the current study, the other examples not found in the study come from De La Campa and Nasaaji (2009). The participants' utterances were categorized into the L1 functions, based on the revised version of categories.

Table 4

*Modified version of L1-function category of De La Campa and Nasaaji (2009)*

Category	Example
1. translation: L1 utterances that translated a previous L2 utterance	T: On Saturday, I forget what I did. <i>Doyoubi wa nani shitaka wasuretan desu kedo</i> (I forgot what I did on this Saturday, though).
2. L1-L2 contrast: L1	Not found in the study

utterances used to contrast L2 forms or cultural concepts with L1 forms or concepts	T: Im englischen ist das so, wie würdet ihr, Winona Ryder, wie würdet ihr die bezeichnen als <i>actor</i> oder als <i>actress</i> (in English it is like, how would you Winona Ryder, how would you label her, as actor or actress)?
3. Evaluation: L1 utterances used to evaluate students' contributions.	Not found the study T: Ja, das wäre schön, aber es ist leider Ausländerfeindlichkeit, keine Freundlichkeit (Yes, that would be nice but unfortunately it is hostility against foreigners, not friendliness) <i>good</i> .
4. Activity instruction: L1 utterances that provided activity instructions.	T: <i>E, jya, namae mo kaite oite kudasai</i> (Then, please write your name).
5. Activity objective: L1 utterances that described the objective of an activity.	Not found in the study T: Und vielleicht können wir das kurz durch, den Wortschatz [And maybe we can quickly through, the vocabulary], <i>so that you have all heard it or so</i> .
6. Elicitation of student contribution: L1 utterances that elicited student contributions.	T: <i>Mae no koto to, kako no koto to, fudan no koto kiku toki niwa, hitei suru toki niwa, nani dake chigau</i> (What is a difference between what is previous, what

	is past and what is usual when using interrogative or negative form)?
7. Personal comment: L1 utterances that expressed the instructor's personal take on events.	T: <i>Ashita wa ne, zenin manten toreru to iine</i> (I hope that you all will get a perfect score tomorrow).
8. Comprehension check: L1 utterances that checked students' comprehension	T: <i>Kore, kono bun douiu imi dakke</i> (this, what does this sentence mean)?
9. Classroom equipment: L1 utterances that dealt with classroom equipment.	Not found in this study (The data projector does not work.) T: <i>I just tried to restart maybe it works then again.</i>
10. Administrative issues: L1 utterances related to administrative issues (e.g., exam announcements).	T: <i>Ansho kyo wa nai desu</i> (Today, you don't have a recitation test).
11. Repetition of student L1 utterance: L1 utterances spoken by a student and repeated by the instructor.	T: Did you swim? S: No. T: Why? S: <i>Samu katta kara</i> (Because it was cold). T: <i>Samu katta kara</i> (Because it was cold).
12. Reaction to student question: L1 utterances the	S: <i>Kako bunshi no tesuto itsu kaette kimasu ka</i> (When is a test of past

instructor produced in response to a student question.	participle returned)? T: <i>Jikai</i> (Next time).
13. Humor: L1 utterances in which the instructor made a joke intended to make the students laugh.	Not found in this study T: Findet ihr auch, dass der Simmons das positivste von diesen Bildern ist [Do you find too that Simmons is the most positive of the images]? <i>I am not going to tell anybody what you said in class.</i> (student laughter)
14. Instructor as bilingual: instances of code-switching	
a) Arbitrary code-mixing: L1 utterances containing instances of the instructor mixing L1 and L2 words randomly, including false starts.	Not found in this study T: Okay, <i>what is the</i> , was ist der eigentliche englische Begriff [What is the actual term in English]?
b) L1 words from L1 culture: L1 words from L1 cultural context that the instructor incorporated into L2 speech.	T: Did you eat <i>yakisaba somen? Yakisoba somen?</i>
15. explanation:	T: <i>Kako kei, kako no koto ni narun desu</i>

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explanation of L2 grammar, *ne* (Past tense, it becomes a past thing).

vocabulary or sound

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16. filler T: *Hai, e..., dewa* (OK, ah..., then).

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17. nod T: *Sou desu ne* (That's right).

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18. discipline T: *Oi, ii desu ka* (Hey, OK?).

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*Note.* L1 is Japanese and L2 is English in the current study. In De La Campa and Nasaaiji (2009), L1 is English, and L2 is German. In the table, the words of L1 in each category are made italic: Japanese words from the current study are made italic, and English words from De La Campa and Nasaaiji (2009) are.

During the classification of participant teachers' utterances into L1 or L2 and the following categorization of the L1 utterances into functions, inter-rater reliability was checked with other researcher. When the researchers disagreed about the classification into L1 or L2, or the categorization of L1 functions, a final decision was made through discussion between the researchers. Six points of disaccord among the researchers occurred that were resolved through discussion.

## **Chapter 3. Results and Discussion**

### **3-1. Frequency of Teachers' L1 and L2 utterances**

Table 5 below shows the frequency of the participants' L1 and L2 use. 98.8% of A's utterances, 73.0% of B's utterances, and 35.5% of C's utterances were in English. Although the three participant teachers had almost the same L2 proficiency level, their L2 frequency seemed to be

quite different.

To examine whether there is a significant difference in the ratio of L2 use among the three teachers, Chi-square analysis was used. In the analysis, the standardized residual of  $\pm 1.96$  is selected as the significant difference level ( $p < .05$ ). However, in the current study, the Bonferroni-adjusted alpha level was set at .017 to avoid Type I error (e.g., Field, 2009 ) by dividing .05 by three (repetitions because the analysis was conducted three times repeatedly). The results showed that there was a significant difference between A and B,  $\chi^2 (1) = 159.65, p < .001$ ; A and C,  $\chi^2 (1) = 509.97, p < .001$ ; and B and C,  $\chi^2 (1) = 180.35, p < .001$ . I then examined why there was such a big difference in L2-use frequency between the participant teachers.

Table 5

*Frequency of Participants' L1 and L2 Use in the Classroom*

	A		B		C	
Primarily L1	7	1.2%	193	26.3%	347	62.9%
Primarily L2	559	98.8%	535	73.0%	196	35.5%
Equal L1 and L2	0	0.0%	5	0.7%	9	1.6%
Total	566	100.0%	733	100.0%	552	100.0%

In order to examine the reasons of such a big difference of L2 frequency among the teachers, the three teachers' beliefs from the questionnaire data were analyzed. The results of the questionnaire showed that A, B, and C all agreed with the statements about the

advantages of conducting lessons in English. The participants think that English lessons should be conducted in English. Consequently, A's belief was compared with B's and C's. In the questionnaire, there is a section about the disadvantages of conducting lessons in English as well as the advantages mentioned above. B and C answered in the section that they felt anxieties and difficulties in conducting lessons in English. According to their responses, they were afraid that students would feel embarrassment or anxiety during lessons. In addition, B and C thought it difficult to moderate the level of their English input parallel to the students' level of proficiency and to use entirely English in class. The previous studies also showed that teachers' insufficient English proficiency level influenced teachers' actual use of L2 in the classroom (Miura, 2010; Tsukamoto & Tsujioka, 2013; Tanabe, 2011; Yamada & Hristoskova, 2011). In contrast, A did not consider embarrassment or anxiety for himself or his students, as indicated by his questionnaire response in the same section. A's answer in the free comment section of the questionnaire is as follows:

“Preparations for conducting lessons are crucial. Without thinking about what to say in lessons in advance, English does not become real for students (translated by the author).”

In the subsequent interview with A after the lesson, A emphasized the importance of preparing a script in order to speak English in the classroom, which includes a preparation on what to say in English for

every lesson such as what questions to ask, how to paraphrase or explain contents, or how to raise examples. By doing the preparation, A was able to moderate the levels of L2 input so that students in his class could understand contents. A also said, however, that making scripts to speak English in lessons was the hardest aspect of lesson preparation. Considering A's comments, by preparing more for conducting lessons in English such as writing a script for lessons, it might be possible that B and C coped with their perceived difficulty in using English that matches the level of students and to accordingly and entirely use English in class.

Then, why was it that A did not seem to consider anxiety or embarrassment for students, compared with B and C? It can be presumed that students' anxiety or embarrassment in lessons will come from their non-understanding of in-class contents. If so, I can infer that teachers' perception of students' anxiety or difficulty might stem from their students' lack of comprehension on the look of their faces. In the post-lesson interviews, when asked why they switched from English to Japanese, B and C often answered that they used L1 to check or help students' understanding at that time. In A's case, he might have dealt with students' anxiety or embarrassment by using English. As explained in the interview, A contemplated how to speak English before lessons such as how to paraphrase, what examples to provide, or what questions to ask. In addition, in the recorded lesson, A used some pictures to aid students' comprehension of the content while using English. These preparations would be helpful for students to understand the content of

the lesson. Yamada (2011) claims that, in order to teach English in English, teachers need to understand what supports they should provide for students, and proposes linguistic supports:

- (1) use of topics that students have enough background knowledge about,
- (2) use of the language that students already know and the language slightly higher than their current level,
- (3) simplification of the language which is beyond their language level by way of paraphrasing,
- (4) provision of background information to activate students' schema when using topics unfamiliar to students,
- (5) provision of planning time before speaking
- (6) use of glossary
- (7) instruction of useful expressions for discussion, speaking, and
- (8) instruction in and encouragement of the use of communication strategies

Among these linguistic and affective supports, A used some of them, preparing what he would say before the lesson and using pictures concerning the lesson. Applying some of supports above, A seemed to succeed in teaching English in English.

Furthermore, by showing what and how to say in English, A seemed to encourage his students to use English. In his lessons, A provided the students with an opportunity to do output in English. Before pushing

them to do output, A demonstrated the output activity. In the observation, seeing A doing it, the students seemed to be motivated to speak English. They tried to talk with their friend in English. As the previous studies show, motivating the students to use English by using one's self as an example created an input-and-output-rich classroom (Koga & Sato, 2013; Sato & Koga, 2012). Considering these preparations and techniques, it is clear that A tried to help the students understand "English through English". A did not consider students' anxiety or embarrassment as obstacles to teach English in English because he could deal with students' lack of understanding through the L2. Thus, it can be concluded that the main difference between A, and B and C in L2 frequency was due to the difference of their perceptions of difficulty or anxiety for themselves and their students regarding conducting lessons in English, as well as how they dealt with these perceptions.

Next, the researcher examined the difference between B and C. Based on their answers on the questionnaire survey, the teachers thought that L1 should play a crucial role in various situations such as when explaining a complicated grammar rule, new vocabulary or an idea difficult to understand, as previous studies show (e.g., Sato, 2009). Considering this response of the two teachers to the questionnaire, it may be supposed that they would incorporate more L1 into their lessons. However, B added in the free comment section of the questionnaire that, although L1 plays a role, to provide more L2 input, L1 use in lessons depends on situations (e.g., when students show lack of understanding,

or when dealing with a lesson content quite hard for students to understand). B admitted usefulness of Japanese in teaching English, but she prioritized providing L2 input while minimizing the amount of Japanese used. In the interview, B was asked about switch from Japanese to English during one of the short talks with students. B explained that communicating longer than necessary in Japanese with students might change the atmosphere of lessons and would lead them to the idea of using more L1 in class. From this response, B tried to use L2 in the lesson in order to keep the atmosphere of urging to use English. This point on B's belief regarding L2 use makes it distinct from C's.

Other variables that might influence teachers' L1 and L2 frequency are the year levels and English proficiency levels of students. Many teachers might say that it can be easier to conduct lessons in English in SHS than in JHS because SHS students have acquired more knowledge in English than JHS students, or that it can be easier to conduct lessons in English in JHS than in SHS because what students in JHS learn is easier to understand or develop through in-class activities than in SHS (e.g., Narita, 2013). In this study, A's lesson showed the highest frequency of L2, and C's lesson showed the lowest. However, between B and C, B's lesson showed a higher frequency than C's. B's students were first year JHS students, and C's students were second year JHS students. Furthermore, A's lessons showed a higher frequency of L2 than B's lesson, although A's students were second year SHS students and B's students were first year JHS students. So, it is not true from

this study that the easiness or difficulty of conducting lessons in English depends on the year level of students. In addition, students' English proficiency levels differ due to their different year levels. According to this study, it is also not true that students' English proficiency influences the ease or difficulty of conducting lessons in English. From these reasons, it may therefore be implied that neither students' year level nor L2 proficiency level should be regarded as hindrances when conducting lessons in English.

### **3-2. Functions of Teachers' L1 Use**

Table 6 shows the result of L1 functions categorized, following the categories revised from De La Campa and Nassaji (2009). Activity instruction was used the most often among the three teachers, followed by explanation and translation. The researcher examined why these L1 functions were used in their lessons and why there was a difference in L1 functions among the three teachers, focusing on the top three most frequently used functions.

*Activity Instruction* is an instruction in an activity such as *raise your hand* or *make a pair*. C used it the most among the three teachers, 105 times. B used L1 for activity instruction just 10 times, and A did not use it at all. It is presumed that the cause of this significant difference was due to their class size. There were 19 students in B's lesson, while there were 37 students in C's lesson. In the interview, C said she felt it difficult to make activity instructions understood even in Japanese, much less in English. So, it can be understood that C felt less

comfortable than B in giving activity instructions in English, and used Japanese to save time. On the other hand, although B used activity instructions mainly in L2, B sometimes used L1 for activity instructions before or after L2. In the interview, B gave activity instructions in L1 after L2 to give clarification for the students.

Table 6

*Frequency of the Participants' L1 Functions (modified from De La Campa & Nassaji (2009))*

	A		B		C		Total	
Activity instructions	0	0.0%	11	5.7%	105	30.3%	116	21.2%
explanation	0	0.0%	58	30.1%	57	16.4%	115	21.0%
Translation	2	28.6%	49	25.4%	43	12.4%	94	17.2%
Personal comment	3	42.9%	17	8.8%	50	14.4%	70	12.8%
Elicitation of student contribution	1	14.3%	12	6.2%	44	12.7%	57	10.4%
Nod	0	0.0%	14	7.3%	15	4.3%	29	5.3%
Repetition of student L1 utterance	1	14.3%	19	9.8%	2	0.6%	22	4.0%
Filler	0	0.0%	6	3.1%	10	2.9%	16	2.9%
Reaction to	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	9	2.6%	9	1.6%

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student question								
Comprehension	0	0.0%	2	1.0%	6	1.7%	8	1.5%
check								
Administrative	0	0.0%	4	2.1%	3	0.9%	7	1.3%
issues								
discipline	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	3	0.9%	3	0.5%
Instructor as	0	0.0%	1	0.5%	0	0.0%	1	0.2%
bilingual								
L1-L2 contrast	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%
Evaluation	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%
Activity objective	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%
Classroom	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%
equipment								
Humor	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%

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However, not in every situation of the lesson, C used L1 for activity instruction. In the lesson, C sometimes spoke in L2 for activity instruction. In the interview, she was asked about L2 use for activity instruction at some situations. C explained that some activity instructions were frequently used in lessons as classroom English; e.g. *look at the blackboard* and *open your textbook*. In the survey of Tsukamoto and Tsujioka (2013), it was found that although many teachers conduct classroom instruction, greetings and warm-ups in English, they use less English in vocabulary or grammar explanation. In comparison to the case of C, although classroom English was often used

when conducting lessons, other expressions in Japanese might be difficult for C to speak in English.

The next function is *explanation*. B used explanation the most among the three, followed by C. In the interview, B said that use of L1 for explanations helps students understand grammar and vocabulary without any problems. A difference in teaching content between the lessons may explain the differences in this function. A's lesson focused on reading. A seldom provided Japanese explanations on grammar, vocabulary, or even the content of the reading material. On the other hand, the lesson focus of B and C was on grammar. In the grammar section of the observed lessons, B and C both used more L1 to explain the points of the target grammar their students had to keep in mind. The focus of their lessons might have influenced their amount of L1 and L2 use. Then, how about a difference between B and C? In the interview, when asked why they had taught grammar in Japanese, both B and C said that teaching grammar should be conducted in Japanese. In the questionnaire as well, they pointed out that Japanese should be used in grammar teaching. Although they both taught grammar in their lessons, their target grammar was different. B taught negative sentence and interrogative sentence of past tense. On the other hand, C taught passive voice. I can presume that differences of target grammar might influence the degree to teach in English. Comparing each grammar, passive voice may be more complicated for students to learn and for teachers to teach in English than negative sentence and interrogative sentence of past tense. However, only such complexity of grammar does

not seem to have influenced their use of Japanese and English in their lessons. B used L1 for explanations as often as C, but, in the interview, B said that she tried to use as much English as possible to provide more English input, even in the grammar teaching section of lessons. This belief of B for L2 use also makes it distinct from the teaching of C.

*Translation* is an L1 utterance translating a previous L2 utterance. This function was used by the three teachers. A used it to provide a Japanese translation after English words or idiomatic expressions when introducing vocabulary. This is one of a few L1 functions A used in his lesson. Although the amount of L1 use is quite less than B and C, A did not discard the effectiveness or efficiency of L1 use. A admitted teachers' L1 use in the classroom in the questionnaire and said that there were many situations to use L1 in lessons. Especially for vocabulary teaching or learning, A found L1 to be effective. In the same questionnaire, A did not agree with the effectiveness of teaching English in English in vocabulary teaching while he totally agreed or almost agree with the other advantages of teaching English in English. This could explain A's use of L1 in the introduction of vocabulary in the recorded lesson.

In the lesson, A provided his students with a match list of new vocabulary and its translation or meaning. By matching the English vocabulary with Japanese, A provided the needed support for students' understanding of the vocabulary. Kasahara (2015) claims that vocabulary list contrasting English and its translation plays a role in EFL contexts where natural exposure of English is limited in a daily

life, and that intentional learning is important for the language acquisition in learning a language as a foreign language. By making the students engage on intentional learning, A might help them acquire new vocabulary.

B and C also used translation after showing English sentences and vocabulary. In the interview, B and C said that they provided Japanese translation so that the students could understand the content fully. Though the frequency of translation conducted by B was close to that of C, they seemed to use translation for different reasons. B used translation whenever students express signs of embarrassment or anxiety. In order to help or check students' understanding, B seemed to provide the L1 translations. On the other hand, C used translation after every L2 sentence. When L1 translation should be provided might have been different among the teachers.

Beyond the three functions, the researcher would like to give a significant importance on one L1 function that teacher A, whose L2-use frequency was close to 100% in the classroom, used: *personal comment*. Of A's L1-use functions, the percentage of personal comment was the highest. The samples are shown in the following:

T: Kaiteru jyan! (You have written it!) Nande sonna kincho surunkana?  
(Why are you feeling so nervous?) Fudan... mou! (Usually...  
Shoot!)

The three utterances mentioned above were relative to a part of A's

lesson. In the comprehension check of the reading material, students did not try to answer, or just responded with “I don’t know”. This shows that the students were afraid of making mistakes or giving out wrong answers. At that time, A spoke the sentences above to the students. In the interview, A said that he used Japanese in order to change the atmosphere of the lesson. In the questionnaire, A said in the free comment that “I think that L1 should be used when a teacher want to draw students’ attention, when it is difficult to teach in English, or to relax the atmosphere of the classroom (translated by the author).” The previous studies also claim that L1 use is effective to decrease students’ anxiety in the classroom (Cook, 2001). In this situation, A helped students reduce anxiety by using Japanese to express what he thought at the moment to the students.

#### **Chapter 4. Conclusion and Limitations**

This study analyzed the lessons of three English teachers, focusing on the frequency and functions of their L1 use, as well as their reasons for using L1. The researcher found that even with almost same L2 proficiency levels, teachers’ L1-use frequency varied, and that the L1 functions the teachers used also varied between the teachers. In this study, by examining the reasons of the result through an interview and questionnaire, the researcher came to a conclusion that the participants’ L1 and L2 use were influenced by internal (e.g. trying to provide more L2 for students) and external (e.g. students’ understanding of content) factors in the classroom. For making an input-rich classroom, the way

to deal with the factors will be necessary for the teachers. Another interesting finding in the research was that students' year level and L2 proficiency level are not significant when conducting English lessons in English. Finally, in this research, the L1 functions which the teachers used provide us a proposal for using L1 effectively in the classroom. The teachers used L1 effectively for mitigating learners' anxiety in the lesson, or checking or helping learners' comprehension while providing more L2 input for the students. L1 use should not be disregarded in teaching a foreign language.

However, this study has the following limitations. First, the number of participants was small, with just three teachers. For participants in this study, although the researcher regarded the participants' English proficiency levels as almost the same, it is necessary to setting up a criterion to evaluate participants' English proficiency level. Second, the content of the participants' lessons differed as A dealt with reading while B and C taught mainly grammar. If A's lesson had focused on grammar, A might have used more L1 than or as much L1 as B and C, as compared to his reading lesson. Moreover, even in B's and C's grammar teaching, the content of the grammar was different. If B had taught a more complicated grammar, B might have used L1 more often to translate L2 sentences or help students' comprehension. On the other hand, if grammar had been simple, C might have used more L2 in lessons. Finally, the researcher observed and recorded just one lesson from each of the participant teachers. Some internal and external factors might have influenced the participants' teaching at the time of

each lesson observation. Therefore, it cannot generalize the overall tendency of participants' L1-use with just one observation for each. A longitudinal study would be necessary to collect more data about participants' L1-use frequency, functions, and reasons behind its use in order to further explore factors influencing teachers' decision making regarding L1 use.

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## Appendix

### Appendix A Questionnaire about teachers' belief towards teachers' use of L2 (English) in the classroom (Yamada & Shimo, 2011)

1. 平成25年に公示された「グローバル化に対応した英語教育改革実施計画」において、中学校でも「授業は英語で行うことを基本とする」ということが計画されています。この「授業は英語で行うことを基本とする」についてどうお考えですか。

- おおいに賛同する    ほぼ賛同する    どちらとも言えない  
 あまり賛同しない    全く賛同しない

2. 英語の授業を英語で行うに関して当てはまるところに丸(○)を付けてください。

- 1: 全くその通り、2: ほぼその通り、3: どちらとも言えない  
4: あまりそう言えない、5: 全く違う

a 英語を使う自然な環境をつくることできる。	1	2	3	4	5
b 生徒が英語により多く触れることになる。	1	2	3	4	5
c いつも英語を聞いていると英語を聞き取りやすくなる。	1	2	3	4	5
d 授業が英語で行われると語彙力をつけるのに役立つ。	1	2	3	4	5
e そのような授業では、生徒に英語を学びたいという内的動機づけを与えることができる。	1	2	3	4	5
f 言葉は実際のコミュニケーションで使って習得できるものである。	1	2	3	4	5
g その他 :					

3. 英語の授業を英語で行うに関して当てはまるところに丸(○)を付けてください。

1: 全くその通り、2: ほぼその通り、3: どちらとも言えない

4: あまりそう言えない、5: 全く違う

a 全て英語で授業をすると、困惑する生徒がいる。	1	2	3	4	5
b 英語力の低い生徒は日本語で説明する必要がある。	1	2	3	4	5
c 生徒のレベルに合った英語を使うのは難しい。	1	2	3	4	5
d 重要事項が理解できないことがある。	1	2	3	4	5
e 説明は日本語でした方がはるかに効率的なことが多い。	1	2	3	4	5
f 日本人教師にとって、常に英語で話すことは困難だ。	1	2	3	4	5
g その他：					

4. 授業は、どのくらい英語で行っておられますか。

- 言語材料の提示（テキストの英文や例文提示）のみ  言語材料の提示とclassroom Englishを使う時  言語材料の提示と生徒に英語でコミュニケーション活動をさせる時  ほとんど全て
- その他（下に記入してください）
- 

5. 先生が話す英語を生徒に理解させるのに、どのような工夫をされていますか。あてはまるもの全てにチェック☑を入れてください。

- ゆっくり話す  繰り返す  簡単な英語を使う  ジェスチャーを使う  演技をする  写真・絵や実物を見せる  日本語に訳す
- その他（下に記入してください）
- 

6. 今後、「授業は英語で行うことを基本」としていくとなると、次のどのようなことが必要と思われますか。それぞれについて、どう思われ

るかご回答ください。

1: とても必要、2: 必要、3: どちらとも言えない

4: あまり必要でない、5: 全く必要でない

a 英語の授業をとおして人間教育を行うのだという理念	1	2	3	4	5
b 大学入試での英語の試験の改革	1	2	3	4	5
c 教育研究所などの主催による教員研修	1	2	3	4	5
d 個々の教員が必要に応じて自由に研修できる制度	1	2	3	4	5
e それぞれの学校で教員が相互に研修しサポートできる体制	1	2	3	4	5
f 教員の英語力の向上	1	2	3	4	5
g その他:					

7. 「授業は英語で行うことを基本」にすると、あなたは、次のどのようなことをしていこうと考えられますか。それぞれについて、どう思われるかご回答ください。

1: 全くその通り、2: ほぼその通り、3: どちらとも言えない

4: あまり思わない、5: 全く思わない

a 日本語を使用する方が教育効果の高いことを大事にしつつ、英語を使った活動を増やしていく。	1	2	3	4	5
b 試験問題を変える。	1	2	3	4	5
c 研修会に参加する。	1	2	3	4	5
d 教授法を自分で勉強する。	1	2	3	4	5
e 自分の学校の特性に沿った指導のあり方を、同僚と一緒に考える。	1	2	3	4	5

f 英語力を向上させる	1	2	3	4	5
g その他:					

8. 最後に、先生のバックグラウンドや勤務校についてお教えてください。

(1) 大学でのご専攻（主専攻）は何でしたか。

BA in  英語教育  言語学  英文学  教育  その他

MA in  英語教育  言語学  英文学  教育  その他

(2) 教職について何年になられますか。

5 年以内  5 年から 10 年以内  10 年から 20 年以内  20 年以上

(3) 中学校または高等学校で英語を何年教えておられますか。

5 年以内  5 年から 10 年以内  10 年から 20 年以内  20 年以上

(4) 現在勤務されておられる学校にはどのようなコースがありますか。

全日制：普通科のみ（理数科を含む）  全日制：普通科と国際関係の学科

全日制：普通科と国際関係の学科と職業系の学科  全日制：普通科と職業系の学科（理数科を含む）

全日制：職業系の学科のみ  定時制・通信制：普通科、職業系の学科

9. 英語の授業における教師の英語使用に関して意見を聞かせてください。

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Appendix B Questionnaire about teachers' belief towards teachers' use  
of L1 (Japanese) in the classroom (modified from Shimizu (2006))

1. 英語の授業の際に、日本語を使用することがありますか。  
 いつも。  しばしば。  時々。  めったにない。  全くない。
2. あなたは教師が日本語を英語の授業で使うべきだと思いますか。  
 はい。  いいえ。
3. 教師が日本語を使うのは必要ないと考えた方、それはなぜですか。  

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4. あなたは英語の授業における教師の日本語の使用が英語を学ぶのに役立つと思いますか？  
 すごくそう思う。  少しそう思う。  そう思う。  そうは思わない。  全然そうは思わない。
5. どのぐらいの頻度で授業の中で教師が日本語を使うべきだと思いますか。  
 全く使わないほうが良い。  めったに使わないほうが良い。  ときどき。  頻繁に。  
 かなり頻繁に。
6. いつ教師が日本語を使うのが適切だと思いますか。複数回答可。  
 既に学習した教材の内容を復習するとき  新しい教材を導入するとき  
 複雑な文法を説明するとき  新しい語彙の説明をするとき  難しい概念を説明するとき  
 表現やフレーズを練習するとき  指示を出すとき

- アドバイスをするときや効果的な勉強方法を教えるとき □ 生徒に冗談を言うとき
  - 英語力をテストするとき（例ーテストで英語から日本語に訳するときなど）
  - 内容を理解しているか確認するとき □ 生徒の居心地をより良くし、より自信を付けさせるとき
  - 小グループで活動をするとき □ 英語と日本語の関係を説明するとき
  - その他（下に記入してください）
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7. 英語の授業における教師の日本語使用に関して意見を聞かせてください。
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# 学位論文要旨

学生番号 143801	氏名 泉谷 忠至
専攻（専修名） 教科教育専攻（英語教育専修）	
論文題目 Examining Japanese Teachers' Use of L1 in English Classes: Frequency, Function and Reasons behind them (英語授業における日本人教師の日本語使用の調査：頻度、機能、理由に着目して)	
論文要旨 現行の『高等学校学習指導要領』(MEXT, 2009)、そして『グローバル化に対応した英語教育改革実施計画』(MEXT, 2013)により、今後、高等学校のみならず中学校の英語授業においても、教師の積極的な英語使用が期待されている。これまでも教室での外国語使用と母語使用に関しては議論されていたが、本論では実際に言語使用がどのように行われているかを調査した。 第1章では、授業における教師の言語使用に関する先行研究を整理した。従来の第二言語習得研究では教師が学習対象言語を使用するべきとされていた。しかし、近年の研究では、学習者の母語も使用されるべきと主張されている。このような言語使用の研究においては、実際の教室での教師の言語使用頻度、使用機能、使用理由などに着目して調査が行われている (e.g., Polio & Duff, 1994)。加えて、教師の言語使用に対しての信念の研究も行われている。しかし、このような研究は日本の中学校・高等学校ではあまり行われておらず、本研究では、教師の英語（学習対象言語）と日本語（母語）の使用量、機能、そしてその理由に関する調査を行った。 第2章では、調査方法を示した。この調査には3人の英語教師（A（男性・高等学校2年担当）・B（女性・中学校1年担当）・C（女性・中学校2年担当））が参加した。3人とも教師1年目であり、英語運用能力は同等と考えた。それぞれの教師の授業を記録し、授業後にその授業での日本語使用についてインタビューを行い、その後言語使用に関するアンケートをその教師たちに実施した。データの分析は、先行研究を基に、録画した授業からそれぞれの教師の英語・日本語使用率を算出し、使用された日本語の機能分類を行った。 第3章では、収集したデータを基に分析を行った。記録した授業を基にそれぞれの教師の日本語使用率を参集したところ、3人それぞれに大きな違いがみられた（日本語：A<B<C、英語：A>B>C）。その違いをアンケートで集められた教師の日本語・英語使用に対しての信念を基に分析を行った。その結果、3人の教師は全員授業での教師の英語使用に対して賛成しているが、BとCは英語使用率の最も高いAと比べ、授業での英語使用に対して不安を感じていた（例：生徒の英語力に合わせた英語使用）。それに対して、Aは英語で授業を行うために準備をしっかりと行っていたことが分かった。BとCの間では、日本語を使用するべきと考える中で、Bは英語を積極的に使用しようとしており、英語使用率が異なる原因となったと考えた。その他の発見として、算出されたそれぞれの教師の英語使用率と担当学年、学習者の英語運用能力から、教師が英語で授業を行うことに関して、学習者の学年と英語運用能力は関係が見られないことが分かった。最後に、3人の教師の日本語使用の機能に着目した。発見された日本語の機能の内、頻度の高かった「活動の指示」、「説明」、「日本語訳」、「個人的意見」を分析した。分析の結果、それぞれの日本語使用機能には教室の生徒人数や、授業の内容などが影響していることが発見された。 結論として、教師の言語使用には教師の信念のような内部的要因のほかにも、授業内容や生徒人数のような外部的要因が影響を与えていることが分かった。しかし、その一方で、教師の授業での英語使用は学習者の学年や運用能力に関係なく行うことが可能であることも分かった。今後は日本人教師の英語使用・日本語使用の要因を明らかにするために、さらなる研究が必要である。	