Intercultural Communication for English Language Learners in Japan

英語学習者のための異文化コミュニケーション

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From the authors

The aim of this book is to help you think about the relationships between language

and culture and some of the important aspects of human psychology that influence the

process of intercultural communication. In this book, we do not provide a superficial list

of cultural differences or a simple recipe for successful communication. Rather, we have

included readings that provide a simple introduction to important concepts and theories

from fields such as social psychology, linguistics, anthropology, and intercultural

communication studies. As you study this textbook, our hope is that you will begin to

think deeply and critically about intercultural communication and develop your own

ideas about how to communicate. We have highlighted vocabulary that will allow you

to discuss important issues, so try to use them when you can. We have also included

comprehension check activities, discussion questions, and writing activities to help you

develop your ideas and share them with classmates. The CD can be used to test your

listening comprehension skills and also consolidate your knowledge of the content from

each unit.

We wish you the best of luck with your study and intercultural experiences!

Troy McConachy, Satoru Furuya, Chikako Sakurai

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著者より

この教科書の目的は、言語と文化の関係や異文化コミュニケーションのプロセスに影響を与える人間の心理上の重要な側面を考えるための手助けすることです。この教科書は、文化的差異についての表層的なリストや、コミュニケーションを成功させるための単純な秘訣を与えるものではありません。むしろ、社会心理学、言語学、文化人類学、異文化コミュニケーション学の分野の重要な概念や理論について、わかりやすく紹介しているものです。この教科書を学習することによって、異文化コミュニケーションについて、深く考えたり、批判的に考えたり、どのようにコミュニケーションをとればよいのかについて、あなた自身の考えを発展させることを望んでいます。この教科書では、重要な事柄について議論するための語彙に焦点を当てているので、実際の場面においてそのような語彙を使ってみてください。また、内容理解のアクティヴィティ、ディスカッションクエスチョン、ライティングアクティヴィティも掲載していますので、自分の考えを発展させ、クラスメートと考えを共有してみてください。また、付属のCDを使って、聴解のスキルを試し、各ユニットの内容についての知識をまとめてみましょう。

あなたの学びと異文化体験の成功をお祈りしています!

トロイ・マコナキー、古家聡、櫻井千佳子

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Unit 1 Intercultural Communication in Today's World





Read and think about the questions below. Then share your ideas with your classmates.

- 1. Where can you see evidence of "globalization" in your everyday life?
- 2. Is your image of intercultural communication positive, negative, or neutral? Why?
- 3. Where you have you experienced intercultural communication before? What language did you use? What happened?

Reading

[1] Almost every day we hear words such as "globalization" or "intercultural communication" from the media, as well as from teachers, parents and friends. Although we hear these words frequently, we often don't have a good understanding of what they mean. The term globalization refers to a process by which companies, goods, services, and people from various geographical locations spread out over the globe. One obvious example of globalization is an increase in trading relationships between countries from around the world. As countries increase trade with one another, our supermarket shelves become more and more international. You can wander down the aisles of your local supermarket and find fruits and vegetables, 10 sauces, and a wide variety of other products from all over the world. At the same time, when you travel abroad you may notice Japanese products for sale at local supermarkets, Japanese cars on the roads, and Japanese electronics for sale at department stores. As trade increases between countries, it is not uncommon for companies to set up branches in foreign countries. When this happens, employees 15 are often sent abroad for work. This means communicating with local people and building relationships with them. Such a process can be both challenging and exciting. Working in a foreign environment means adjusting to new work styles, new languages for communication, and new ways of thinking.

[2] Intercultural communication is the term used for communication between people who have different cultural backgrounds. Of course, intercultural communication is not limited to business situations. These days there are many people who travel overseas for study, sightseeing, and a wide range of other purposes. This leads to various opportunities to communicate both with local people and people from other foreign countries who are visiting or living there. For instance, if you decide to study abroad in Australia, you are likely to make friends not only with Australians, but also with people from many other linguistic and cultural backgrounds. In Japan too, the number of residents with foreign nationality is increasing year by year. Although Japan is still a largely culturally homogeneous country, it is also a fact that cultural and linguistic diversity within Japan is significantly increasing. There are many opportunities for communicating with people from diverse cultural backgrounds within Japan. These opportunities can be found in the workplace, schools, sporting teams, and other venues.

[3] Intercultural communication in today's world is conducted in many languages, but it is hard to deny that English has become the dominant language for intercultural communication. It is estimated that there are currently more than

800 million speakers of English in the world. However, this doesn't mean that everyone speaks English in exactly the same way. The English language is composed of varieties such as British English, American English, Australian English, Indian English, Singaporean English (Singlish), and more. Each variety of English has some differences in pronunciation, accent, vocabulary, and communication patterns. 40 Every variety of English reflects the ways of thinking and behavioral patterns in the areas it is used. In many situations, English is also used as a lingua franca between two or more non-native speakers of English. For instance, a businessperson from Japan and a businessperson from Saudia Arabia may use English as the language for communication. English is used by a wide variety of people from diverse cultural 45 backgrounds for a wide variety of purposes.

[4] Intercultural communication provides opportunities for doing business, making friends, and expanding our worldview. However, it can also lead to miscommunication, misunderstanding, and the deterioration of relationships. People from different backgrounds can have different ideas about how to communicate. 50 These ideas are closely connected to other ideas about human relationships and cultural values. Unfortunately, we often don't recognize the influence of culture on our perception. This can make it difficult to understand others. When other people act in a way that seems unusual to us, it can sometimes make us feel uncomfortable, stressed, and frustrated. Intercultural communication requires an attitude of patience 55 and tolerance, as well as an awareness of different communication styles.

[5] Many Japanese university students are busy learning English and other foreign languages for intercultural communication. The Japanese language too, is a useful language for intercultural communication with non-Japanese people in Japan. In order to improve the success of intercultural communication it is necessary 60 to develop curiosity towards foreign cultures, sensitivity to language, as well as knowledge of common issues which humans face in this globalized world. In other words, foreign language skills are not enough to guarantee successful intercultural communication. They are a very important base, but we need to develop the right mindset and flexible worldview in order to successfully negotiate our relationships 65 with individuals from diverse cultural backgrounds. Such a mindset is a valuable resource in the current world.

Vocabulary

Find the words in the reading that match the definitions. The words begin with the letter provided.

1.	g [Noun] (in paragraph [1])
	Definition: A process which involves things and services from many nations
	becoming available in other nations
2.	[Adjective] (in paragraph [1])
	Definition: Relating to a particular area where people live
3.	<u>c</u> [Adjective] (in paragraph [1])
	Definition: Difficult in an interesting or enjoyable way
4.	h [Adjective] (in paragraph [2])
	Definition: Consisting of people or things that are all of the same type
5.	m [Noun] (in paragraph [5])
	Definition: The way in which a person thinks about things and makes decisions



Comprehension Questions



Questions are based on the content of the reading. Choose the best answer.

- 1. In this globalized society, companies often send their employees abroad because
 - (1) they set up branches there.
 - (2) they want to do some research about supermarkets.
 - (3) they try to understand the meaning of globalization.
 - (4) they hope to learn foreign languages.
- 2. English is often seen as the dominant international language because
 - (1) it has the largest number of native speakers.
 - (2) it is the easiest language to learn.
 - (3) it is used by a wide variety of people from different backgrounds.
 - (4) it does not have much variation in pronunciation and vocabulary.
- 3. Why do we need to be especially patient in intercultural communication?
 - (1) Because it is sometimes difficult to understand people with different cultural values.
 - (2) Because it takes time to acquire foreign language skills.
 - (3) Because we can never understand different ideas about the way of communicating.
 - (4) Because the difference in communication styles is too obvious.
- 4. What skills do we need to develop for successful intercultural communication?
 - (1) Foreign language skills.
 - (2) A positive attitude to develop relationships.
 - (3) Flexible viewpoints.
 - (4) All of the above.

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Discussion Questions

Discuss the questions below with your classmates.

- 1. As a university student, how can you improve your knowledge of other cultures outside of the classroom? Give three specific methods.
- 2. In your opinion, what skills are needed for effective intercultural communication? Why?
- 3. What are some examples of cultural and linguistic diversity within Japan? What evidence is there that diversity is increasing in Japan?

Further Questions



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Developing Further Ideas through Writing



Choose one question from the discussion question section and write your opinion. Share your writing with your classmates.

Unit 2 **English for Intercultural Communication**





Read and think about the questions below. Then share your ideas with your classmates.

- 1. Why do people all over the world learn English? Give three reasons.
- 2. Are you afraid of making mistakes when speaking English? If yes, what kind of mistakes?
- 3. Do you think that one particular country "owns" English?