

Abstract for

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Language and cultural diversity in the classroom

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Teaching Swedish at a Japanese University for more than 5 years has provided access to a new world of cultural aspects and insights.

The focus of this presentation is to describe the teaching-situation in the Japanese educational system from the standpoint of a Swedish teacher with a Swedish educational system background.

School is impacted by the surrounding society and its cultural conditions. Japan is no exemption. This presentation aims to show the Japanese student in a Swedish teaching room, studying Swedish with Swedish conditions and with a Swedish teacher.

The fundamental issues concern the individual and the group, age hierarchy, pride- and facesaving, gender and teacher's authority. The presentation seeks to describe some of the frequent differences, similarities, barriers and sources of misunderstanding that occur in the teaching-room and how these are reconciled.

It draws the conclusion that cultural curiosity and foreign language studies help the individual to grow. With the knowledge and understanding of two languages and two different cultures, the students have an opportunity to become more mature, better and wiser human beings.

16 June 2006, 11.45-12.30, room Fr 230