

Academic Year 2012 Activity Report

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1. Research themes

I have conducted research in the following four subject areas focusing primarily on the San (Bushmen) in southern Africa, who are known to be hunter-gatherers: 1) caregiver-child interactions, 2) relationships among means of livelihood, demographic structure, and caregiver-child interactions, 3) perception of the surrounding environment, and 4) transformation of ethnicity. In addition, by integrating research in these four areas, I am in the process of clarifying cultural structures which organize the San's social interactions. The purposes of my dispatches in Academic Year 2012 were, based on the perspective of comprehensive communications research, to deepen the above-mentioned research on a theoretical level and to engage in discussions with researchers from various countries with whom I share common research interests. As a means to accomplish these purposes, collaborative fieldwork was conducted in countries such as Botswana and "output activities" were pursued.

2. Dispatch details

1) Dispatch to Botswana, South Africa, and Singapore (August 1 – October 10, 2012)

From August 1 to October 10, 2012, I conducted research activities during stays primarily at the University of Botswana, Botswana, and also at the University of Cape Town, South Africa and the National University of Singapore, Singapore.

At the University of Botswana, as an attached scholar in the Department of African Languages and Literature, I conducted collaborative research on the San's child rearing, language socialization, and developmental pragmatics. Specifically, I discussed the above-mentioned themes on a daily



Photo 1 University of Botswana

basis with faculty members of the Department of African Languages and Literature and the Research Centre for San Studies, University of Botswana. I also conducted research using the extensive materials covering the above-mentioned themes which are housed at the University of Botswana. Finally, I conducted fieldwork on the above-mentioned themes in New Xade village, where I have been carrying out fieldwork since the late 1990s.



Photo 2 Research at University of Botswana

At the University of Cape Town, I collected materials about research on gestures of the Khoisan people. In addition, I taught classes with the titles “Semantics on senses of the G|ui and G||ana” and “Fieldwork and conversation analysis” at the Department of Social Anthropology and the School of Languages and Literatures. The University of Cape



Photo 3 University of Cape Town

Town is one of the top universities in humanities and social sciences as well as in natural sciences in Africa. Since students who excel in academics not only from South Africa but also from various other countries on the African continent, East Asia, Southeast Asia, and South Asia are enrolled at this university, discussions on the above-mentioned themes in the classes offered were highly stimulating.

At the National University of Singapore, I met with one of my collaborators, Assistant Professor Emi Morita of the university’s Department of Japanese Studies and other researchers to discuss our collaborative research on comprehensive communication and I also collected materials about this research topic. Through these processes, I was able to reaffirm the position of my own research in relation to the latest trends in communications research, which has provided me a new roadmap for the development of my future research.

2) Dispatch to the U.S. and India (November 13 – December 2, 2012)

I visited the U.S. and India from November 13 to December 2, 2012.

In the U.S., I attended the 111th Annual Meeting of the American Anthropological

Association, which was held at a Hilton Hotel in San Francisco. During the meeting, I delivered a presentation titled “Re-enacting birth: The spread of the *chebama* ritual among the G|ui and G||ana” and discussed our collaborative research on the education environment in Botswana with Frederick Klaitz, a lecturing fellow at Duke University. After the completion of the meeting, I revisited the UCLA Center for Language, Interaction, and Culture (CLIC), where I had spent the previous year as a visiting scholar. There, I discussed our collaborative research on social interactions with Professor Charles Goodwin and other researchers and additionally collected materials about this research topic.

In India, I attended the 2012 Inter-Congress of International Union of Anthropological and Ethnological Sciences (IUAES) on “Children and Youth in a Changing World,” which took place at the Kalinga Institute of Industrial Technology in Bhubaneswar, Orissa. There, I presented my research findings with the title of “Responsibility formation in directive sequences between Japanese caregivers and children” and also met with Professor Heidemarie Keller of the University of Osnabrück and other researchers to discuss our collaborative research on infant communication development.

From this dispatch, I was able to gain insight into the position of my fieldwork and research topics in the context of the recent trends and history of my research field and to engage in productive discussions about future research collaborations.



**Photo 4 IUAES 2012 International Conference
"Children and Youth in a Changing World"**

3) Dispatch to Zambia (December 25, 2012 – January 7, 2013)

During my visit to the Institute for Social and Economic Research (former Institute of African Studies), University of Zambia from December 25, 2012 to January 7, 2013, I collected materials on comprehensive communication and Zambia’s education policies, discussed collaborative research on the same themes with Professor Richard Zulu of this institute, and conducted field research on social changes and socialization of children in villages around Lusitu. A large volume of valuable material from the colonial age and the succeeding periods is housed at the Institute for Social and Economic Research of the University of Zambia, a successor of the Rhodes-Livingstone Institute for Social Research, which was founded as the United Kingdom’s center for practical anthropology. From the opportunity to hear about the history and present status of the institute from Professor Zulu, I came to sense the depth of the



history of African studies during my visit. Furthermore, my fieldwork in the villages around Lusitu allowed me to gain insight on both the distinctiveness of Zambia and its commonality with the rest of southern Africa in relation to the above-mentioned themes.

Photo 5 With Prof. Richard Zulu at Institute for Social and Economic Research, University of Zambia

3. Noteworthy professional and personal experiences during my dispatches

In Botswana, I stayed for a long term in Gaborone, where the main campus of the University of Botswana is located. Although I had been conducting fieldwork in New Xade and other villages in Botswana for approximately 15 years since my Ph.D. research, I had rarely stayed in the capital for a long term. Through this stay in the capital, I was able to acquire valuable experience and materials about the view of people in urban areas about the San (The San are indigenous hunter-gatherers and a very small minority in Botswana) and also about the culture and society of the Tswana, the majority in Botswana. Furthermore, in the course of my stay at the University of Botswana, I was able to engage in highly fruitful scholarly exchanges with researchers from various fields of the University of Botswana and visiting researchers who were on campus to conduct fieldwork and research.

4. Achievement of research objectives and areas needing improvement

In the academic year 2012, I further strengthened my connections to NGOs, governments, international organizations, fieldwork sites, and other organizations and sites which I visited during my stay in Botswana in the academic year 2011. I have, by fostering reciprocal relationships with these organizations and individuals, made further advances in collaborative fieldwork and “output activities” in Botswana. I also proactively attended and delivered presentations at international conferences and symposiums on topics related to my research with an intention to 1) strengthen the social network cultivated through my dispatches to the U.S. and elsewhere as a part of this project and 2) disseminate the results achieved from these research activities to a worldwide audience.

In February 2013, I played a leading role in planning and hosting an international seminar titled “Vitalizing indigenous knowledge in Africa” in Kyoto as one of the final achievements of this project. At this seminar, Professor Herman Batibo and Dr. Maitseo Bolaane, with whom I have cultivated deep scholarly exchanges through this project, delivered presentations as invited guests on their research findings related to the theme of this seminar. In addition, Professor Shigeki Kaji of ASAFAS, the chief researcher of this project, and Professor Daiji Kimura of the Center for African Area Studies, Kyoto University, delivered presentations during the seminar. I delivered a presentation titled “Studies on indigenous knowledge of San-speaking people: Achievements and perspectives of Japanese scholars” and served as a moderator and facilitator throughout the seminar. Through the planning and administration of this seminar, I was able to gain knowledge about a variety of case examples which will be useful for surveying, compiling, and utilizing African local knowledge. I was also able to engage in deep discussions on this matter during the seminar. Finally, I acquired valuable experience and learned a great amount about hosting a seminar, including the schedule coordination necessary for inviting researchers from overseas, the coordination of presentation topics among presenters, the work required on the day of hosting the seminar, and the process needed to compile the outcomes of the seminar. (In addition to publishing the outcomes of the seminar in the form of academic papers in the final report of this project, it is currently under consideration to modify and revise these academic papers in order to publish a special issue of an academic journal.)

With the above-mentioned achievements, I feel assured that I have overcome most of the challenges and achieved most of the objectives set in the previous year for the academic year 2012 (to make further advances in collaborative fieldwork and “output activities” by further strengthening the relationships and deepening the linkages with researchers, research institutions, fieldwork sites, and other organizations and individuals with whom I have fostered interaction).