

## On-site Education of Practical Languages for Area Studies

### Report in 2008

— Vietnamese, Vietnam National University, Hanoi, The Institute of Vietnamese Studies and Development Sciences, Vietnam, Term (3 Dec. 2008 - 14 Mar. 2009) —

Year of Enrollment: 2008

Graduate School of Asian and African Area Studies

Nara Oda

#### On My research theme

My research aims to describe how Vietnamese traditional medicine has been formed through its history and how people recognize or make use of it in their everyday life.

Vietnamese traditional medicine has been played important role through Vietnamese history and within people's daily life. People sell and buy herbs at the markets with their abundant local knowledge, and each public hospital is required to have a department for traditional medicine and doctors for traditional medicine. It can be said that traditional medicine is still familiar to Vietnamese people nowadays. Besides, the governments and researchers are promoting the projects to integrate modern western medicine and Vietnamese traditional medicine.

Today, there are three kinds of medicines in Vietnam; *Thuoc Nam*, *Thuoc Bac*, and *Thuoc Tay*. *Thuoc Nam* literally means 'medicine of the South,' and is said to be Vietnam-born traditional medicine. *Thuoc Bac*, literally meaning 'medicine of the North,' refers to Chinese traditional medicine. *Thuoc Tay* means 'medicine of the West,' the western modern medicine brought in Vietnam under the French colonialism. *Thuoc Nam* is said to have developed as an instrument to oppose Chinese hegemony and French colonialist policy which abandoned traditional medical practices. *Thuoc Nam* and *Thuoc Bac* have altogether become to be regarded as single traditional medicine or 'National medicine', which were applied to the social structure such as medical educational system or medical administrative institutions.

In my research, I focus on two points so as to study how Vietnamese traditional medicine has been formed or created, and how it has been accepted among people's lives; (1) History of education of traditional medicine in medical education after French colonization up to now (2) empirical medical knowledge of Vietnamese people. By demonstrating the case which institutionalises both traditional and modern western medicine, this study can contribute not only to the academic field but also to the pragmatic use.