

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

### Report in 2010

-Arabic, Cairo Universit Al-Diwan Center, Egypt, (20 Dec. 2011 - 21 Mar. 2012)-

Year of Enrollement : 2010

Graduate School of Asian and African Areas Studies

Tatsuro Futatsuyama

#### On My research theme and Language Training

My research field is the low natural vegetation area in the Southeast Tunisia which is the north part of the Sahara desert where the annual precipitation is 100 ~ 200mm. But their local knowledge of agriculture let them be able to grow olive tree in arid area and it has been principal livelihood since the Phoenician period. Their life is closely concerned with olive and olive oil, which are counted not only as food but also a basic source of their income, medicine and something religious. They narrate that olive is the symbol and the source of their living and therefore they cherish or rather respect it. For them olive tree is not only a material in their life but also it has various meanings and importance in their mind and they call them “the tree of *baraka*.”

*Baraka* means blessing and grace bestowed by God which is one of the most important concepts to understand Islam. The concept of *Baraka* has been researched closely related to saint veneration, because *baraka* and the ability of miracles are main targets of analysis in the study of saint veneration. But in the case of the southeast Tunisia, not only saint but also olive is treated as *baraka*. I would like to show that some material is treated as a symbol of *baraka* and intervenes between the God and people, as the saint can bring *baraka* from the God to people. Analysis of people’s recognition of olive as the tree of *baraka* leads us to reconsider the concept of *baraka* and their belief from another point of view.

There are two main types of Arabic Language: classical Arabic and spoken Arabic (dialect). In southeast Tunisia, my fieldwork site, the inhabitants speak Tunisian dialect Arabic generally. But for use in the studying Arabic literature, it is necessary to understand Classical Arabic which is used in all country of Arab world. Therefore, at this ITP program, I learned classical Arabic language for the aim of studying Arabic literature which closely related to my research theme.

