

On-site Education of Practical Language for Area Studies

Report in 2011

—Setswana, University of Botswana, Republic of Botswana 20 Sep. 2011 – 13 Mar. 2012—

Year of Enrollment: 2011

Graduate School of Asian and African Area Studies

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On my research theme

The Okavango Delta in Botswana is the location of the largest national fishery in the country as well as the largest source of fresh water in northern Botswana. Fisheries play a critical role in this region because fish is one of the major sources of animal protein and also provide employment and generate income for rural communities.

In 2008, the Ministry of Environment, Wildlife and Tourism introduced the annual closing season which runs from January 1 to the last day of February to allow the fish to breed. So far, there seems to have been less research conducted at the national and local level with regard to impact of the new fishing regulation.

The objectives of the study is (1) to investigate possible influences of closing season on local communities, (2) to discuss management plan to maintain and improve the local people's livelihood in consideration of sustainable use of natural resources (3) to suggest improvement of current policy.

Language training

My Setswana lesson was total of 45 hours, basically on weekdays during one and half hours a day. Language for communication in the class was English, official language in the country. After I learnt pronunciation, vocabulary, grammar and some greetings as an introduction, my teacher gradually increased short conversation in Setswana. She sometimes used several children's books as a textbook. It was very helpful as it was fun and memorable, helping me remember the vocabulary.

Not only in the class, I tried to improve my Setswana skill thorough watching news on TV every night, listening conversation among the local people in the minibus and sending messages to friends by mobile phone using simple sentences. However, it was not easy to practice Setswana because many people in Gaborone spoke to me in English.

In the middle of the lesson, I got a chance to attend an installation ceremony of the chief at Kanye. It was great opportunity to learn about the cultural and historical event in Botswana. I wanted to understand Setswana spoken in the ceremony and that has given me a strong motivation to study Setswana.

It was first time for me to learn foreign language in the very country where the language is lively spoken. Acquiring new languages and advancing its skill need to keep practicing. I will continue to study Setswana in Japan for my next visit to Botswana.



Leaning Setswana with my teacher



Homework at home