

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

### Report in 2012

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Year of Enrollment: 2012

Graduate School of Asian and African Area Studies

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On My research theme and/or Language Training

#### 【Research theme】

In 1986, Vietnam introduced Doi-Moi policy (innovation reforms) which led drastic changes in social and economic structures of Vietnam. Since Doi-Moi, Vietnam's economy has almost continuously grown at the annual rate of approximately 7.5%. The agricultural sector was also influenced by Doi-Moi: collective farming was dissolved and the right of land use was distributed to each farmer. Farmers' incentive to agricultural production has been enhanced and agricultural production has drastically increased.

My research field is the Red River Delta in the northern part of Vietnam. It is important food production area in Vietnam, following to Mekong delta. Generally speaking, rural societies in South-east Asia is "loosely structure", but rural villages in the Red River Delta been often pointed that they have "tight structure" similar to those in Java Island. Historically, collective or communal activities and strong community ties have existed in this area.

The theme of my research is to examine the transformation of rural society in the Red River Delta according to the penetration of market economy by focusing on rural cooperatives or association, and to find out specific ways to respond to market economy in this delta.

#### 【Language training】

I attended 4 Vietnamese language classes in a week, and 1 class was 90 minutes. I almost did not study Vietnamese language before visiting Vietnam, so I started with elementary level textbook. During my stay in Vietnam, I mainly studied basic grammar and daily conversation.

At the beginning, I suffered from memorizing words, because Vietnamese words have complex phonetic and tonal symbols. If I wrote or pronounced wrong phonetic or tonal symbols, meaning of the word would be completely different. On the other hand, I felt that grammar of Vietnamese is relatively easy. After I learned to memorize some basic Vietnamese words, I could write and speak some basic sentences.

However, the biggest challenge for me in Vietnamese language was listening. Because of complex phonetic and tonal symbols as I wrote above, listening is also quite difficult. Many times, I could not classify each word even in basic daily conversation. I felt that it takes much longer time to be able to listen to daily conversation.



With my Vietnamese teacher ①



With my Vietnamese teacher ②



Rice field in the Red River Delta

