

Research Paper

# Deviation from the criterion of “Japanese Language = Japanese People”

## Identity of a “Zainichi-Korean” educator and her strategies of positioning in Japanese language teaching

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### Abstract

In the field of Japanese Education, there is still a strong criterion of “Japanese Language = Japanese People.” This study focused on how “Zainichi Korean” Japanese language educators had placed their position in that field. Based on the life history analysis, I found that they strongly expressed their identity as “Zainichi Korean” and “Japanese native speaker” in the classroom although they hated to be seen as them in their daily life. This contradictory behavior seems to be their strategy to survive the situation where the deviation from the criterion was not accepted. To date, many studies of other researchers have pointed out the problem contained in the criterion of “Japanese Language = Japanese people,” which is the concept of “incorrect Japanese should be excluded.” The results of this study suggest that the criterion poses not only the issue of the exclusion but also of speaker’s attribute.

### Keywords

“Japanese Language = Japanese People”, “Zainichi-Korean” Educator,  
identity, native speaker, strategy

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