

Research Paper

# Metrolingualism and Japanese language education

## Linguistic competence across borders

OTSUJI, Emi\*

### Abstract

This paper critically examines what constitutes language competency and language education within the globalised society by elucidating ways in which language, culture, ethnicities and identities are constructed in and through conversations between 'Japanese' and 'Australians'. While Japanese language education is still primarily premised on the monolingual mindset failing to situate Japanese language within multilingual environments, the paper proposes that language education should take into account the newly defined notion of metrolingualism. Metrolingualism is a productive linguistic space which emerges through the interaction between normative and fixed understandings of language and fluid (hybrid) and dynamic understandings. It is suggested that metrolingualism will allow students to develop their capacity to construct their own linguistic environment by manipulating and managing their own diverse linguistic resources and proposes the need to incorporate metrolingual perspectives in understanding linguistic competency and language education theory within globalisation

### Keywords

metrolingualism, multilingualism, multiculturalism, identities, language competency

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\* University of Technology, Sydney.

*E-mail address:* emi.otsuji@uts.edu.au