

Research Paper

# What does “autonomy” mean in the Japanese language teaching practice?

USHIKUBO, Ryuta\*

## Abstract

This paper will clearly explain how the term “autonomy (syutai-sei)” has been used in the Japanese language teaching practice, based on content analysis from the Journal of Japanese language teaching. The result shows in Japanese language practice claim “autonomies” are mostly about the learner’s attitudes towards the participation in the class rooms, not learner’s agency on the language practice.

Descriptions also show that both negative images of teacher’s control and positive reconsideration of teaching are considered to produce learner’s autonomy in the class rooms. It is concluded that agency in the language act carried on in the class should be examined more specifically.

## Keywords

autonomy, diversity of autonomies, meaning in the context, language act in the class

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\* Graduate school of Japanese applied linguistics, Waseda University  
*E-mail address:* ryutaushikubo@s3.dion.ne.jp