



Contribution ID: 31

Type: **Research-oriented Oral Face-to-face presentation**

Re-thinking the zero use policy: L1 use in the eikaiwa classroom

Sunday 18 May 2025 10:05 (25 minutes)

TITLE

Re-thinking the zero use policy: L1 use in the eikaiwa classroom

RELEVANT SIG

Teacher Development

FORMAT

Research-oriented Oral Face-to-face presentation (25 minutes, including Q&A)

Short English description

KEYWORDS

Eikaiwa industry, teacher autonomy, L1 use, Classroom practices

First-time presenter?

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ABSTRACT

This presentation examines the “English-only” policy prevalent in the eikaiwa industry, questioning its effectiveness and exploring the role of students’ first language (L1) as a support tool in language learning. The research is based on a six-month ethnographic study (January–June 2024) involving classroom observations, teacher interviews, and analysis of instructional practices in multiple eikaiwa settings. Using a participant-observer approach, the study documented how teachers and students navigate language use in real teaching contexts.

The presentation will begin with an overview of relevant literature on L1 use in second language acquisition, followed by a discussion of the historical and contemporary contexts of English education in Japan (5 minutes). It will then detail the ethnographic methodology, outlining the data collection process and key themes that emerged from the observations and interviews (5 minutes). Findings will highlight teacher and student

attitudes toward L1 use, and its potential benefits for comprehension and engagement (10 minutes). 5 minutes will be reserved for Q&A.

Designed for eikaiwa teachers and school owners, this interactive session will encourage discussion on flexible language policies, inviting participants to reflect on their own experiences and share practical insights.

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Session Classification: B3-205 Teacher Development

Track Classification: Teacher Development