

Postscript to FLC Journal No. 3

We are pleased to report that the third issue of the FLC journal includes a total of eight articles, two of which are language-teaching related articles, one written by a Chinese language professor and the other by a Japanese language professor. Both articles were written in Japanese with English abstracts. Because first-year students are eager to learn foreign languages, we should provide them with as many different foreign language courses as possible. Unfortunately, students at Jissen Women's University may choose only from a limited selection of Chinese, French, German and Korean language courses while Japanese as a second language is offered to the foreign exchange students. Although the Japanese Ministry of Education emphasizes the teaching of English, most recently at the primary school level, we should also consider the teaching of other foreign languages. We should take into account that there are many countries whose dialects are now being neglected. It is important that we value each language equally. In order to appreciate the variety of languages, we should change the present education system so as to include the teaching of additional foreign languages. A *university* is a place that is made up of different faculties and as the word implies, it *unites variety*. Taken from this perspective, a university education should not only be comprised of studying within one's faculty, but should also be characterized by a broad view that promotes a spirit of mutual understanding and cooperation. As a sure and useful way to gain an understanding of the thoughts and cultures of different countries, there would be few people who would protest against studying foreign languages.

(Translated into English by Juergen BULACH)