

介護福祉の日本語教育の現状と支援者の育成 —介護の日本語Can-do ステートメントを中心に—

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高齢化社会が進む日本において、介護福祉分野の人材が不足していると言われて久しい。このため日本政府は様々な形態で介護福祉の分野への外国人の受け入れを進めている。しかし、これは日本だけの問題ではなく、アジア各国での社会経済・医療福祉の発達、人口動態の変化などにより、国際的な問題となりつつあり、日本が人材の受け入れを進める際にも国際的な施策や配慮が必要である。また、介護福祉の分野は、介護する側と利用者との日本語でのコミュニケーションが非常に重要である。

本稿ではここ十年、著者を含む日本語教育者が学会・研究会活動や公学連携活動などを通じて取り組んできた外国人介護福祉士受け入れの改善に関わる運動や、介護福祉分野で必要な日本語能力の分析、特に「介護の Can-do ステートメント」などについて概説する。また、2019 年 4 月から開始される「特定技能」制度での介護の日本語教育の問題についても触れる。

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The Current State of Japanese Language Education for Foreign Care Workers and the Fostering of Their Supporters: Focusing on “Standard Japanese Proficiency Can-Do Statement (KCDS) for Care Workers”

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It has long been said that the aging Japanese society is suffering from a shortage of care workers in the field of long-term care. To cope with this, the Government of Japan has been striving to accept foreign workers in the field of long-term care in various forms. This is not only unique to Japan but also becoming to be an international issue, with social and economic development, medical care and welfare advancement, and demographic changes across the Asian countries. Therefore, Japan must implement internationally-minded policies and programs when accepting foreign care workers.

In the field of long-term care, communication between care workers and care users is extremely important.

This paper outlines a 10 year plan for improvements in accepting foreign care workers, made by Japanese language educators through research and conference activities, collaborations with the public and academic sectors, and analyses done on Japanese language skills required in the field of long-term care. There is a focus on the “Standard Japanese Proficiency Can-Do Statement (KCDS) for Care Workers,” and we maintain that the KCDS will be indispensable for the Japanese language education of care workers in Japan in the future.

This paper also introduces the diversifying situation of the “status of residence” for care workers.

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