

Introduction to Alan Fogel's Article

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The article contributed by Alan Fogel is meant for two groups of readers. First, he addresses psychologists who are interested in social and emotional development in general, and American psychologists in that field in particular. Referring to research literature and his own research in the field, he argues that internationalization of research and student training is indispensable for the healthy and profitable development of the discipline. Second, he addresses developmental psychologists from outside the US in general, and Asian developmental psychologists in particular. Because he believes in the importance of the exchanges of ideas and the collaboration among developmental psychologists from different countries for the benefit of all, he tries eagerly to persuade us to publish our articles in English.

The past decade has witnessed a sharp increase of American psychologists' interest in psychological development in Japan. I would like to describe a few personal experiences as examples. Last year, I had a chance to contribute a commentary to an article by three American psychologists on perceived control (John Weisz, et al., *American Psychologist*, 1984, September). I was amazed by their insights into Japanese culture, which were solely based on publications in English. The authors and two Japanese commentators (Azuma and I) profited much from the exchange of comments and rebuttal. This spring, I was deeply impressed by Urie Bronfenbrenner's openness to new experiences during his trip to Japan. By his personal description, his trip to Japan in 1983 by a grant from the Japan Society for the Promotion of Sciences influenced his thinking very much, leading him to embark on a new research project on the role of the mentor in human development. Encounters with different views of development may broaden the perspectives of researchers, and make them notice categories of thought about which they had not been aware. I recollect with great pleasure how the discussions I had with Michael Lewis on our collabora-

tive works were academically exciting for both of us. Mutual experience and interest in each other's country made the exchange of ideas extremely constructive.

Alan Fogel, who spent eleven months in Japan with his family, took advantage of this opportunity to have much deeper and diverse experiences of this country compared to other psychologists who visit Japan for only a month or two. I had an opportunity to observe the development of his thinking when we participated in an informal conference on child development in Japan, held in Ann Arbor, this April. At the conference, Alan Fogel made some important points that were very thought provoking to both Japanese and American participants. Therefore, his proposal to make cross-cultural experience a required part of the training for advanced degrees is very persuasive.

Recently, some Japanese psychologists have criticized past Japanese psychological research as being a direct import and imitation of the theories and methods of Western (largely American) psychology. As Alan Fogel and other American psychologists noticed, developmental psychology has been no exception. Unfortunately, however, those Japanese psychologists in the field of human development and education who criticized Japanese research could neither demonstrate their originality in terms of their own research, nor propose any constructive way to make a contribution to the world of developmental research. On the other hand, there is a growing number of Japanese research studies being cited in foreign journal articles and books. These are the works by several developmental psychologists who have been actively trying to make contributions for the advance of developmental research. However, the number of works cited outside Japan is still quite small in proportion to the total number of active Japanese researchers. In this sense, Alan Fogel's proposals in his article are very stimulating and encouraging to us.

One of the most serious bottlenecks we should break

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is the communication problem. Though developmental psychologists in other non-English speaking countries have the same kind of problem (see *News Letter of International Society for the Study of Behavioral Development*, 1983, No.1), the difficulty for the Japanese seems to be enormous. The source of the difficulty is, in my view, partly cultural as well as linguistic. Alan Fogel's difficulty in trying to understand a few developmental psychology articles written in Japanese was not due to language only. Japanese psychologists seem to communicate with each other even though the information given is not complete. We can fill in the gaps of information and can tolerate a small skip of logic, even in scientific communication, which may frustrate West-

ern referees and readers. If this view is correct, we should try to devise a way to make our English articles truly communicable ones. As a part of collaborative work for the internationalization of the study of human development, we need to overcome obstacles to international communication in publication and also in the planning of international meetings.

As former host of Alan Fogel and Editor of this Bulletin, I hope that the proposals by Alan Fogel will be discussed fully, both in this country and in foreign countries. The next step to be taken is discussion of planning for the promotion and exchange of ideas and persons that can contribute fruitfully to the development of research.

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