

REPORT on Research Leave (With No Grant)
2014年度自由研究期間 研究成果概要

Department : SPS **Position :** Assoc. Prof. **Name :** Leslie Ono
Research Topic : Quantitative Methods of Foreign Language Program Evaluation and SPS Learning Assistance Research
Duration : September 2014 – March 2015

Summary of Research Result :

I achieved the primary purpose of the research leave, which was to collect resources, read, consult with experts, refine data analyses skills, test statistical models, and begin drafting manuscripts on research conducted using quantitative methods of evaluating foreign language programs. I conducted online and on-site library research at various academic institutions (University of California Irvine, Stanford University, University of California Los Angeles, University of Maryland, Coast Community College). I researched and read extensively on related topics, such as foreign language program evaluation methods and studies, the constructs of English proficiency, English achievement, and achievement coherence, and the utilization of various statistical analyses (e.g. linear regression, interrupted time-series, and multilevel modeling techniques). I managed large amounts of data in preparation for longitudinal data analyses, including the retrieval, collation, and screening of twenty years of program English proficiency and achievement records. I worked closely, via online communications and research meetings, with a scholar who is well-accomplished in the areas of program evaluation, second language acquisition, and quantitative analysis of longitudinal data. With his guidance, I developed and tested statistical models for evaluating foreign language programs, which can be directly applicable to the SPS-ELP context. These models can be used to: (1) provide measures of program validity, and (2) identify specific areas in which program curricula could be improved. I started drafting manuscripts detailing this research, which I intend to submit for publication in top refereed educational and second / foreign language research journals when the project is complete. I will also present the results of this research at domestic and international conferences in the fields of applied linguistics and second language acquisition.

Additionally, I participated in joint research on the SPS Learning Assistance Center (LAC), which involved developing and administrating student surveys and follow-up interviews, and designing methods and conducting Learning Assistant (LA) focus groups. I co-authored the first manuscript to be published in the next edition of the KGU Foreign Language Journal.