Abstract

This dissertation attempts to propose some effective measures to be taken in order to reduce the impact of changing linguistic situations which lead to children losing their language proficiencies either in their first language or second language. In Japan, the number of returnee children is increasing year by year. Although returnee children acquire relatively high and practical English skills abroad, it is true that many experience a decrease in their proficiency of English after returning to Japan. The author analyzed this serious problem by examining the system of the current English education in Japanese schools and by drawing upon some major theories in the field of language attrition, and, as a result, proposes effective measures to be taken to prevent returnees from losing their language. That is, the importance of sending returnee children to English conversation schools. Throughout this thesis, the author will analyze the problems of English education in Japan and suggest the benefits of attending lessons at English conversation schools for keeping and improving their natural command of English.