

WHY DO FOREIGN SUMO WRESTLERS SPEAK FLUENT JAPANESE? A CLOSER LOOK AT LANGUAGE ACQUISITION



Friday, February 21, 2014

The aim of the talk is to explain the relationship between language learning strategies adopted by professional foreign *sumo* wrestlers (FSW) with learner autonomy as well as briefly introducing *sumo* society. It has been recognized that FSW acquire Japanese successfully in a short period of time in comparison with other Japanese language learners (Miyazaki 2006). However, their acquisition process has not yet

been systematically identified and a longitudinal empirical research on such issue still needs to be explored. The talk will clarify their second language acquisition process and also convey pedagogical suggestions to the field of Japanese as a second and/or foreign language education, particularly in terms of the recognizing and the actual practice of learner autonomy.



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