

# Multifaceted Nature of Intercultural Exchanges Between Japan and America: Interaction and Language Development

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This talk will highlight the multifaceted nature of online intercultural exchanges called “telecollaboration” by focusing on what happened during interaction and how participants’ language developed. Telecollaboration is an online exchange between language learners for the purpose of language and cultural learning.

In this talk, I will talk about two telecollaborative projects which took place between American participants learning Japanese and Japanese participants learning English. These participants engaged in interaction sessions via Skype/Google Hangouts for one academic semester.

For the first project, I trained the participants to provide six different types of corrective feedback (i.e., error correction) and examined (1) how their beliefs about error correction changed (e.g., preference of a particular correction method) and (2) if such beliefs were reflected in the actual practice.

For the second project, I examined what linguistic aspects did and did not improve as a result of engaging in telecollaboration, focusing on comprehensibility (i.e., ease of understanding) and four linguistic constituents that contribute to comprehensibility (i.e., lexical appropriateness, lexical richness, speech rate, grammatical accuracy).

The results will be discussed in light of various factors that range from personal (e.g., individuals’ beliefs, identity) and socio-institutional (e.g., culture, facilities) to assessment (e.g., “what” to measure).