

#### Sophia University

# Introducing English in Japanese Elementary Schools —an Overview of the Issues—

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## Report of the Foreign Language Subcomittee of the Central Council of Education

Compulsory, but not as a formal 'subject'

Getting used to English sounds. Developing basis of Communication English Activities

From Fifth grade

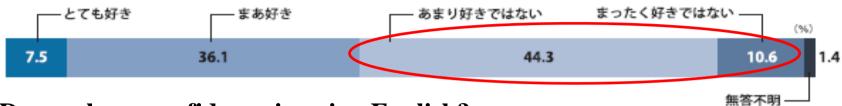
Once a week

**Team Teaching** 

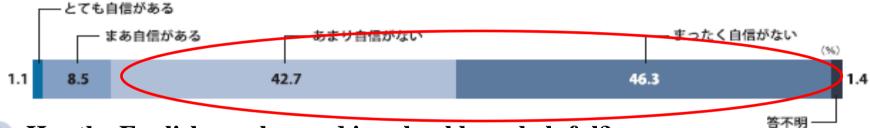
Importance of 'language' education

#### Elementary School English--Parents' Survey Benesse 2007

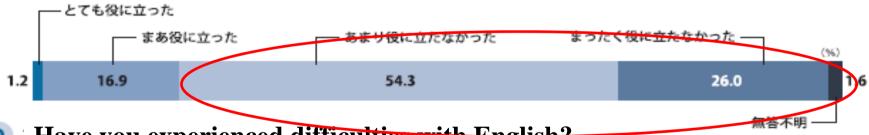
#### Do you like English



Do you have confidence in using English?



• Has the English you learned in school been helpful?



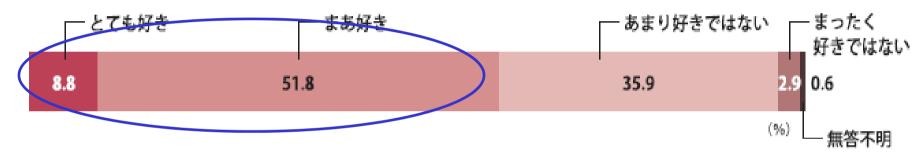
• Have you experienced difficulties with English?



#### Elementary School English--Teachers' Survey Benesse 2006

#### 英語の好き嫌い

**Q** Do you like English



#### 英語の指導に対する自信

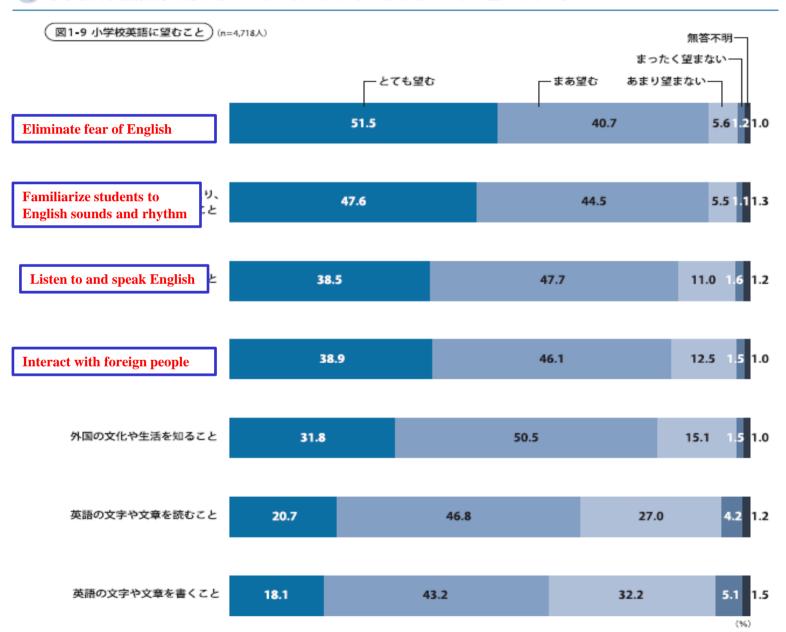
**Q** Do you have confidence in teaching English?



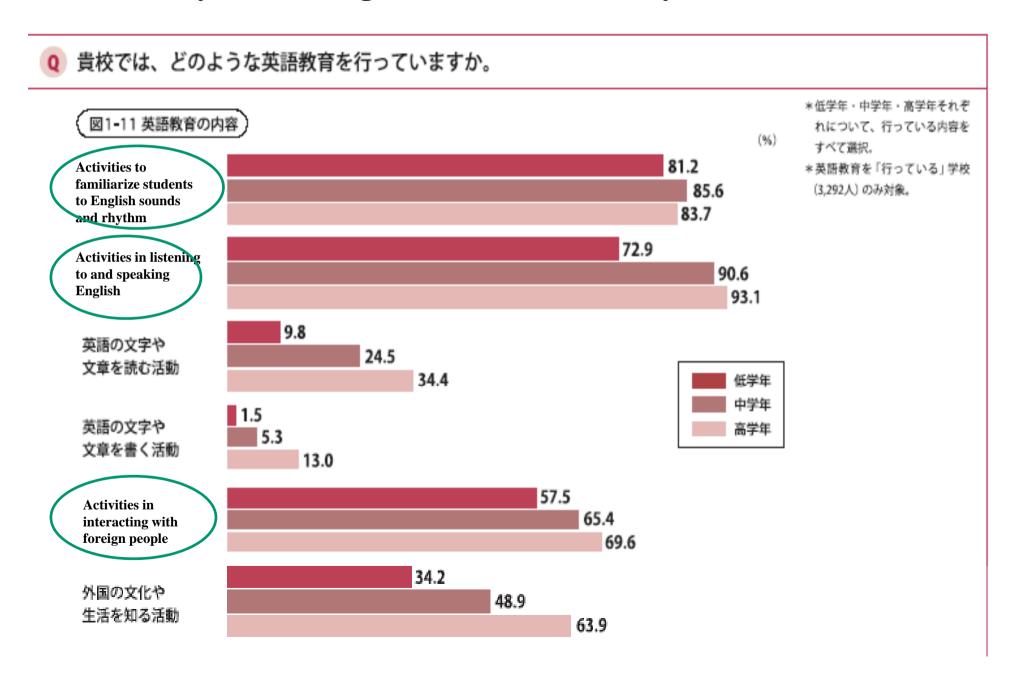
#### **Elementary School English--Parents' Survey**

Benesse 2007

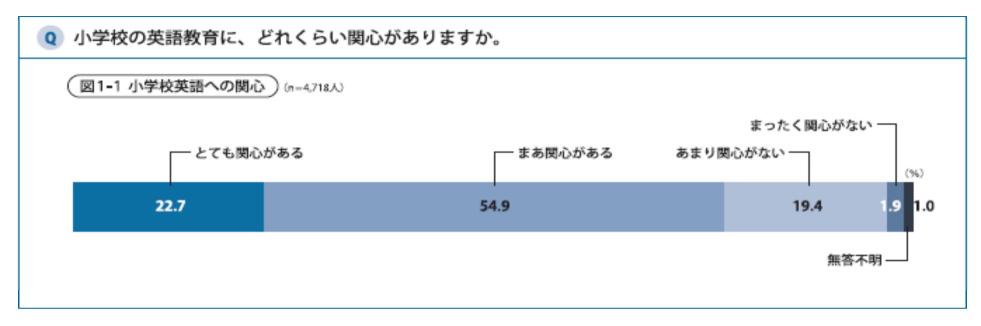
① 小学校で英語教育を行うとしたら、次のようなことをどれくらい望みますか。

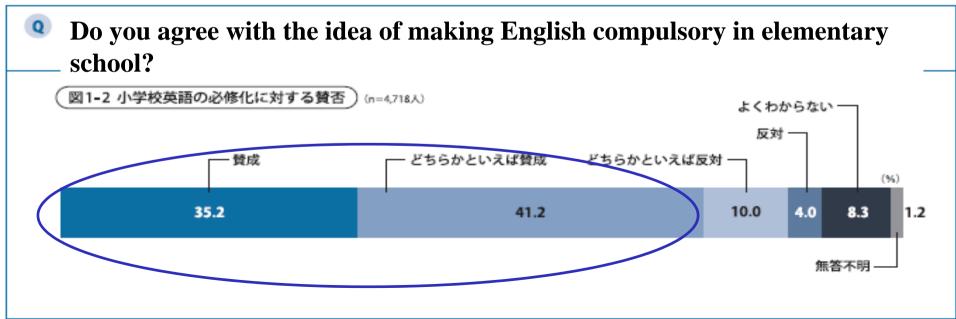


#### Elementary School English--Teachers' Survey Benesse 2006

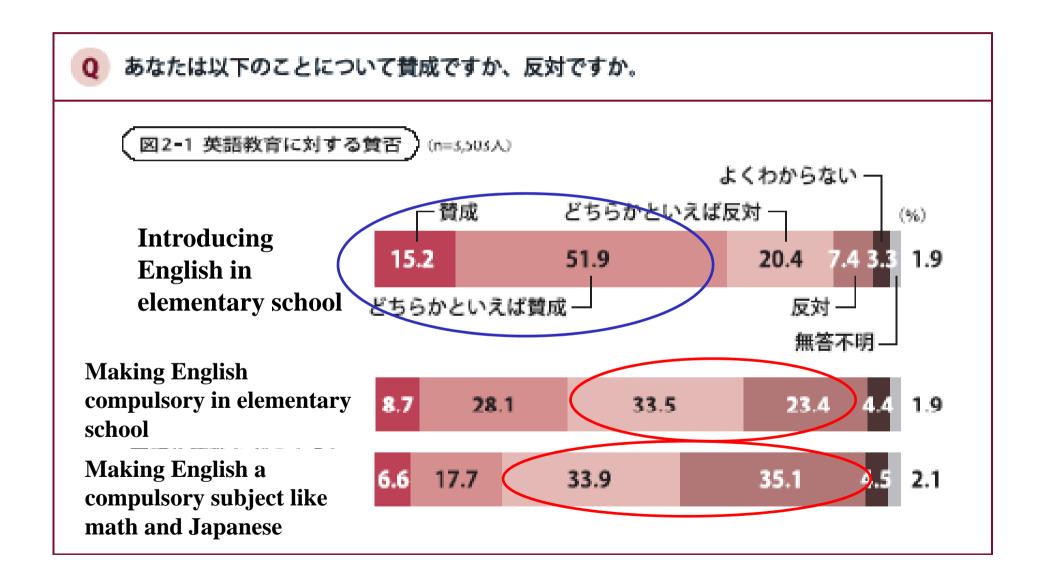


#### Elementary School English--Parents' Survey Benesse 2007

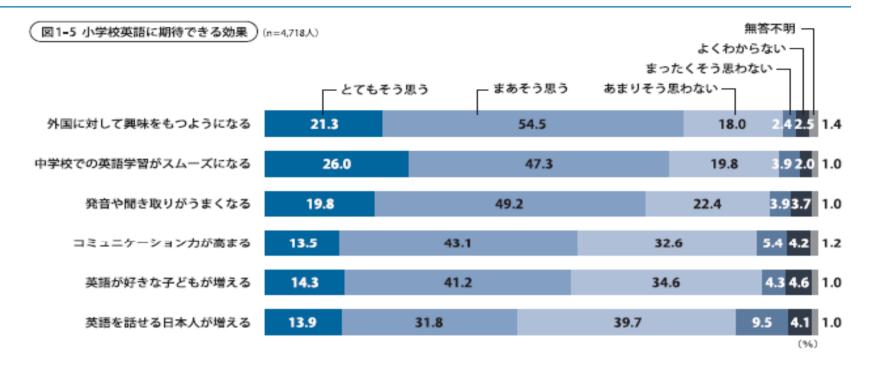




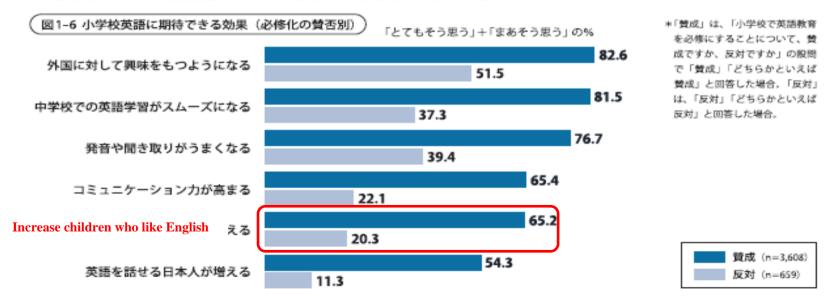
#### **Elementary School English--Teachers' Survey Benesse 2006**



#### 小学校に英語教育を導入することで、次のような効果が期待できると思いますか。



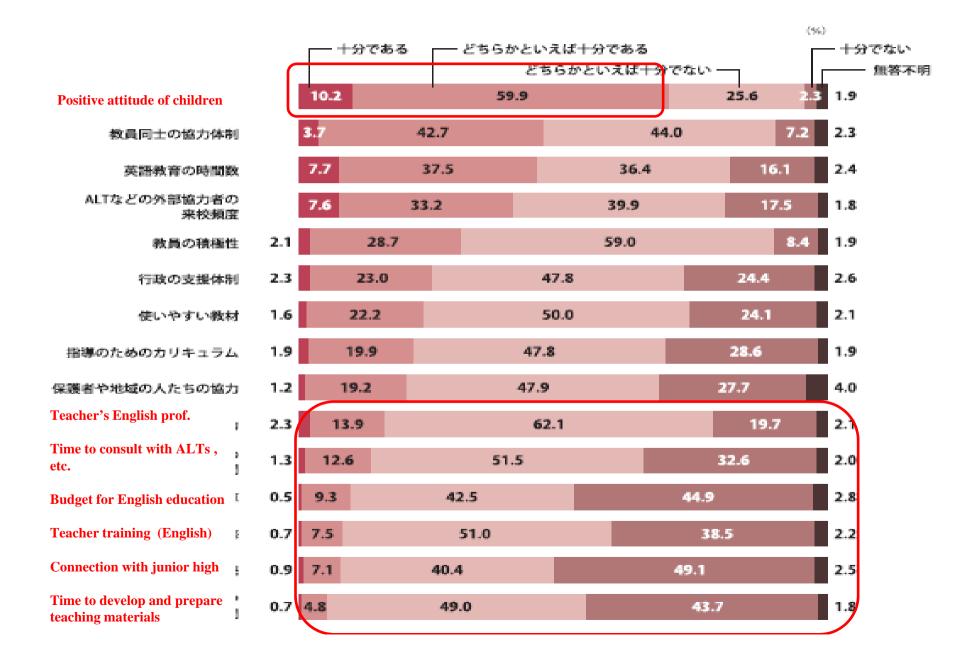
#### ●必修化に対する賛否別にみた、期待できると思う効果の違い



英語教育を行ううえで必要となる条件などについて、貴校の状況は十分だと思いますか。

図1-13 英語教育の現状

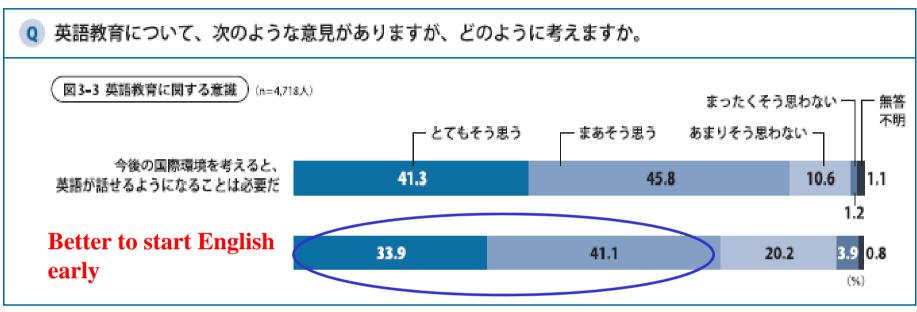
・英語教育を「行っている」学: (3.292人)のみ対象。

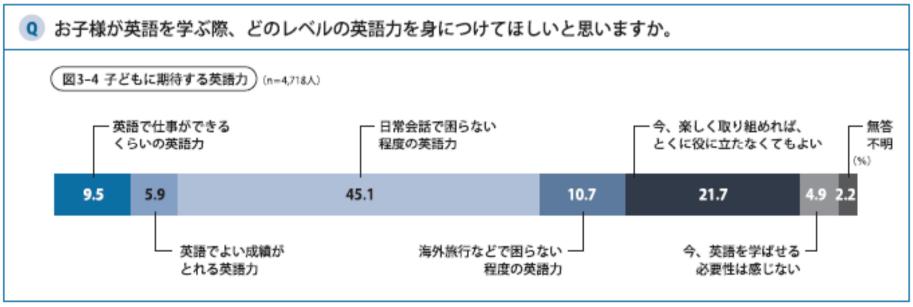


#### Elementary School English--Teachers' Survey Benesse 2006

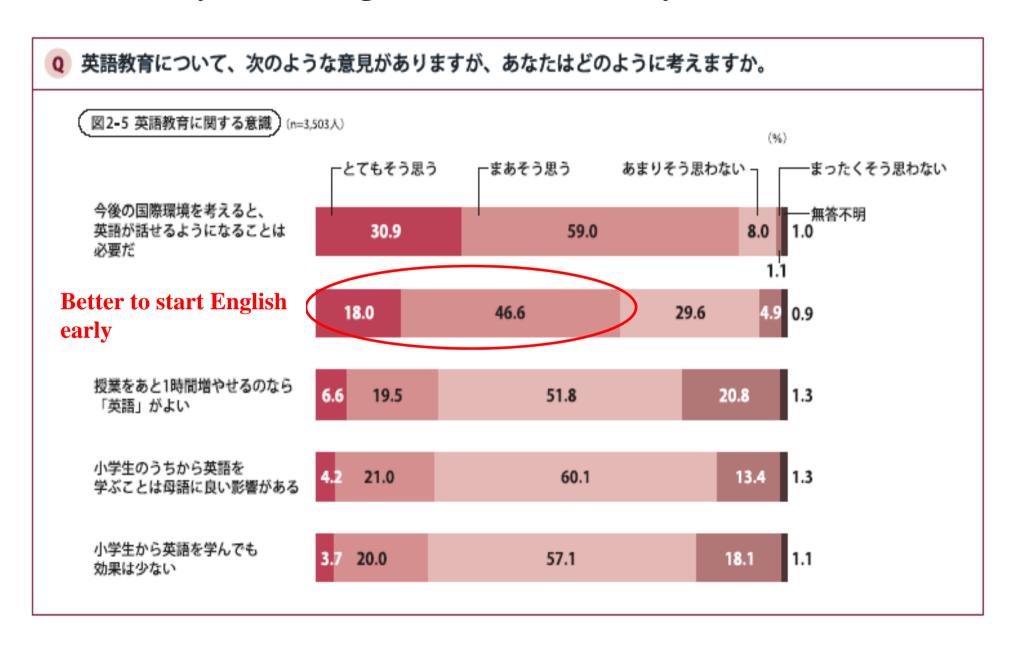
In general, how well do you think English classes are going in your school? 図1-16 英語教育に対する評価 あまりうまくいっていない・ とてもうまくいっている 41.6 50.1 まあうまくいっている┛ まったくうまくいっていない (高学年の年間時数別) 0-5 hrs a year 22.3 62.0 (n=426)5-14 hrs a year 44.5 48.3 (n=1.350)**15-24** hrs a year 1.4 55.8 38.6 9 2.3 (n=730)**25-34** hrs a year 65.126.7 (n=258)35- hrs a year 75.2 (n=480)

#### Elementary School English--Parents' Survey Benesse 2007





#### Elementary School English--Teachers' Survey Benesse 2006



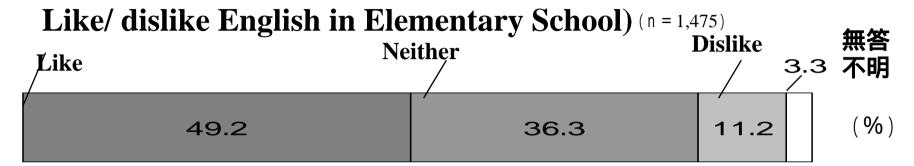
## Comparison between children who began English and elementary school and junior high

Mori (2007, Joint research SOLIFIC & Institute of Educational Statistics) based on results of 483 1st and 2nd year junior high students

因子	t 値	有意確率 (両側)
Liking English	-2.410	.016*
外国に対する興味	.941	.347
個人的な動機付け	-1.036	.301
社会的動機付け	234	.815
国語に対する好意	.322	.748
Motivation to want to Communicate	-1.819	.070

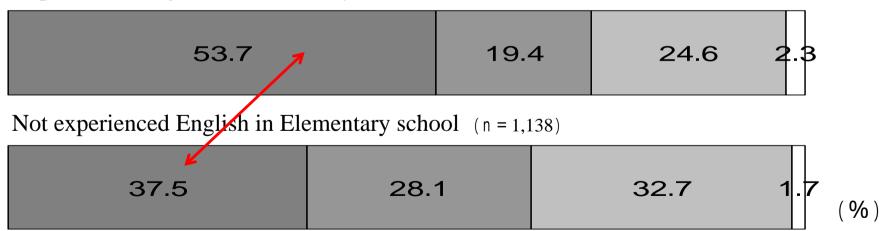
#### East Asia G-TEC English Education Survey 2006 (Benesse)

#### **Effects of Elementary School English**



#### Like/ dislike English in Junior High

Experienced English in Elementary school(n = 1,475)

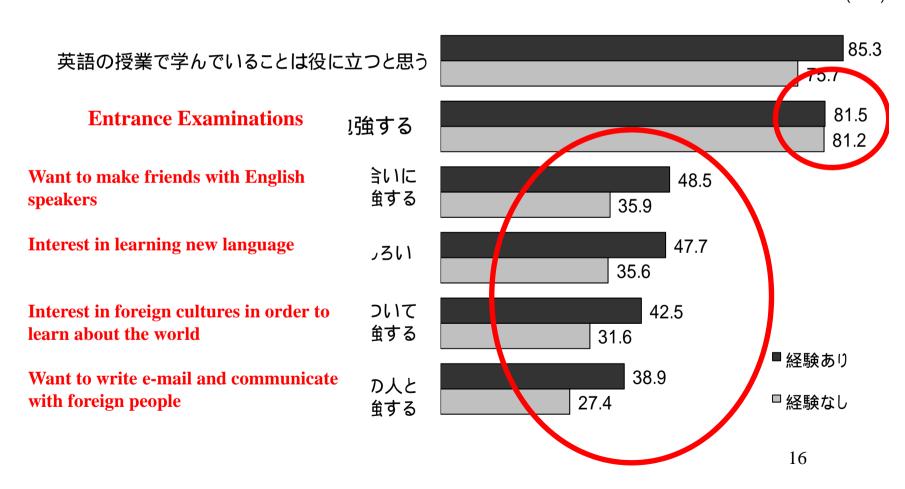


#### East Asia G-TEC English Education Survey 2006 (Benesse)

#### **Effects of Elementary School English**

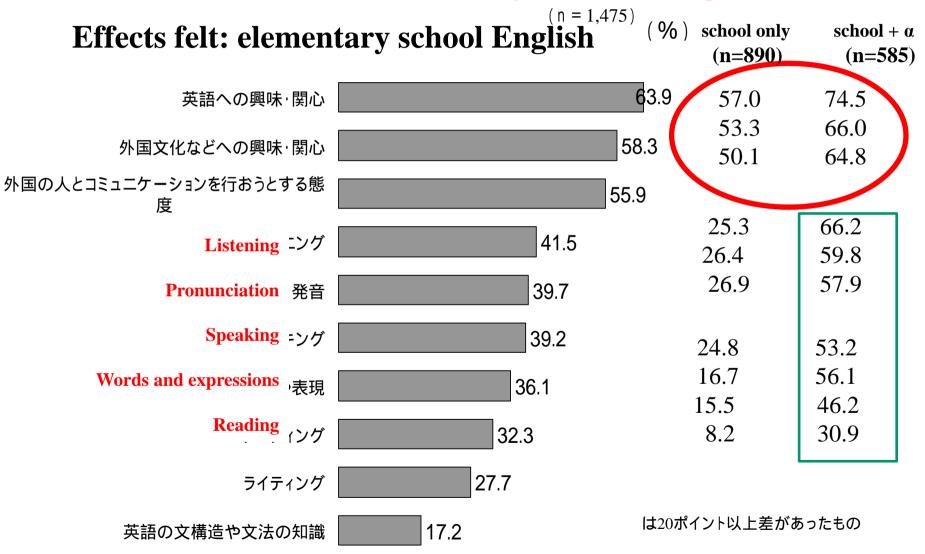
**Meaning of English education (high school)** (n = 1,475)

(%)



#### East Asia G-TEC English Education Survey 2006 (Benesse)

#### **Effects of Elementary School English**



## Effects of Elementary English

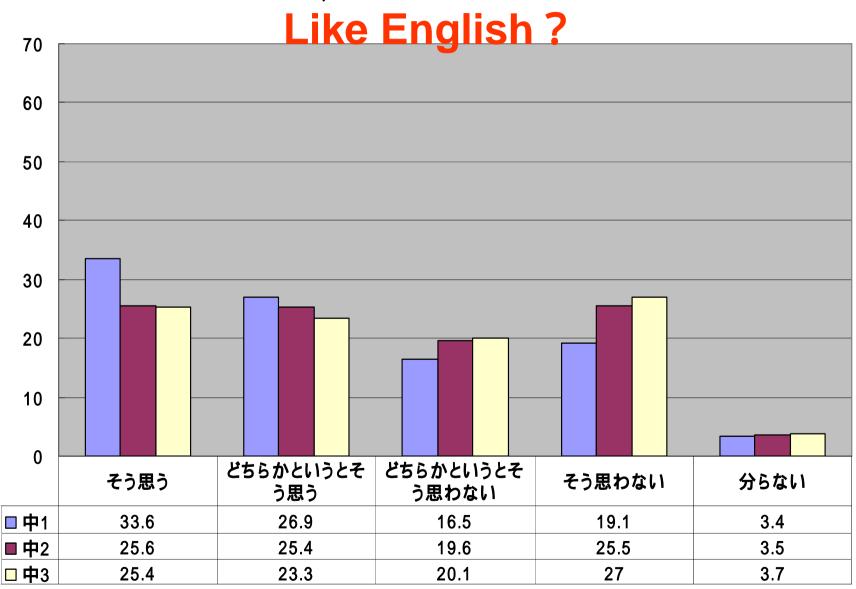
- 1 Used to English Sounds (Listening)
- 2 Experience in language acquisition as not simply acquiring 'forms'
- 3 Getting used to communication
- 4 Development of concentration
- 5 Meaning of Play and Learning
- 6 Reconsidering Junior and Senior High School English Education

## Influence on High School English

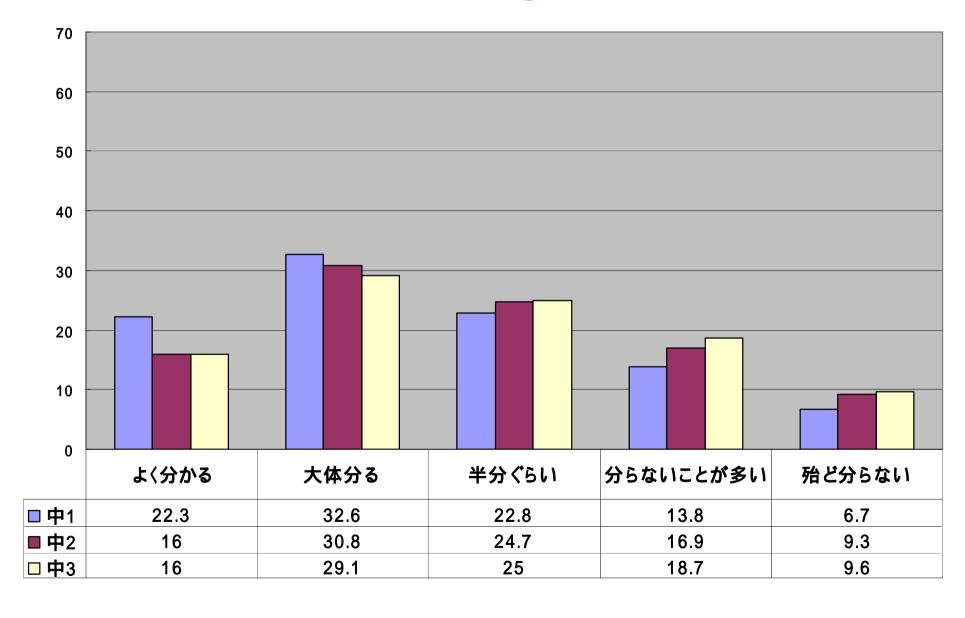
#### **Objectives of Oral Communication II:**

- 1 . Comprehending main points of coherent discourse and coming up with own ideas
- 2 . Organizing information and ideas on various topics and present them effectively
- 3 . Discuss and debate on various topics
- 4 . Create skits and perform them

## Junior high Students Survey (2005) 240,000 students



## **Understand English Class?**



## Too much to teach in Junior High

High school English (5 hrs or more)
4 skills
Ability to Communicate

Junior high English (3 hrs)

Practical Communication

Linguistic knowledge

### Effects of Elementary School English

High school English (5 hrs or more) 4 skills **Ability to Communicate** GAP

**Practical** Communication

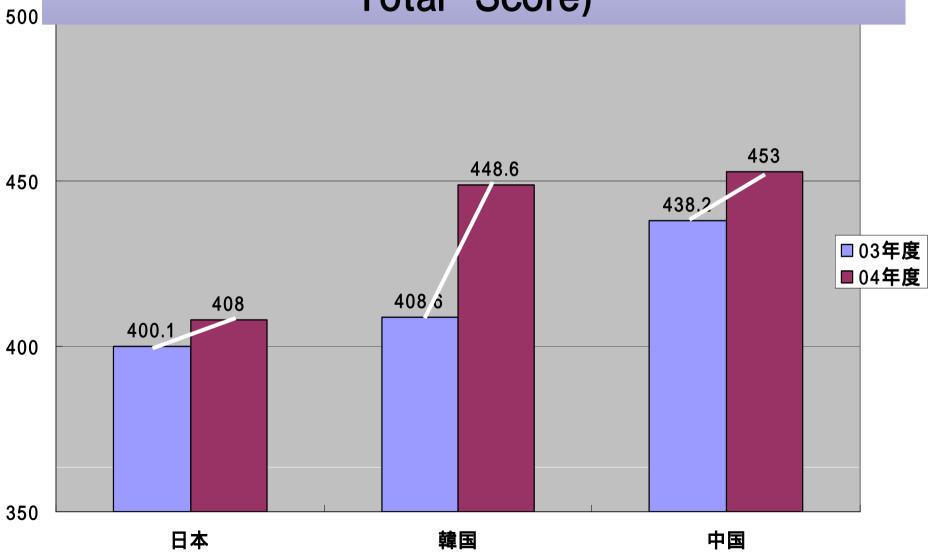
Junior high English (3 hrs)

Linguistic knowledge

**Elementary school English** (1 hr)

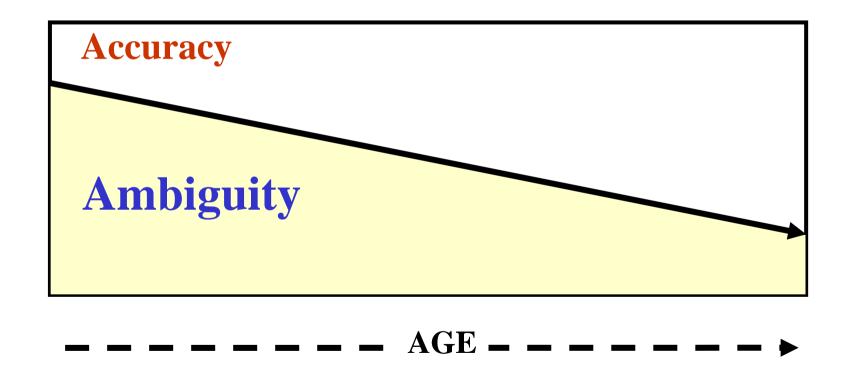
Elementary School English: important factor in changing English Education





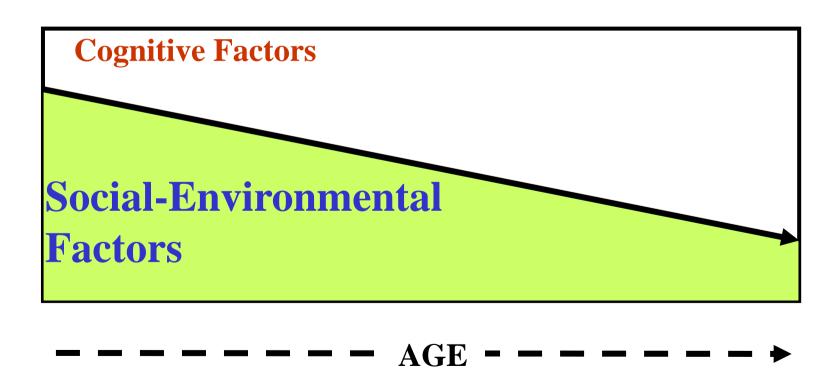
## From Ambiguity to Accuracy

Taboo question: 'What did you learn today?'



## Development of Communication and Social/ Cognitive Factors

From 'fixed expressions' to 'systematic use of language'



## **Input or Output**

#### **Comprehension before production**



## Display vs Referential Activities

#### **Criterion of Predictability (Interrogator)**

- 1) know the response/result beforehand or not
- 2) existence of right and wrong answers

#### **Criterion of Choice (Respondent)**

- 1) restricted choice
- 2) unrestricted choice

#### Use of 'Realia'

Textbook exercises are not interesting
Use of real objects
Use of true information
Use of students' ideas, creations

#### **Examples of Display Activities**

Is this a book? (with a book in hand)

Repeat after me.

What is this?

**Singing songs** 

Memorize the dialogue

Role play of dialogue

**Pattern Practice** 

**Listening to CDs** 

**Explaining grammar points** 

**Translation** 

#### **Examples of Referential Activities**

Do you like dogs?

Which do you like better, cake or ice cream?

Who's your favorite singer?

**Small talk** 

Games, quizzes

Making and performing skits

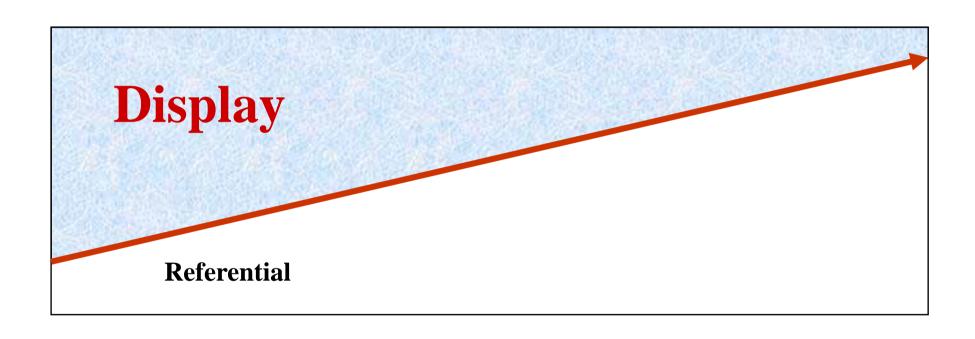
Writing e-mail, birthday cards, Christmas cards, etc.

**Communication tasks (solving problems, etc.)** 

**Presentations and speeches** 

**Show-and-tell** 

## **Age Differences and Language Learning**



#### References

- 第1回小学校英語に関する基本調査(教員調査) 2006. ベネッセ 第1回小学校英語に関する基本調査(保護者調査) 2007. ベネッセ 東アジア高校英語教育 GTEC調査2006.2007.ベネッセ
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- 森博英 (2007) 「早期英語教育における学習開始年齢と学習者要因の 関係」全国英語教育学会発表
- 国立教育政策研究所(2005)平成 13 年度小中学校教育課程実施状況 調査データ分析に関する報告書

http://www.nier.go.jp/kaihatsu/13KOUKAI/HONBUN.PDF 中央教育審議会外国語専門部報告(2006)