

Taking over research styles and instructional modes of leading researcher

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The author had been a Visiting Fellow under Dr. Thomas Denson at University of New South Wales in Australia from 1st July to 26th September in 2011. The purpose of the visit was, (a) to translate the doctoral dissertation from Japanese into English, (b) to attend the lab meeting of Social Psychology Laboratory, and (c) to attend the course of Dr. Denson. A report of taking over research styles and instructional modes of leading researcher is presented.

Key Words: displaced aggression, research styles, instructional modes

Dr. Thomas Denson

Dr. Denson is a Senior Lecturer at University of New South Wales (UNSW). His research areas are the causes and consequences of anger and aggression in humans, aggressive personality, biological correlates of anger and angry rumination, intergroup aggression, and prejudice (University of New South Wales, 2012a). The author has visited him for three times. At the first time, the author visited him to have discussion in August in 2009. The discussion was triggered by the review of research on displaced aggression and triggered displaced aggression that was published in 2010 (Tanno, 2010). At the second time, the author had been a Visiting Fellow under him from 1st March to 27th May in 2010. This time, the author had been a Visiting Fellow under him from 1st July to 26th September in 2011.

University of New South Wales

UNSW is leading research university located in Sydney in Australia. Around UNSW, there are many iconic buildings such as Opera House, Harbour Bridge, Queen Victoria Building and so forth. The School of Psychology at UNSW is located in the Faculty of Science and has approximately 30 academic staff, 1600 undergraduate students and 150 postgraduate students. Members of the school study a diverse range of topics such as children's development of language and knowledge, how mood affects social behaviour, teamwork in organizations, bias in eyewitness testimony, the brain mechanisms underlying pleasure and pain, the effect of aging and brain damage on memory, how the visual system perceives a three-dimensional world, and the causes and treatment of psychological disorders ranging from psychopathy to depression and

post-traumatic stress (University of New South Wales, 2012b). The Department of Psychology in Hiroshima University has 20 academic staff, 110 undergraduate students and 70 postgraduate students, incidentally.

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(a) Translation of doctoral dissertation The author has been preparing to publish the doctoral dissertation after getting the Ph.D. This time, Dr. Denson kindly undertook the emendation of the author's translation of the dissertation from Japanese into English. The author thanks him for his helpful comments.

(b) The lab meeting The lab meeting of Social Psychology Laboratory that Dr. Denson belongs to is held every week during the semester. There are 20 testing rooms on the floor of Social Psychology. Academic staff, research fellows, and students run their experiments, interviews, and other research projects in the rooms and they present the results at the lab meeting. Dr. Denson also presents his research about aggression. Moreover, collaborative researchers and visiting fellows from other universities also present their research at the meeting regularly. Various kinds of researches are presented at the lab meeting by various kinds of researchers. The location of UNSW is preferable because there are research universities around (e.g., Sydney University) and international airport (i.e., Sydney Kingsford Smith Airport) and it is easy to refer researchers even from abroad. During the visit, many researches concerning on social psychology were presented.

(c) The course of Dr. Denson Dr. Denson offers the course for honour students who are the fourth grade undergraduate students at UNSW. Each student reads a current journal article listed by Dr. Denson and presents review. It is necessary for the students to present research ideas inspired from the articles and propose research designs to verify them empirically. He gave the author a permission to attend it.

Other events Of course, promoting friendship with Dr. Denson was one of the most significant purposes of this visit. He offered beer and pizza deliciousness after the lab meeting and academic staff, research fellows, and students mingled together. On the other day, Dr. Denson and the author had lunch at Thai restaurant near UNSW that both of us liked.

Dr. Kazumi Sugimura at Hiroshima University invited Dr. Elisabetta Crocetti in Post-doctoral position at University of Milano-Bicocca in Italy to Hiroshima and convened Developmental Psychology Seminar on 9th August in 2011. Dr. Crocetti presented her ongoing research titled "Capturing identity issues: Processes, statuses, and correlates". The author took part in the seminar via the internet video call from Sydney. The author found it out that it was

easy to have discussion from abroad via the internet.

Taking over research styles and instructional modes of leading researcher

Researchers of the Social Psychology Laboratory at UNSW propose their research designs, run experiments, write their thesis, and publish articles with their undergraduate and graduate students. The style appears ideal for both of researchers and students because researchers can produce their publications effectively and students can learn how to make progress on scientific psychological research. What the most impressive is that the members of the laboratory are on good terms and the atmosphere at the lab meeting is friendly. It shall make the discussion actively. Prof. Kenichi Maeda, a professor of Developmental Psychology Laboratory at Hiroshima University, has same policy that there is no need for researchers and students to mind their own status or hierarchical relationship during academic discussion. He mentions that it will help people to think about one theme critically and multilaterally when engaging in research. Thus, members of the Developmental Psychology Laboratory at Hiroshima University (i.e., Dr. Maeda, Dr. Sugimura, the author, and students) discuss academically and friendly every meeting.

In the interview of the Association for psychological science, Dr. Denson answered to the question “any advice for even younger psychological scientists” as follows; “I also think enjoying your work is extremely important. Being a social psychologist is a lot of fun, but sometimes we tend to forget that.” (Association for Psychological Science, 2012). Dr. Denson uses an episode that he received nasty decision letters from reviewer when he submitted his paper as an example of a provocation in his conference presentation. A sense of fun in the research appears to help researchers enjoy their work. He has a sense of humor and it helps the audience to imagine the provocative event easily. In addition, Dr. Vasquez who is Dr. Denson’s academic wrote an anecdote of triggered displaced aggression in his article as follows; “Imagine the following scenario: a man named Tom is angered by a police officer who has issued him a citation for speeding and made derogatory comments about his driving. Tom drives away feeling angered by the incident. Suddenly, another car cuts into Tom’s lane, just ahead of him. Tom perceives the other person’s driving as erratic and irresponsible. Consequently, although normally a calm and patient driver, Tom honks wildly and yells obscenities at the other driver. The previous scenario illustrates the concept of triggered displaced aggression (TDA; Pedersen, Gonzales, & Miller, 2000), wherein a prior provocation primes an individual for retaliation, such that a subsequent minor instigation evokes high aggression levels toward an undeserving target. (Vasquez, 2009)”. This anecdote helps the readers to imagine triggered displaced aggression. It also suggests that Dr. Denson and Dr. Vasquez are nice to each other. Giving the notice, Tom (i.e., Dr. Denson) is actually a safety driver with a good manner. As indicated above, the author translated the doctoral dissertation from Japanese into English. In the dissertation, the author

wrote anecdote to help the readers to imagine triggered displaced aggression as follows; “For instance, after being berated by his coach Allen in a soccer game, Taro assaulted Masaru a rookie player of the team. This example illustrates displaced aggression, as it occurs when a person is provoked, is unwilling or unable to retaliate against the original provocateur, and subsequently aggress against a seemingly innocent target (Dollard, Doob, Miller, Mowrer, & Sears, 1939; Hovland & Sears, 1940). --- (snip) --- Triggered displaced aggression is displaced aggression occurred after triggering event (Dollard, 1938). In the previous example, triggered displaced aggression would have occurred if Taro assaulted Masaru in response to Masaru’s impolite manner.” Masaru is a graduate student of the Developmental Psychology Laboratory at Hiroshima University.

In the course of Dr. Denson, students make discussions actively. Dr. Denson prompts students not to make questions closely but to make counter offers that are theoretically relevant and can be verified empirically. Thus, the students can develop their ability to review the articles and construct research designs by discussing in the course. It could be beneficial for students, especially students who are going on to graduate school. Dr. Denson is also able to be inspired multilaterally by noble and interesting ideas of the students. The author offers Seminar in Psychological Readings for the second grade undergraduate students at Hiroshima University. Taking over the instructional modes, the author prompted the students to discuss critically and make counter offers to cultivate scientific psychological thinking last semester. It seemed that they learned how the scientific psychological researches develop.

The researchers and the students at UNSW call one another with first names or nicknames, that are common in the western culture. In Japan, honorifics are commonly used to everyone. The author speculates that calling with first names or nicknames help the researchers and students interact closely whereas honorifics disturb it. The author let the students use first names or nicknames as usual in the course. It seemed that the prompt activated students’ discussion. Dr. Denson was also called with first name Tom and the author will try to be called with nickname to brush up the course next time.

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