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Current Issues and New Thoughts on Reflective  
Practice

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## Current Issues and New Thoughts on Reflective Practice

### Part 1 Current issues and new thoughts

What *is* reflective practice?

**Jo TRELFA**

Use of epistemological lenses on the ambiguity of reflective practice:  
What is it to reflect on experience?

**Ken TAMAI**

Reflection, emotion and knowledge of the self

**Mark MONAHAN**

Whatever happened to 'reflective practice'?

**Jo TRELFA**

A reflective continuum: Development of reflection

**Atsuko WATANABE**

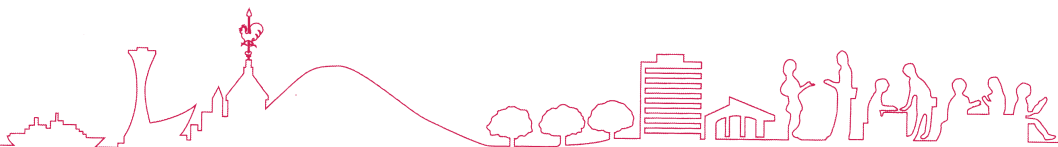
### Part 2 Teachers and reflective practice

Exploring, reflecting, and taking action through forms of  
'practitioner research' and why professional development through  
research is essential for teachers and teaching

**Ian NAKAMURA**

How the intersubjectivity of teacher and learner reflections  
contributes to transformative learning experiences

**Joan M. KURODA**



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*Current Issues and New Thoughts on  
Reflective Practice*

Edited by  
Ken Tamai  
Ian Nakamura  
Jo Trelfa

Research Institute of Foreign Studies  
Kobe City University of Foreign Studies  
2016

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## Preface

Classroom practitioners go through a variety of interactional incidents. Memories of those experienced teaching events, however, are left to oblivion and get quickly discarded from our consciousness, often with little trace of existence. Significance of reflection is pinned down here in that experiences do not become *experience* unless they are reflected on. Redefining Dewey's work, Rodgers (2002) considers reflection as a meaning-making process of experience and distinguishes systematic reflection from 'other' types of thinking. Practitioners' reflection needs to be distinguished from mere thinking.

Thus identifying reflection as a systematic means to make sense of experience I stand at the entrance of the wonderland of practice and slowly step into the woods describing and interpreting all over again. I write, talk and share experiences with my mates, as I believe it is the only way to develop understanding of experiences. My senses are freed as I walk, and things I didn't notice before start to communicate with my body: the murmuring of grass through my ears, faint shadows cast by the trees through my eyes and the tenderness of the piles of fallen leaves by my feet. I even become startled by the fresh smell of rain that the winds bring as they pass around me. They are not unfamiliar sounds, sights or smells but all tiny things I just didn't take notice of. Dewey (1938/1997, p. 35) quotes a verse from Tennyson:

Yet all experience is an arch wherethro'  
Gleams that untravell'd world, whose margin fades  
For ever and for ever when I move.

Engagement in reflection shines a light into the depth of the meaning of experiences, which otherwise would be lost in darkness.

Experience to be reflected upon, furthermore, has a complex temporal dimension and is not limited to past events. As stated by Schön (1983), reflection is directed not only to past action but also to on-going actions that take place in the here and now. Improvisers, in this sense, are unique practitioners in that they expose themselves to in-the-moment experiences and even go beyond, opening themselves toward the future. Experience is dynamic and should not be considered only as something of the past, but as something that is open to the present and the future as well.

Putting all this together, we find the need of throwing light on experience from different angles and exploring *ways* of approaching it first. Exchanging ideas on different theories of viewing experiences and relevant research methods will surely open new paths to practitioners and researchers who put their feet in the field of practice. Narratives describing the process of reaching such awareness will invite practitioners towards new insights. There is no reason whatsoever for paths to experience to be limited to one. We would rather explore versatile paths to revisit experience again and again.

I am very happy to have compiled seven articles from the 2014 KCUFS Reflective Practice Conference with which to share the inquisitive process of reflection with practitioner-researchers in different fields. I hope this volume will be of some use to furthering the understanding of reflection.

Ken Tamai

*Kobe City University of Foreign Studies*

*Organizer of 2014 KCUFS Reflective Practice Conference*

*(September, 28<sup>th</sup> -30<sup>th</sup>, 2014)*

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