STEPS Students Report

Keisuke NAKADA (B4)

Department of Civil Engineering

This is the report on my research in the Moscow State University from February 15 to March 22. Through my stay in Moscow, I was researching in the department of psychology and my supervisor was Sergei Leonov who researches the value of time and time perspective at the MSU.

I researched the relations between time perspective and the way of commuting in the department. I took the questionnaire about commuting for the 49 students who belonged to the faculty of journalism before one sports class. It was a paper-based test and distributed simultaneously. Average age of the students who answered the questionnaire was 18.2 years old. In this class, there were three male students and 46 female students. Besides, 44 students lived in Moscow and five students lived in the town around Moscow.

I asked students seven questions about their commuting and living and two questions about time perspective in my questionnaire. In commuting part, I asked students what transport they always use to go to school and why, how long their commuting take, what they are always doing on their way to school and whether they feel it comfortable or not, how much their commuting cost per month, how long they want to shorten their commuting time. Besides, in living part, I asked them how they live and how much it costs, where they live now. In time perspective part, I used "Cottle's circle test" (1967). Also, I asked them what "TIME" means to them.

I should explain what "Cottle's circle test" is. This test can measure three kinds of time perspective, temporal dominance, temporal relatedness and temporal development. Temporal dominance means which time candidates think important. Temporal relatedness means how they think relation of time. Temporal development means whether they have the image of time stream, past to future or the other. In this test, the candidates are made to make three circles. These circles are shown the past, the present and future. The candidates can arrange these circles in any way they want that best shows how they feel about the relationship of the past, the present and future. Besides, they can use circles of different size.

In summary, I got four main results from the questionnaire for students. First, they are less likely to think future is important than Japanese students (cf. Shirai 1995) think. Second, there might be some relation between commute and which time Russian

students think important. Besides, students who have present dominance more likely to think it is important that commuting time is short than the others. Third, there might be a relation between living with their family and whether they have distinct temporal dominance or not. Students who don't have any temporal dominance live with their family and most of them tend to feel their commute comfortable. Lastly, there might be some characteristics of how Russian students commute. 96% students use train for their commute. Their average commuting time is 48.39 minutes and average cost is 814.2 rubles per month. But, they want to commute in about 25 minutes.