Language Discourses and Ideologies Among Finns in Japan

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This research deals with language discourses and identities of Finnish immigrants who live in Japan and use both English and Japanese in their everyday lives. The aim of the research is to find out what kind of meanings informants give to the languages they master and how identities form in their accounts. In this paper, I bring out a new perspective to research of language discourses and ideologies. Typically, in this field, subject of the research has been relationship between minority and majority language (see e.g. Wingstedt 1998) or standard and non-standard variant of language (see e.g. Garrett, Selleck & Coupland 2011). I take part in discussion of discourses and ideologies with data collected from immigrant group resulted from globalization and mobility: how do speakers of small national language, such as Finnish, position themselves in multilingual context? For example Mäntynen et al. (2012: 238) argues that discourses are manifestations of language ideologies. How this is concretely represented in discourses that informants realize in their speech? I rely on a view, in which language is not only a part of the society but reality and identities are constructed and challenged in discourses (Fairclough 1989: 37; Burr 1995: 3).

References:


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