ELCAS「霊長類学 | 実施体験記

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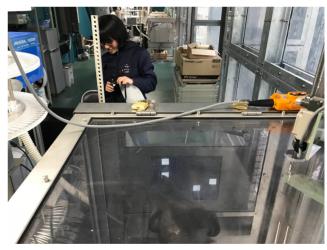
京都大学霊長類研究所では、公開講座や市民公開日な どでの講演や施設の見学を通して、多くの中高生が霊長 類学の先端研究にふれている. さらにSSHによる学習活 動も数多く受け入れてきた. このような中から, 時には 直接コンタクトを取ってくる意欲ある生徒もいる. 彼ら には、これまで、わたしたちの研究現場への「参与観察」 という形でこたえてきた. これは. 京大1年生に向けて 開講されている「ポケゼミ (今はILASセミナーという)」 と同じ方式だ. わたしたちの研究室は、チンパンジーを 主たる研究対象として、その認知機能を認知科学の手法 で研究することによって、こころの進化の謎に迫ろうと する. マスコミやインターネットなどで紹介されるわた したちの研究成果のビデオ映像は、いわば「チャンピオ ンデータ」「ベストショット」であり、日々の研究活動が いかなるものかをそこから推し量るのはむずかしい. そ こで、1年生数名を愛知県犬山市の霊長類研究所に招き、 所内の宿泊施設に1週間泊まりこみ、寝食をともにして、 私たちと同じスケジュールで日々の研究活動に参加して もらう. このようなことを先代の教授から連綿と続けて きた. その中から研究者の道を選択したものも数多い. このような実践的な教育活動をぜひ高校生や中学生のう ちから体験させてあげられないか、とつねづね考えてい た. そんな時にELCASと出会った. 2016年頃だったかと 思う.

さっそく,所内の仲間を募った.彼らとは10年以上にわたって,京都大学理学部で「霊長類生物学」という特別講義を続けてきた仲だ.湯本貴和所長も巻き込む形で,まずは2017年の「基盤コース」に参加することにした.座学は湯本所長にお願いし,実習はわたしを含め6人で,「探る」をキーワードに以下のテーマを設定した.「言語の萌芽を探る:サルとヒトの行動の相同性」,「食を探る:ヒトを含む霊長類の味覚と遺伝子」,「ヒトへの進化を探る:骨のかたちと機能の比較」,「チンパンジーの知性を探る:系列記憶課題の比較」,「細胞の運命を探る:iPS細胞を使った発生・進化の再現」,「脳を探る:霊長類の神経系の構造と機能」.手探りで始めた試みだったが,生徒や担当教員からも比較的好評だった.

わたしが受け持った実習では、チンパンジーが暮らす エリアに設置されている「いつでもどこでもだれとでも」 チンパンジーが実験に参加できるウォークインブースを 備えた「スカイラボ」という施設で、生徒たちに実際にチ ンパンジーを対象とした実験を走らせデータを取っても らう、その後、普段はチンパンジーたちが個別にやって きて実験をする「個室」に移って、彼らが実際に「チンパンジー」になって、チンパンジーと同じ課題をこなした。 そして、結果を比較し分析する。どこがチンパンジーと ヒトで似ていて、どこが違うのかを実感してもらおうと いう試みだ。

一方、2018年度からわたしは、「ポケゼミ」同様の形式で「個人型」も実施することにした。2名の生徒が参加した。チンパンジーの実験のようすのみならず、近隣で実施しているウマを対象にした認知研究の現場にも参加してもらった。期末のポスター発表の準備では、こちらの都合がうまくつかず、十分な指導ができなかったが、何と彼女たちはベストプレゼンテーションを獲得した。望外の喜びである。

高校生たちにとって、霊長類学や認知科学は普段の科目では接することのない未知の領域だ.だからこそ、後進の育成にとってはこのような高大接続事業は極めて重要だ.一人の生徒からもらった「この実習で自分の進路が見えてきた」という言葉を励みに、また来年度もがんばっていきたい.



スカイラボでチンパンジーの実験の様子を観察する実習生 (2017年 基盤コース)

Student observing an experiment on a chimpanzee at Skylab (2017, Basic Program)



チンパンジーと同じ課題に挑戦(2018年グループ型) Performing the same task as chimpanzees (2018, group participation type)



ウマでの研究の参与観察(2018年個人型) Guest audit research activity on horses (2018, individual participation type)

(対訳)

Experience Note of ELCAS in Primatology

Masaki Tomonaga

Primate Research Institute (PRI), Kyoto University

The Primate Research Institute (PRI) of Kyoto University has been offering opportunities to introduce numerous junior high and high school students to advanced research in primatology through lectures and facility tours at such events as its open lectures and open house days. In addition, the institute has often supported the learning activities of Super Science High school. Some of the students at those lectures and activities contacted us directly later to express their interest. So far, we have responded to those students by providing them with opportunities of participant observation at the actual research sites. The content of participant observation is the same as that of the PokeZemi (pocket-size seminar called ILAS Seminar today) for first-year students of Kyoto University. Our laboratory focuses on chimpanzees in the study of their cognitive ability using the methods of cognitive science. By doing that, we are trying to explore the evolution of the mind. The video footage of our research outcomes introduced in the mass media or the Internet is so called "champion data" or "the best shots" as it were, and it is difficult to surmise from them what daily research activities are really like. This being the case, we maintain a continuous tradition from the time of our previous professors, which is to invite several first-year students to the Primate Research Institute in Inuyama, Aichi, and let them stay in the accommodations of the institute for a week to experience communal living, so that they can join our daily research activities. Some of the invited students chose to be researchers later. I was always thinking about how we could offer junior high and high school students the experience of practical educational activities like that. Then, I think it was in 2016, I learned about ELCAS.

I immediately started recruiting fellow academics from PRI for the project. They and I have been running the special course Primate Biology together in the Faculty of Science at Kyoto University for more than a decade. I involved Takakazu Yumoto, the director of PRI, and the institute managed to join the Basic Program in 2017. I asked Prof. Yumoto to provide classroom lectures and worked with five other academics to set the following topics with "investigation" as the key term: "Investigation of the origin of language: homology of behaviors between monkey and human," "Investigation of eating: the sense of taste and the genes of primates including humans," "Investigation of the evolution of humans: comparison of shapes and functions of bones," "Investigation of the intelligence of chimpanzees: comparison of string memory tasks," "Investigation of the life of cells: reproduction of the emergence and evolution of cells using iPS cells," and "Investigation of the brain: structure and functions of the primate nervous system." Although it was a new project full of uncertainties, we received positive feedback from the students and the involved academics.

My workshop is held in the Skylab facility with a walk-in booth in the living area for chimpanzees, thanks to which the chimpanzees can participate in experiments *anytime*, *from anywhere*, *with anybody*. Students actually conduct experiments on the chimpanzees there and collect data. After that, students moved to the other room, where we conduct experiments on one chimpanzee at a time, to take the experiment themselves by performing the same task as the chimpanzees. Then they compare and analyze the results. It is an attempt to provide students with first-hand understanding of the similarities and differences between chimpanzees and humans.

Furthermore, I started offering an individual participation workshop in the same format as PokeZemi from fiscal year 2018. Two students participated in that. In the workshop, I had the students participate not only in the experiments on chimpanzees but also in the actual study of cognitive science on horses conducted nearby. For the poster presentation at the end of the term, although we could not offer as much assistance as we wanted because of schedule constraints, the students were awarded the best presentation prize. It was more of a success than we had expected, and we were very pleased with that.

For high school students, primatology and cognitive science are entirely new fields that are not taught in their usual curriculums. That is a major reason why projects connecting high school and university education, such as this, are extremely important. We will do our best for high school students visiting PRI in the next fiscal year, too, encouraged by a comment from one student who stated, "Thanks to the workshop, I think I have found the path I would like to take."



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Research interests: comparative cognitive science, primatology