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主論文題目：
A Study of Location-Based Audio Guide System Promoting Cultural Understanding in Japan
（日本文化理解のための場所依存型音声ガイドシステムの研究）

（内容の要旨）

With a dramatic increase in the number of foreign visitors, Japan is no exception to appreciating cultural diversity. This study intends to explore the possibility of developing cultural understanding in Japan, precisely focused on international visitors’ discovery of the relationship between “the self” and “the other.” To achieve this aim, a location-based audio guide system was designed and implemented. The system provides three types of contents: tips for tourists extracted from a popular guidebook, stories or opinions of local people, and feedback and cultural implications from other users who have already listened to the previous two types of contents. Fieldwork experiment with 25 international and 5 Japanese participants was conducted in Tokyo to observe cultural exchange. Qualitative data collection and detailed behavioral analysis revealed that the system contributes to participants’ enhancement of cultural awareness. Although the depth of understanding may vary, it may help them recognize: 1) difference or similarity of their own culture vs. Japanese culture, 2) the personal history or knowledge of their own country, 3) a particular culture itself (in this context Japanese culture), and 4) sometimes particularly nothing. This indicates the system could work with all users regardless of nationalities. This study discovered that recognition of oneself is fundamentally universal in any circumstance where cultural exchange would happen, and in a way, cultural, intercultural, and cross-cultural understandings are not very different when the focus is on self-awareness.

Keywords:
Cultural Understanding, System, Audio Guide, Location-Based, Japan