



HOKKAIDO UNIVERSITY

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A POSTSCRIPT : SOME NOTES BY THE EDITOR IN SUCCESSION

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This number of the Annual Report marks the end of an era in the history of the Research and Clinical Center for Child Development (RCCCD). Following Japanese practice, Professor Kazuo Miyake, the founder of the Center, is due to retire in March, this year. Thus, this issue should also be a memoir of Professor Miyake's departure.

The role of an annual report or a bulletin is to make public the outcomes of research efforts by staff investigators and the related researchers in an institute or a faculty. The themes of the research papers which appear in a technical report represent major research interests of the authors, which are embodied in substantial research activities by each author. The titles and the contents of an issue should, therefore, be different, according to the changes in membership of the research group in charge of the publication of a report.

Among the major research topics dealt with by Professor Miyake and his collaborators are, parent-child relationship, parental attitudes and practices in child-rearing, attachment, infant temperament, compliance, self-regulation, and infant cry. Vast are the number of the investigators involved, the time and energy consumed, and the number of papers and presentations submitted to publication and academic conferences. Thus, it is not easy to put into a short phrase all the work done by Professor Miyake and his groups. But, resorting to the traditional classification of the field of child development study, their research activities can be placed into the area of personality development. More specifically, the central concern of the group is socio-emotional development and mother-child relationship in infancy. The "red thread" through their research activities and thinking is the idea that stresses "relational" (interactional), "natural" (ecological), and "longitudinal" (developmental) perspectives.

Those basic ideas can never be erroneous and should be taken over even after Professor Miyake left the Center. But many of his young competent collaborators had also left the Center and now are doing independent work for their own. The present staff members who are taking the responsibility at the Center have his or her own research interest. Through quick review of the member's current interests, it is expected that cognitive development will also come to the fore in the following years.

Thus, here is a real task for the new generation of the RCCCD. How can we find a correct and most effective way for exploiting the wealth of the "inheritance" left by Professor Miyake, running a right track of making our own way? Opening a new page of history is always full of hopes and anxiety.

We sure realize that we, the staff members of the Center, are in full charge for

the publication of the Report. Whether the job can be successful or not, however, depends also upon how we can get support from many people as contributors or as readers. It is not easy for Japanese psychologists to make a professional paper in a foreign language. Still harder is to edit and publish a periodical report of the sort. At least one of the reasons for the success in publication of the Annual Report so far should be that Professor Miyake has maintained good connections with many foreign researchers whose mother tongue is English and with Japanese psychologists with high proficiency in English.

In this volume of the Annual Report which is to witness Professor Miyake's retirement, we would like to ask for ever-lasting support from many researchers in Japan and from abroad, both those whom we already know well and other investigators who are willing to extend warm help to us but still remain out of our reach.

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