

SPA-101

## **Relationship Between Inferiority Awareness "Onchi" and Singing Skills of Japanese Junior High School Students**

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### **Abstract**

The purpose of this study is to clarify the relationship between "onchi" consciousness and singing fundamental skills, vocal pitch matching and internal feedback, of Japanese junior high school students. "Onchi" is just a slang word though most of Japanese people tend to describe someone singing out of tune with the comprehensive term "onchi." Junior high schools in Japan actively hold singing activities not only through music classes but also through school chorus contests. However, a questionnaire survey on singing of 680 junior high school students in Japan revealed that 50.2% of the students answered that they were "very onchi" or "a little onchi" (Obata 2019). On the other hand, it was clarified that in order to overcome "onchi" of adults, it is more necessary for them to recognize whether they are singing on pitch, in other words internal feedback, than to match the pitch (Obata 2007). Nevertheless, junior high school students who think that they are "onchi" by themselves do not know how they can sing on pitch and do internal feedback. Therefore, in November 2016 the author performed a questionnaire survey and singing skill's test for second grade students (13-14 years old) in Public Junior High School A. The results of the questionnaires performed for 120 students showed that 53.3% answered that they were "very onchi" or "a little onchi". On the singing test of vocal pitch matching, the students who had matched 3 of the 3 tasks were 52.5% and those who had matched nothing were 15.8%. On the singing test of the internal feedback, 69.5% of the students were able to recognize if their singing pitch correct or not while 30.5% of the students were not to do so. Furthermore, the t-test results showed significant difference between two groups whether students has "onchi" consciousness or not, regarding their capability of performing internal feedback or not ( $t=2.027$ ,  $df=116$ ,  $p<.05$ ), and regarding the capability correct pitch matching ( $t=2.129$ ,  $df=118$ ,  $p<.05$ ). The results suggest that teachers in junior high school have to focus on the students' own voice and own consciousness toward singing rather than singing voice in group such as choruses.