



Believing in Your Potential

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Have you ever avoided a challenge because you thought "I can't do it" or "I'm not interested"? If so, I hope this text helps you take the first step towards embracing challenges. In the past, I had a narrow view of myself. Even when opportunities arose, I wasn't interested or found reasons such as difficulty to avoid challenges. I only focused on what I was good at and liked. My current dream of becoming an interpreter also stemmed from my proficiency in English. After deciding in high school, I worked hard and made plans for my future as an interpreter. As a university student, I decided to study Chinese in Beijing, reasoning that being proficient in languages other than English would allow me to help more people. Before studying abroad, I asked a senior, "What should I do during my study abroad to become a better interpreter?" Surprisingly, the answer was, "Don't be too fixated on interpreting," and "Do not limit your interests and potential, and don't plan too much." At the time, I didn't take it seriously, but during my study abroad, every moment was full of unexpected events, and the senior's words began to resonate with me daily. I decided to take on any challenge that came my way, thinking it was a valuable opportunity. I immediately enrolled in a linguistics class, which I began to find interesting. Though it was unexpectedly difficult and challenging, I became completely engrossed in linguistics and discovered a new side of myself. While holding onto my dream of becoming an interpreter, I continued studying linguistics, fascinated by its depth even after returning to Japan. In my fourth year of university, I decided to pursue graduate studies to conduct research in linguistics. Originally, I thought "going to graduate school is impossible" and had excluded it from my options, but I made a once-in-a-lifetime decision to prepare for the entrance exam and somehow got into the master's program at Tohoku University. Even after admission, rigorous research and life continued, but the experience of believing in my potential and accomplishing it became a great confidence booster. I successfully completed the two-year master's program and am now continuing my research in linguistics as a doctoral student. Gratefully, I also occasionally receive work as an interpreter, my long-held dream, and my command of English has improved further. Interpretation is said to be "preparedness prevents worry," highlighting the importance of prior preparation. The information-gathering abilities, thinking skills, and the physical and mental endurance I developed during my graduate studies assist me in becoming a better interpreter, as I've always envisioned. From these experiences, I've realized that whether to pursue my dreams or give up on them is up to me. It's not easy to take on difficult, uninteresting, or opposed challenges. However, by believing in my potential and having the courage to challenge myself, I can grow significantly. I hope my experience will inspire you to take a new step forward.

My Research

Lastly, I'd like to briefly introduce my current research. We humans can naturally speak our mother tongue without studying it like a foreign language. Moreover, we can understand sentences like "The man who keeps the rainbow-colored cat over there is my brother," even if they are sentences that might have been uttered for the first time in the world. Additionally, when a foreign student newly learning Japanese says, "Watashi wa hon ni yonda" (intended: I read the book), native Japanese speakers can understand (even if they can't grammatically explain it) that the sentence is incorrect. This is possible because we have subconscious knowledge of our native language. So, what is this subconscious knowledge of language? And how do we acquire this subconscious knowledge? Under the theoretical framework of "generative grammar," I am seeking answers to such questions, aiming to elucidate the fundamental nature of language. To elaborate further, I am researching the temporal interpretation of complex sentences like "I will have an interview next week with the woman I met yesterday with the girl who is crying now." The world of linguistics is mysterious and extremely fascinating, so I hope you will take a glimpse into it as well.

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