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A Face-to-face Collaborative Learning Support System for Acquiring of Explanatory Skill

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Computer supported collaborative learning, which is a study method through group interaction. In 1962, Dr. William F. Hill of Idaho State University advocated a study method named LTD (Learning Through Discussion), which has been used for many school education all over the world. Not only to deepen understanding of knowledge, but also to master learning skill, explanatory skill and to fire their ardour of learning. Recently, LTD also become very popular in adult education. In face-to-face collaborative learning, it is pointed out that we should base on some reasons when we state opinion. However, in reality, when we state our opinion, we always couldn`t aware based on reasons. For many learners that don`t used studying through discussion, it is very difficult to realize to state their opinion basing on reasons and to state it very accurate. Because that, during warm discussion, if they want to remember some reasons to state something connected to discussion, It need high explanatory technology .So it is necessary to support a discussion environment for acquiring of explanatory skill.

It has been researched in many fields about computer supported collaborative learning. KODANI, they developed a system about proposing the discussion assisting based on the domain knowledge. The system has two functions, one is to calculate the value of favorable word's influence, and another is to point out the domain knowledge. Exposing these information and to assist discussion. KOJIMA, they developed a discussion support system, which is to recognize the state of discussing through utterance intention. If there is not going

on smoothly, system will support help to change this state. KOBAYASI, they developed a online discussion support system through effectively use of web document, it will support appropriate online documents in advance with the change of discussion content. There are many effective method in distributed collaborative learning, however, they can`t be used into face-to-face collaborative learning.

This paper describes a face-to-face collaborative system, which provides documents connected to discussion in advance, for acquiring of explanatory skill. To achieve this aim, three functions are indispensable. Firstly, the function of supplying documents which are connected to discussion. Secondly, interface that make learner concentrate in discussion. Thirdly, the function of reviewing explanatory skill after discussion. In evaluation experiences, it has been proved that it is useful for learners to acquire explanatory skill and to realize that basing on reasons when state opinion, and through using this system, they feel very satisfied with discuss.