

Year 10 First Language Learners

Oral — High

Commentary

Learner Background and Program Context

This student is a first language learner who was born in Korea and arrived in Australia when he was 13. Both his parents were born in Korea. He has studied Korean for 2 years since he was in Year 9 in Australia. The Saturday community school he attends offers a Korean program with one 90-minute lesson per week. The students are streamed according to their ability and the student is currently in a class with more 'able' students. The student has also learnt Japanese for 3 years since he was in Year 8.

Features of Achievement in this Sample

The student speaks about his personal history and daily life relating to his arrival in Australia, his family, life in Australia, school, sports, and hobbies. Information about these topics is expanded at times to a broader context such as Australian culture in general and events in the Korean community in sufficient detail and elaborated with contextual information. He justifies (why he is taking food technology as a school subject), discusses higher order concepts (satisfaction with the Australian culture and lifestyle), and provides specific/additional information. Given the topics are about personal information and life, he tends to use plain high-frequency vocabulary throughout the selected samples. However, he also uses some items with relatively low frequency such as 노력하다, 마땅하다, 우승, 현재, 대표 선수. He uses a range of grammatical forms accurately in utterances ending with various sentence enders, which are appropriate for spoken interaction with adults (e.g. -고요, -는데요, -지요 (죠), -잖아요). His response is very spontaneous and fluent and flows frequently with conjunctive adverbial phrases such as '그런 건 아닌데', '그러니까' in-between, which makes his discourse very natural. His pronunciation is clear and follows pronunciation rules in Korean. He has no difficulties in comprehension. He provides additional information to the answer he gives to the assessor's question to help her understanding. He pre-empts possible communication breakdowns or expected unnecessary exchanges by using appropriate grammatical devices (e.g. 잘 하려고 노력하죠).