Research on Effective learning methodsUsing Technology in order to Improve Japanese Language for University Students

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Abstract

Learning a language other than the mother tongue is not an easy task for the learners themselves. If learning Japanese is seen as building a house, cultivating vocabulary is building a solid foundation for that house. In the process of learning Japanese, vocabulary is one of the three components that form the language knowledge system and acts as a means and conditions for forming and developing communication skills. Not only Japanese, in any language, vocabulary also plays a very important role. We cannot communicate with anyone without a rich vocabulary. Thereby, we can see that although vocabulary is only a small component in language learning, it is a key factor in forming learners' language skills. This article aims to research methods to learn vocabulary effectively for students majoring in Japanese Language in general and Japanese language learners in particular. This article is completed by comparing and contrasting results from previous and current studies and literature. Moreover, the article is completed based on the actual survey results for students majoring in Japanese language. From the above research, there are methods to learn vocabulary effectively.

Keywords: efficiency, method, vocabulary, Japanese

1. Introduction

According to linguist D.A. Wilkins, "Without grammar there is very little information to convey. Without vocabulary, no information can be conveyed." Thereby, we see that in learning foreign languages, vocabulary is a component that plays the most important role. Vocabulary is the root source of all problems (Vu, 2020). Learning a foreign language will become a failure without a rich vocabulary. Vocabulary is the key that holds the meaning of words, ideas and opinions that we want to convey. Just like building a house, to have a complete house, there must be a solid foundation. Learning a foreign language is the same, not only Japanese but any language to be successful, learners must have a rich vocabulary for themselves. With a rich vocabulary, it will greatly assist us in developing and perfecting other skills such as listening, speaking, reading and writing more effectively. But there are studies that have shown that acquiring vocabulary as well as cultivating a rich vocabulary is not easy for learners themselves. Students of the Japanese language as well as those who are learning foreign languages in general are probably still looking for a key to help themselves absorb vocabulary as well as improve vocabulary in the most effective way. This article researches to provide methods on how to learn vocabulary most effectively for students majoring in Japanese at FPT University.

2.Research History

According to 玉岡賀津雄(2017), if we don't understand the vocabulary, we can't read, listen or understand what a conversation is about. Just as it would take too long in the conversation to establish communication. Vu (2020) believes that in the process of learning a foreign language, vocabulary is a mandatory component that learners themselves must have. Vocabulary is a means of expressing ideas and also a bridge between listening, speaking, reading and writing skills. Our ability to understand a language depends on how many words we know in that language. In a conversation, we can only understand the content if we know all the meanings of the words used. Not only in daily conversations, but also in the messages in books and newspapers, to understand them all, we must know a lot of words. Besides, Nieu (1999) confirmed that to reach the ideal goal of foreign language learning is mastering the four skills of listening, speaking, reading and writing, but the decisive skill is largely the accumulation of a vocabulary. diverse. People who are learning foreign languages cannot use a foreign language as fluently as their mother tongue because they do not have a rich vocabulary for themselves.山口紗季&山下直子(2020) also believes that in the process of learning a second language, expanding knowledge of vocabulary is an important mandatory task for learners. The result of not cultivating vocabulary for yourself, day by day will make learners feel bored and uninterested, which leads to many second language learners giving up halfway.

3.Research content

3.1 Status of vocabulary learning of students majoring in Japanese language

Currently, besides English, Japanese is also one of the languages that tend to be the most learned. To achieve the desired goal in learning Japanese, learners must master skills such as listening, speaking, reading and writing (Nieu, 1999). Besides, an important contributing factor to success is having a rich vocabulary for yourself. The key to that success is currently the Japanese language students at FPT University as well as those who are learning Japanese are still trying to learn to improve themselves. Today's students understand that the biggest barrier preventing us from communicating in a foreign language is vocabulary. Without vocabulary, not only can't communicate, but increasingly bored with learning that foreign language. Therefore, along with modern society, today's vocabulary teaching methods and methods are also more diversified. Instead of just learning from ordinary books at school, now students as well as learners can learn on social networks or on newspapers and television. The way of learning "Learn while playing" is currently being spread and effective for foreign language learners. With the utilities of the application now, learners can learn a lot of vocabulary by watching anime while learning vocabulary or listening to a Japanese song and taking notes of new words. According to Wita et al. (2018), it is also said that by the above methods, it has helped Japanese language students as well as those studying Japanese become more and more interested and not bored in supplementing vocabulary for yourself.

3.2 Methods, subjects and scope of research

This study is based on the survey process as well as data analysis from previous and current studies. The two research methods used in this article are mainly quantitative method and qualitative method. The object of the study and the scope of the study are students of the Japanese language department of FPT University. The purpose of choosing FPT university is to learn more about the methods that teachers and students have applied to learn vocabulary in the most effective way. Through that, it will be possible to come up with effective methods to help students majoring in Japanese language easily memorize vocabulary and also help learners not get bored while studying. Survey form by survey form and other supporting tools such as Google Form, Email, etc. have been applied to get the most appropriate and accurate survey results.

3 Research results and discussion

Table 1.Importance of vocabulary in Japanese

The importance of vocabulary in Japanese	1	2	3	4	5	Total reply	Total score	Average level
1. Vocabulary is the most important basic element in learning Japanese	1	0	1	5	9	16	69	0.25
2. Vocabulary to support grammar learning	1	0	0	6	9	16	70	0.26
3. The more you learn, the more vocabulary you need to improve other skills	1	0	1	9	5	16	65	0.24
4. Rich vocabulary will help learners confidently communicate as well as improve other skills	1	0	2	4	9	16	68	0.25
							272	**1.00**

Of the four questions mentioned in the table above (Table 1), we can see that most people have a basic understanding of how important vocabulary is in learning Japanese. In question number 4, 9 out of 16 people agree that rich vocabulary will help learners gain confidence in communication as well as other skills. The special thing here we can see that fluent communication is the goal that anyone learning a foreign language wants to conquer (Tan, 2019). But without a vocabulary in mind, we will not be able to communicate as well as we would like. Not only helps to communicate well when the vocabulary is rich, but besides that it is also a springboard to help learners perfect other skills better and better, such as reading, writing, listening, etc. In a reading comprehension passage, if you can grasp and understand most of the vocabulary contained in it, it will make it easier for the reader to do the test. Besides, the vocabulary we accumulate will mainly promote a direct and effective influence on reading ability or listening ability, while controlling and applying vocabulary practice mainly shows its effectiveness in speaking and writing ability (Nieu, 1999).

Table 2. Status of not learning vocabulary

The state of not learning vocabulary	1	2	3	4	5	Total reply	Total score	Average level
1. No vocabulary will lead to difficulties in communication	1	0	1	4	10	16	70	0.22
2. Current Japanese language students are afraid to communicate because of lack of vocabulary	0	1	5	8	2	16	59	0.19
3. Limited vocabulary will make other skills weaker	1	1	3	9	2	16	58	0.18
4. If you don't learn vocabulary, you will gradually get bored and give up in the process of learning Japanese	1	1	2	7	5	16	62	0.2
5. Limited vocabulary will not understand what the other person is saying, leading to confusion in communication	1	0	0	9	6	16	67	0.21
							316	1.00

Nowadays, though learners understand well the importance of vocabulary in learning Japanese. However, because memorizing a large amount of vocabulary for yourself in a short period of time is not an easy task. Therefore, they will make learners feel bored and lazy to learn vocabulary. That if repeated for a long time will bring unexpected results in the learning process. In question 1 of Table 2, up to 10 people out of 16 agree that without vocabulary it becomes difficult to communicate. What everyone knows in communication is the key word is vocabulary. In communication, it is important to understand what the other person is saying. Therefore, it is necessary to have vocabulary to understand it easier and it will not take too long to answer. This is shown in question 5, there are 9 people who agree that a limited vocabulary will not be understood. What the other side is saying leads to confusion in communication. In fact, nowadays, even students majoring in Japanese language are afraid to communicate in Japanese. Although during the 4 years of studying Japanese, students may not have accumulated a rich vocabulary for themselves, so they are very afraid and afraid to communicate, according to the survey in question 2 of Table 2, 8 people also agree with the above opinion.

In addition, through face-to-face interviews conducted at Google Form, the question posed to the students was "In your opinion, which element is more important in communication with vocabulary or grammar". There are many people who agree that vocabulary is more important than grammar in communication because if you know a lot of grammar, you can't communicate with a limited vocabulary. Besides, in normal communication, vocabulary is more important because it's okay to just tell the other person, and if you don't understand what the other person is saying, the other party can use simple words to describe it rather than words.

In order to overcome the situation of not being bored when learning vocabulary, besides the traditional learning method, this study also offers other more effective methods.
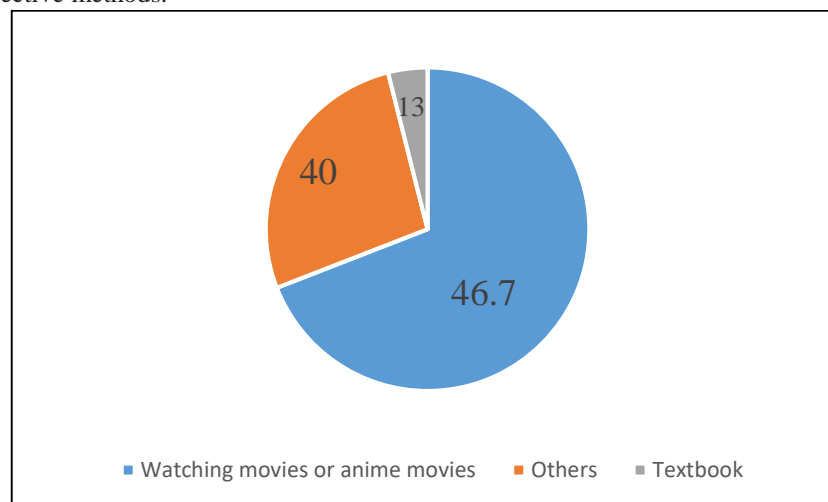

Figure 1. The most effective method to learn vocabulary

In Figure 1, only 13% of people think that learning vocabulary with textbooks will be effective. Through that number, we see that learning in the traditional way like in school is that books will make learners feel boring and uninteresting. But when doing something, not only learning vocabulary, but also anything the method of doing or learning must give us a new interest in order to be more effective. Therefore, in addition to the method of learning by textbooks, the majority of 46.7% people recommend other

methods such as watching movies or anime. Every day, we will spend a lot of time watching a movie that is hot on social networks, or an anime that interests us (Wita, 2018). Instead of just watching without doing anything useful for ourselves, find movies or anime with vocabulary topics we want to improve and watch it. By this method, both help learners relax and help us accumulate a useful vocabulary from those movies (Hasegawa, 2014).

Moreover, with vivid images, it will help learners remember vocabulary longer instead of just looking at that dry textbook. In addition, through a face-to-face interview conducted at Google Form, the question was asked: "Besides methods such as watching movies and listening to music, what other methods do you have to help learning vocabulary become easier?" Is it easier?" get a lot of different methods from students. In addition to watching movies, or anime, there are other interesting methods such as using flashcards, studying with a dictionary, studying in groups of friends, and writing notes and then random to remember. Thereby, we see that there are countless interesting methods instead of being stereotyped as textbooks that can help readers feel more interested in learning vocabulary.
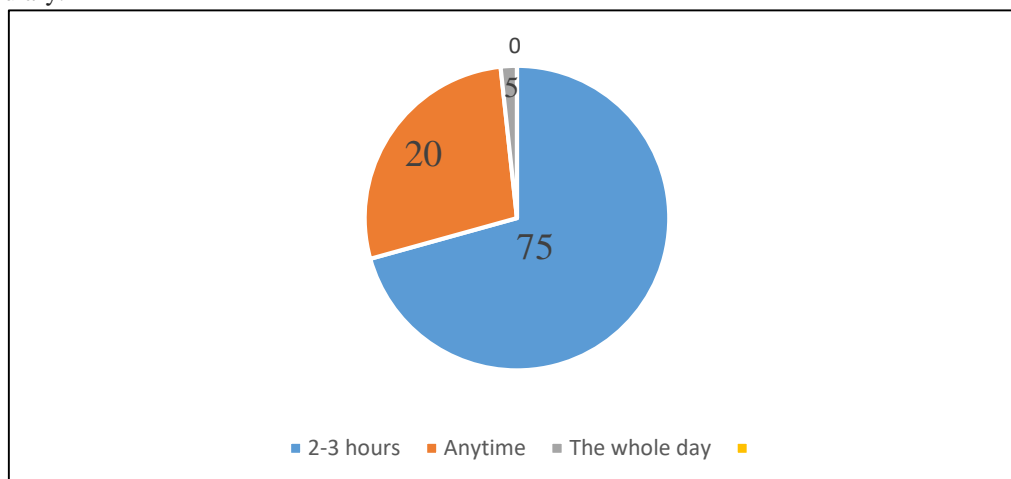

Figure 2. Time to learn vocabulary in a day

Besides finding a method to learn vocabulary for yourself, how to arrange daily time to learn vocabulary is also an important factor. We can't spend all day just learning vocabulary, otherwise it will be overwhelming and we can't remember what we have learned. Just like it is impossible to go a day without taking time to review and re-consolidate vocabulary. The most effective way is to set aside a certain amount of time each day to learn vocabulary. Specifically, in chart 2, 75% of people believe that a day should spend from 2 to 3 hours to study. This habit should try to practice every day, every week. Thereby combining with the method that we think is effective for us to learn will help us feel excited and not be under pressure when learning vocabulary.

3 Some suggested solutions for effective vocabulary learning

After analyzing and evaluating the available data, we have effective methods for learning Japanese vocabulary. However, how to get the desired result, as well as the above methods without becoming boring in the learning process is still a matter of concern. Here are some suggested solutions to this problem.

First, to get high efficiency in the process of learning vocabulary, students should find their own interest (Tanaka, 2009). Because when we do something, we need to be excited to be motivated and not be bored in the learning process. Especially for students majoring in Japanese language, the addition of a large amount of vocabulary in a short period of time will probably cause dryness and boredom for students. And more than that, for each student himself, he must realize that learning vocabulary is to help learning results more effectively. Instead we will learn how to deal with the teacher, this will not bring good results and will not memorize the vocabulary and become forced.

Besides, in addition to finding an effective method, each student has to build an appropriate plan and time for learning vocabulary. Don't spend too much time learning vocabulary without learning other skills. Just as there should be no distractions, don't spend any time studying vocabulary. A rich vocabulary cannot be acquired in a short time, but it is a process of cultivating, learning and trying.

On the other hand, in addition to learning methods such as watching movies, listening to music, reading books, students should participate in cultural exchanges or experience sessions about Japanese organized by the school (井上正子, 2017). . The above activities not only help students improve their listening and speaking skills, but also help students have an additional vocabulary for themselves. Learning vocabulary has never been easier in the language learning process. But if we have determination and try, the results will soon be as we want.

4 Conclusion

In summary, after the process of surveying and drawing conclusions, the majority of Japanese language students at FPT University as well as those studying Japanese understand the importance of vocabulary in Japanese. But due to limited factors, the

current vocabulary acquisition is still limited.After the survey, we have new methods that can help students learn vocabulary more effectively, as well as feel that learning vocabulary becomes interesting and not boring like before. Besides effective learning methods, students will also know how to manage time as well as external factors to help improve vocabulary most effectively.Hopefully, the research and discovery of rich methods to learn vocabulary will help Japanese language students at FPT University become more and more interested in learning vocabulary.

Limitations
The article also has many limitations in terms of content and form. Hope the article will be improved.

Acknowledgments

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