



The Influence of Technology In Studying Japanese

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Abstract:

This research is motivated by economic growth in Indonesia with the large number of foreign investors entering Indonesia, one of which is Japan. For that, mastering a foreign language will be very important. This study aims to determine the effect of technology and technology trends used in studying Japanese. The method used in this research is descriptive method with observation and interviews. Interviews were conducted on 24 student respondents at the Indonesian Computer University. This research shows that by using technology, namely software for learning Japanese in the form of a digital dictionary, the learning process becomes easier and faster. This can be seen from the 3 characteristics analyzed, namely the use of the digital dictionary, effectiveness, and the type of digital dictionary application used. Therefore, maximizing technology in learning Japanese is an efficient way to develop Japanese language skills. The use of digital dictionaries in learning Japanese can help in finding synonyms, use of proper language and writing procedures. Applications that make it easy to use are applications that provide various language options for users, especially the choice of using English.

Keyword: digital, dictionary, Japan, application

INTRODUCTION

Japan, as a big ten country, has good relations in terms of business in various sectors with Indonesia. Therefore, both parties understand how crucial this relationship is (Fukuoka, Y. 2012). Digital dictionaries must be taken care of properly by minimizing misunderstanding in the language. In Jakarta, many Japanese have come since 2008, especially in the Blok M area (Jonathan, C, et al., 2020). Because of this, the Japanese restaurant industry sector has also developed due to this. This certainly affects the Indonesian people's mindset to be able to master a second language or foreign language, one of which is Japanese. In Indonesia, the Japanese language began to be studied at the high school level based on the specialization chosen by each student. The Japanese language is not easy to learn, because there are levels of studies and to reach the highest level is not easy. With advances in technology, millennials

have many advantages in learning Japanese; as stated by Baird and Fisher that in the new millennial era, there is a new era for teaching and learning activities where learning activities are centered on technology (Hsu, Y. C, et al., 2013). This technological development is followed by software developers' growth, where software in the form of applications such as digital dictionaries is useful for supporting Japanese language activities. The digital dictionary itself is a tool or field applied to research that includes linguistic ideas and techniques, computer science, artificial intelligence, translation theory, and statistics (Johnson, M, et al., 2017).

Learning Japanese with the help of technology is not a new thing, as using the internet to learn Japanese can increase the effectiveness in terms of time and cost (Tian, M, et al., 2021). In addition, there is also the use of technology with social media to help the process of learning Japanese. The results show that using social media as a medium for learning Japanese is quite effective, with Instagram as the most widely used platform (Friedman, L. W, et al., 2013). Then, artificial intelligence can also be used as a medium for studying Japanese. In one study, the use of artificial intelligence to study Japanese was found that the use of artificial intelligence can stimulate students to become interested in learning Japanese (Rentzos, L, et al., 2015). After that, computers are also widely used as a medium for teaching Japanese for their complete features, such as online teaching, video teaching, and so on, so that teachers can explore how to teach them via computer (Wang, Q. 2015; and Haristiani, N, et al., 2020). In private course activities also often use technology. In one of the studies on private Japanese language courses using technology, it was found that Indonesians have high enthusiasm in learning foreign languages using technology to increase their abilities and insights. The next media that can be used to learn Japanese is anime; the high enthusiasm of the public in Indonesia for anime culture makes them able to understand a little Japanese without realizing it. Thus, technology such as computers, software, artificial intelligence, dictionaries, and others help a lot in learning Japanese (Soegoto, E. S. 2018; and Soegoto, E. S, et al., 2018).

This research aims to find out the digital dictionary trend among Japanese Literature students in Universitas Komputer Indonesia. Also, it aims at finding out its effect in learning the Japanese process. The method used was descriptive and surveyed to 24 Japanese Literature students in Universitas Komputer Indonesia.

RESEARCH METHOD

This research uses the descriptive and surveys method. Data collection was carried out through a questionnaire using Google Form, which contains three questions for 24 students of the Japanese Language Department, Universitas Komputer Indonesia. The purpose of collecting this data is to find out how effective Japanese learning is with a digital dictionary and what digital dictionary trends are in use.

RESEARCH RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Based on question number one, which is about "do you use a digital dictionary to help to learn Japanese activities?" The answer is as follows: 75% of students stated that they use a digital dictionary to assist in learning Japanese. In comparison, 25% answered that they do not use a digital dictionary as a medium to assist in Japanese learning activities (see Figure 1).

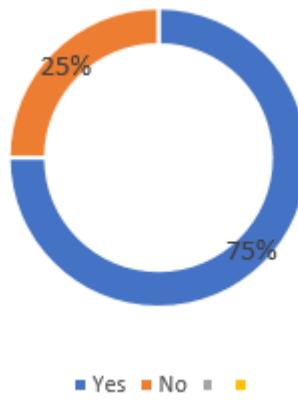


Figure 1. The user of Digital Dictionary

Based on question no. 2, the answer is as follows: 47.83% of students stated that the digital dictionary effectively helps Japanese learning activities. Then, 21.74% of students stated that the digital dictionary was less effective in helping Japanese learning activities, followed by 30.43% who stated that it was ineffective (see Figure 2).

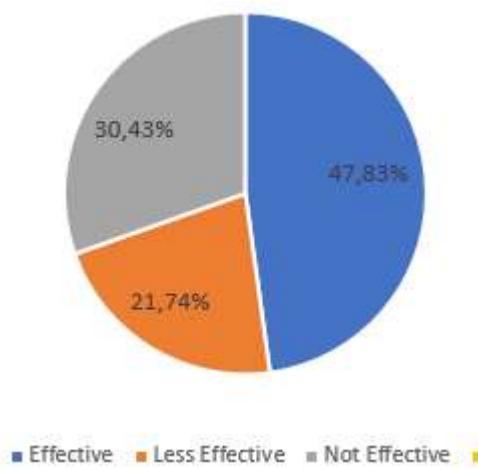


Figure 2. Effectiveness of Digital Dictionary

Based on the third question, the answer is as follows: 38% said the digital dictionary that is often used is Akebi, then 17% of students used Takoboto as a digital dictionary to help Japanese learning activities, followed by 21% of students using Shirabe Jisho as a digital dictionary and 25% answered other applications (See Figure 3).

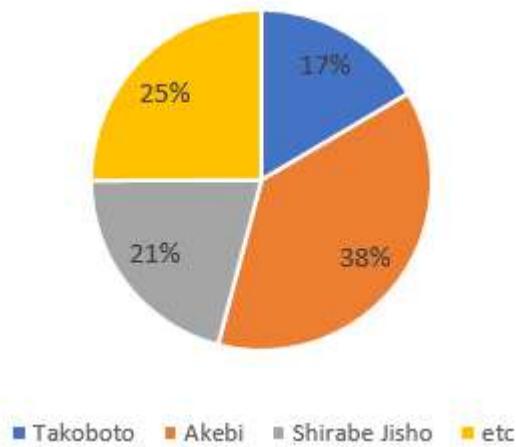


Figure 3. Digital Dictionary Application

The questionnaire found that the digital dictionary applications most often used to assist learning activities were Takoboto, Akebi, and Shirabe Jisho.

3.1. *Takoboto*

Takoboto is a digital dictionary developed by a software developer in Japan based on Japanese and English. To search for a word in Takoboto, you can use a word written in Japanese or English using kanji, kana, romaji, Latin, or the alphabet. Takoboto is classified as an easy-to-use and complete application because besides being able to find the meaning of a word, we can also find out how to write it in kanji; besides that, Takoboto can also be used on personal computers (see Figure 4).



Figure 4. *Takoboto* Application

3.2. *Akebi*

Akebi was developed by T Remaja developer and had complete content. Besides having a good appearance, Akebi also contains information on using the words we are looking for in a sentence (see Figure 5).

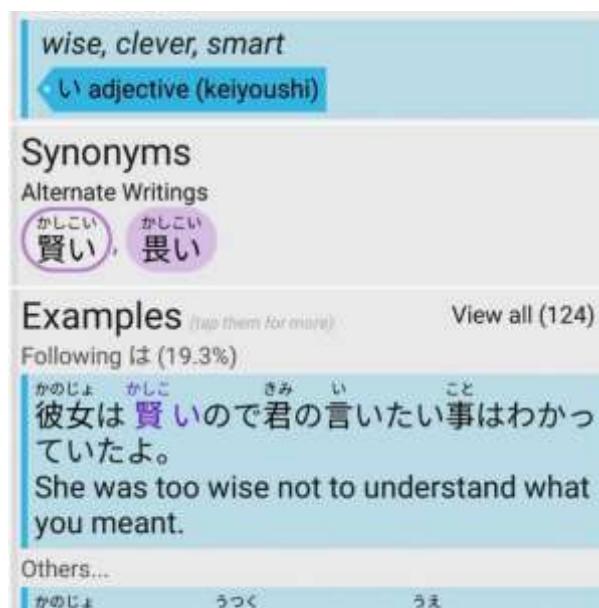


Figure 5. *Akebi* Application

3.3. Shirabe Jisho

This application that iOS users can only use was developed by Blazej Stanek, with an easy-to-use user interface that makes this application a favorite for iPhone users. Besides that, when we search for a word in Shirabe Jisho, we can also use handwriting recognition (see Figure 6).



Figure 6. Shirabe Jisho Application

CONCLUSION

Utilizing technology in learning Japanese can increase time efficiency, such as looking for the meaning of a word. Thus, the use of technology, in this case, is a digital dictionary to learn Japanese so that our learning activities can be maximized.

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