

Create a Universal Japanese that Promotes Diversity

Beyond “Simple Japanese”;
Create a language environment for a society
where diverse people live together

With a continued increase in the number of foreigners (individuals from abroad) living in Japan, “Simple Japanese” is being endorsed. However, there is a concern about aiming for a barrier-free direction, which is to “paraphrase the Japanese language gently for certain people.” This study goes beyond “Simple Japanese” and aims to universally design Japanese. It is a proposal for a new kind of communication based on an intrinsic understanding of Japanese, which will lower the language barrier rather than rephrasing things.



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“In the Japan of the future where diverse people live together, we will need a Japanese that is easy for anyone to understand and use.”

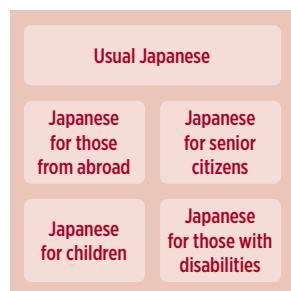
Essential Japanese language research that is not “for people from abroad,” but that aims to be “for everyone”

“Simple Japanese” is currently recognized as a method for communicating with people from abroad, but with this research I believe there is a problem with that framework. This is because creating a framework for “Japanese for people from abroad” actually divides people and could possibly hamper communication. Also, set rules for rephrasing things can’t handle diverse circumstances.

Objectively understanding Japanese constructions and the ability to make adjustments as circumstances warrant is what is important. In a society where diverse people live together, this perspective is key. By consciously understanding Japanese constructions, we can develop the ability to choose and adjust our words depending on who is being spoken with and the circumstances. This will be an ability that can be used in communicating with people in various positions, such as learners of Japanese, children, senior citizens, and others.

This study grew out of my multifaceted experiences. To date, I have been involved in both Japanese education as a first language and Japanese education as a foreign language, as well as trainings in “Simple Japanese” for adults, and it was these experiences that led me to recognize the essential issues. With this study I aim to move beyond the framework of “for people from abroad” and create a universal design Japanese language environment that will be easy for all people to use.

Accessible Japanese



Universal design Japanese



If “Simple Japanese” is turned into a manual for rephrasing language “for someone,” then we will only be able to address individual “language barriers” after they arise. In a society where diverse people live together, including people from abroad, children, senior citizens, and individuals with disabilities, the creation of a universal design Japanese environment that everyone can easily use is what is called for.

Through working in cooperation with businesses, local authorities, and educational institutions, advance practice and research, and move toward the creation of a new Japanese language environment

In this study, I am aiming to improve the Japanese language environment and advance practice and research in collaboration with businesses, local authorities, and educational institutions.

In cooperation with businesses, I am supporting smooth communication with talent from abroad. Through the establishment of easy-to-understand Japanese as a common language within companies, I believe I can make a contribution to creating offices where diverse talent can do great things.

In collaboration with the administration

and local authorities, I am involved in quality improvements in local Japanese language classes and training Japanese language learning supporters. I hope this will provide practical knowledge for policies for multicultural coexistence in the future, too.

In collaboration with educational institutions, I am involved in support for students needing help with the Japanese language. I am expanding this initiative and aiming to improve language environments in education.

With this research, alternating between

theory and practice, I will move forward with creating a new Japanese language environment.



The principal investigator is holding a variety of trainings and study groups, not just for learners of Japanese, but also for Japanese language learning supporters, etc. The photo shows a classroom for Japanese language learners outside the university.

