

Connecting Non-Japanese Workers and the Japanese Language to Attain an Inclusive Society

Providing recommendations and assistance with the intention of building better relationships between non-Japanese workers and the Japanese language and between non-Japanese workers and Japanese society

In Japanese society, with its increasing numbers of non-Japanese workers, the Japanese language poses barriers to labor and social participation. In this research, Japanese language education policy towards non-Japanese workers in the fields of long-term care and caregiving in particular are analyzed, and associated recommendations are issued. Simultaneously, assistance is provided to non-Japanese workers who seek long-term employment in Japan in those fields through the development of Japanese language learning materials. Materials such as the “Learning Nursing Care Vocabulary in Easy Japanese” website have been co-developed with researchers from other universities and web designers.



Principal Investigator

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“I want to do my part for a society where people with diverse backgrounds can live on their own terms, starting with language education.”

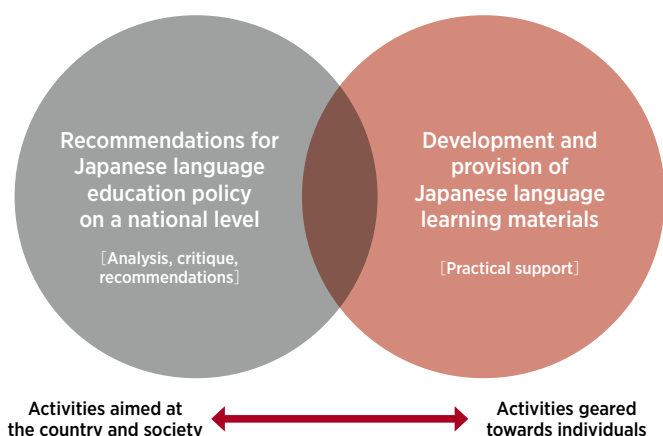
Aiming for practical research and contributions with the dual approach of policy recommendations and educational materials development

The distinctive characteristics of this research are how it has simultaneously implemented two opposing approaches in the form of policy analysis/recommendations and development of Japanese language learning materials, and carried out practical research that does not stop at armchair theories. In policy analysis and recommendations, the characteristics of discussions regarding Japanese language education for non-Japanese care workers for each status of residence, namely EPA and Technical Intern Training and Specified Skilled Worker, were visualized through a detailed analysis of minutes of sessions of the National Diet, Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare Expert Study Group

meetings and newspaper articles.

In educational materials development, a “Learning Nursing Care Vocabulary in Easy Japanese” was developed and implemented. These materials go beyond parallel translation to provide explanations of the concepts and systems particular to front-line caregivers so that learners find them easy to understand. The website supports six languages and is also equipped with a text-to-speech function. It is the product of the collaboration of researchers with different specializations.

A dual approach that connects non-Japanese workers with the Japanese language.



From the “Learning Nursing Care Vocabulary in Easy Japanese” website learning materials. This example shows the result in Burmese for a search of the Japanese term for “aspiration pneumonitis.”



| Efforts Towards Community Outreach

Scrutinizing the challenges with and possibilities of language education for the sake of better relationships between non-Japanese workers and Japanese society

In this research, light is shed on the experience of people who experience disadvantages due to language, and efforts are made to involve them in the improvement of that situation through language education.

In policy recommendation activities, new themes will be explored in the future while collaborating with ministry and government office personnel and other researchers. In practical activities in the nursing care field, ongoing support will be provided to non-Japanese human resources experiencing language difficulties.

Currently, the further multilingualization of the “Learning Nursing Care Vocabulary in Easy Japanese” and the development of new Web learning support resources are also underway. Additionally, activities to popularize “Easy Japanese” will be pursued in cooperation with local governments and international exchange associations. By combining knowledge from policy analysis with experience in educational materials development, this research aims to continue providing highly effective proposals and assistance.

