

Some Methods of Learning Intermediate Japanese with Movie

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Abstract

The exchange and cooperation between Vietnam and Japan is growing through many fields. Therefore, the demand of Vietnamese people to learn Japanese is increasing, Japanese language learning methods and textbooks have also become diversified to improve and improve efficiency of Japanese knowledge. In particular, the method of learning foreign languages through movies is also being applied to many languages such as English, Japanese, and Chinese. Many studies on applying films to learning foreign languages are gaining popularity in recent years. There are many studies showing that watching movies effectively improves listening comprehension, reading comprehension, translation and speaking skills. Not only that, it also helps learners increase their understanding of the culture and vocabulary of that country. This results of the paper show that watching movies not only helps students improve their pronunciation, but also creates their own excitement, helps them improve their vocabulary, develop listening, reading and speaking skills.

Key-words: Japanese, Knowledge, Methods, Movies, Skills.

1. Introduction

In recent years, the demand for Japanese language learning of Vietnamese people has increased while Japanese language learning methods and textbooks have also become diversified in order to improve and improve efficiency of Japanese knowledge. Learning Japanese through movies is one of the very effective methods applied by interns and international students studying Japanese. However, not everyone can apply this method effectively [1].

In addition to Anime which is a Japanese animation with many genres that both children and adults in the world love, we can also watch Japanese dramas and movies as well for people who want to learn Japanese [2]. If it is possible to combine watching movies and learning a foreign language at the same time, then that is a great thing. Naturally, everyone has different learning styles and methods

for learning a foreign language. This method can help learners increase their knowledge, skills and excitement when it comes to movies with interesting content [3].

2. Content of Research

2.1. Literature Review

Since before the 20th century, the process of teaching foreign languages has often focused on teachers and teaching methods. On the contrary, from the late 20th century until now, when the learner and learning-centered perspective has taken the leading role and has clearly achieved higher efficiency, the focus has shifted to learners and learning method aims to create and develop learners' autonomy and self-responsibility, to meet their own needs and help them become lifelong learners [2].

Thus, the methods of learning foreign languages have become diversified and applied by many people, but it is up to the learners to apply those methods effectively or not. Learning Japanese through Anime has also been researched by many authors and Anime is one of the famous Japanese cultures which are widely popular all over the world. There are many advantages when choosing Anime as new material to support learning Japanese, especially listening and speaking practice [3].

Some people think that when we apply this learning method optimally, we will receive many benefits. That is to help us practice correct pronunciation skills like native speakers; accumulating many common sentences to communicate in Japanese in everyday life; grasp the appropriate use of words in different contexts; understanding more words and slang words that a book or dictionary is not covered. We can hear many Japanese voices in different regions and above all, we can communicate in Japanese gently, comfortably, without being bored [4].

Additionally, there is the fact that educators have no control over what students learn and view outside of the classroom. One of the main concerns about learners' interest in anime is that they can make broad judgments or assumptions about Japanese language and culture based solely on the anime they've watched. Since numerous studies have shown that anime has become a significant presence in most Japanese language learners, it has become part of the responsibility of Japanese educators to dispel prejudices about language and culture in anime. For example, students should be reminded not to expect Japanese to speak exactly like they do in anime and not to use words or phrases learned from anime until they are sure of the meaning. This explains why the anime should be introduced in the JFL classroom (Japanese Language Class) not only because it can be a good

teaching material but also to raise learners' awareness of language prejudices and culture in anime [5]. This method is also one of the methods applicable to the JLPT (Japanese Language Proficiency Test) on how to estimate the difficulty of dialogue lines in anime using Japanese words and grammar [6].

2.2. The Popularity of Japanese Films in the World

Japanese film industry of Japan, with a history of more than 100 years. Japan is one of the oldest and largest film industries in the world. In a Sight & Sound category of Asian cinema's best films, Japanese cinema ranks eighth in the top 12 of mainland Asia's most powerful films, with Tokyo Story (1953) is ranked first on the list. Japanese cinema has also won many prestigious awards such as the Academy Award for the Academy Award for the best foreign language film with four nominations (The Seeker (2008), Samurai I: Musashi Miyamoto (1955), Jigokumon (1954), Rashōmon (1951) [7].

Over the past 100 years, Japanese cinema has gone through many ups and downs, but always has unique works and its own strengths, including Japanese animated films, also known as is Sen and Chihiro in the Mystic World (2001) awarded the Academy Award for Best Animation and La Maison en Petits Cubes (2008) for the Academy Award for Best Short Animation. Currently Japan's anime industry is estimated to dominate the global animation production market at around 60% of the film produced.

2.3. Some Problems when Applying the Method

Learners can practice listening to Japanese, practicing reading and even practicing Japanese pronunciation through movies. However, when applying this Japanese learning method, some of the problems that we can encounter are as follows.

The first is that the film selection is not suitable for the current level. Finding a movie that suits your level is very important. If we just started learning Japanese, and choose a movie with confusing content, difficult-to-understand speech or words, etc. we won't be able to absorb it because at that time the vocabulary and grammar were not enough to understand the movie [8]. On the contrary, when we have a good amount of knowledge in Japanese but still choose a movie that is too easy or too dependent on subtitles, it will be very difficult to improve our skills. To improve the level, it is very necessary to increase the difficulty level of the lesson.

Next is the length of the film is too long. If watching a movie for academic purposes, a movie with a long length will definitely not be suitable. Watching a 15 - 20 minute episode will be much more receptive. Especially for those who are just starting to learn Japanese, it is more effective to watch a short episode [3].

When we watch a movie, we don't just watch it once. We can practice listening, speaking, and checking vocabulary in movies when we feel curious, so it's not enough to watch the movie once. Therefore, choosing a movie with a moderate amount of time will be much easier. We can both enjoy the full content of the episode and can rewind to learn without causing boredom.

As mentioned above, if the purpose of watching movies is learning, that means that watching a movie once is of course not enough. Besides there are many things we need to practice like listening, speaking, vocabulary, watching movies once is not enough for us to grasp knowledge. Surely, when watching a movie, there are many places that make us wonder: "What does this word mean?", "How to pronounce this word?" etc. Watching it over and over will help us to better understand usage of certain grammar or vocabulary [5].

In addition, watching movies with incorrect subtitles is also an easy problem. In this era of technological development, we everyone can learn a lot with just a smartphone or a computer. It is easy to find a good Japanese movie with Vietnamese subtitles for study and entertainment purposes. However, sometimes we ignore the accuracy of those subtitles. If the subtitles are incorrect, it will greatly affect our Japanese knowledge.

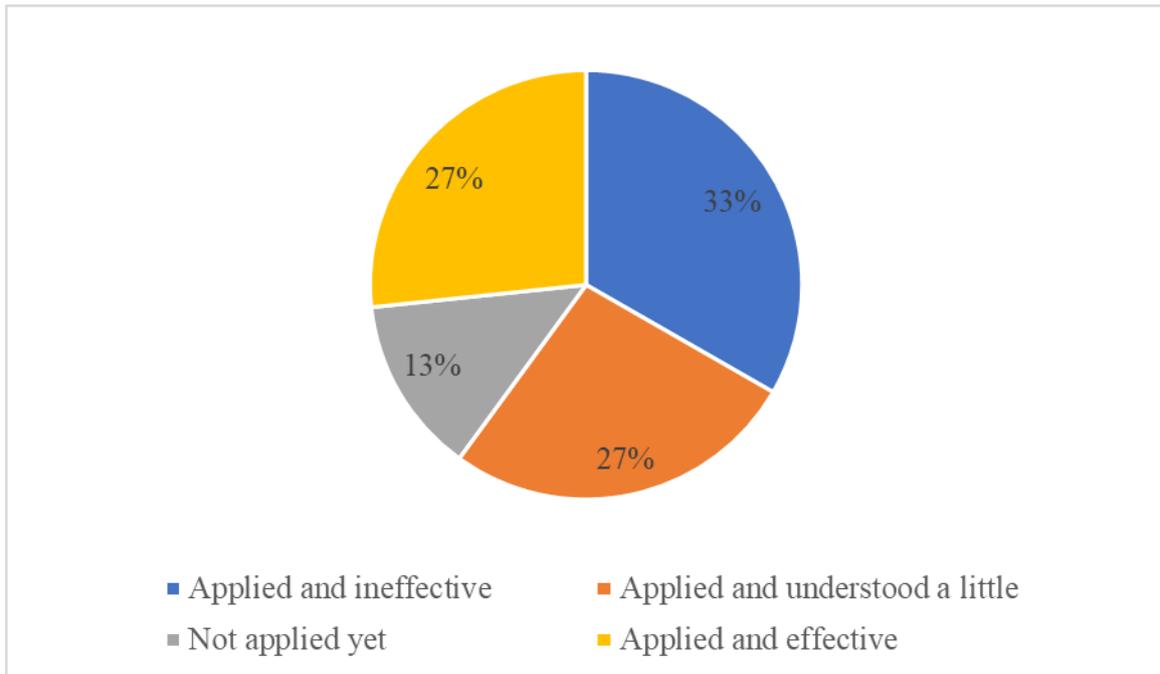
2.4. Research Methodology

The research paper is based on opinion polls on the Internet. The scope of the survey is at University. Respondents are students are studying at universities and reached intermediate Japanese proficiency level. The data and answers were then analyzed and discussed in order to confirm the effectiveness of this approach.

2.5. Results and Discussion

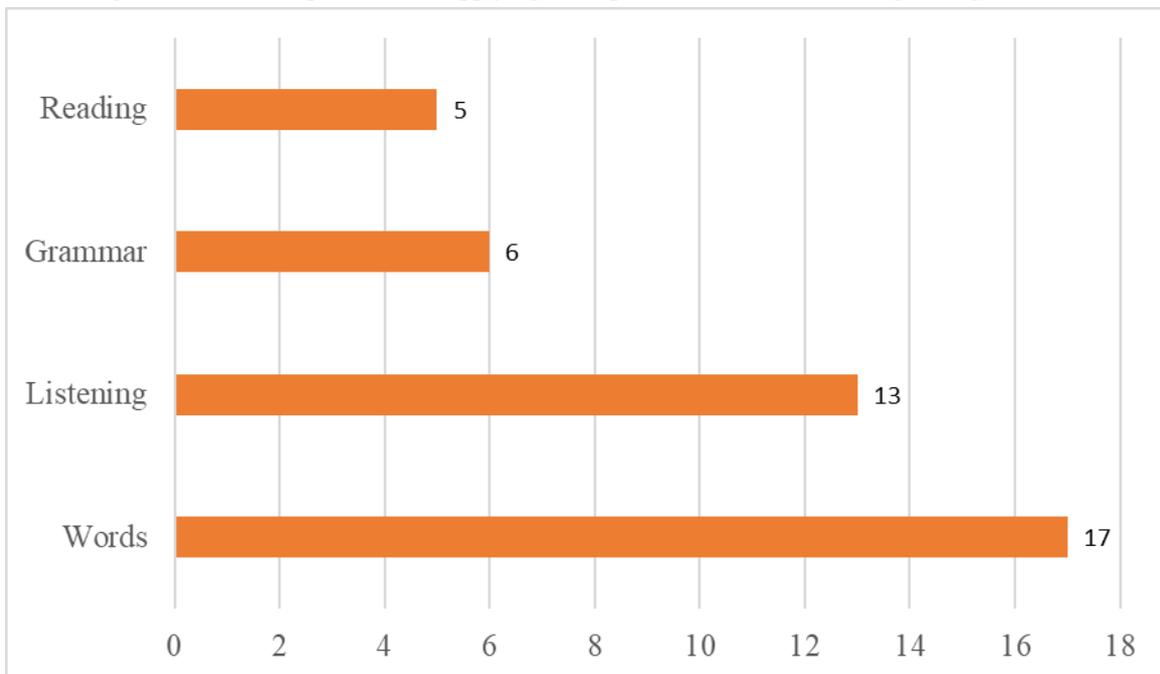
The figure 1 below refers to the survey results of 40 students with intermediate Japanese proficiency from three classes in the method of studying Japanese through film. The results in the figure show that lot of students (33%) have applied the approach but not very effective.

Figure 1 - Number of People who have Tried the Method of Learning Japanese through Film



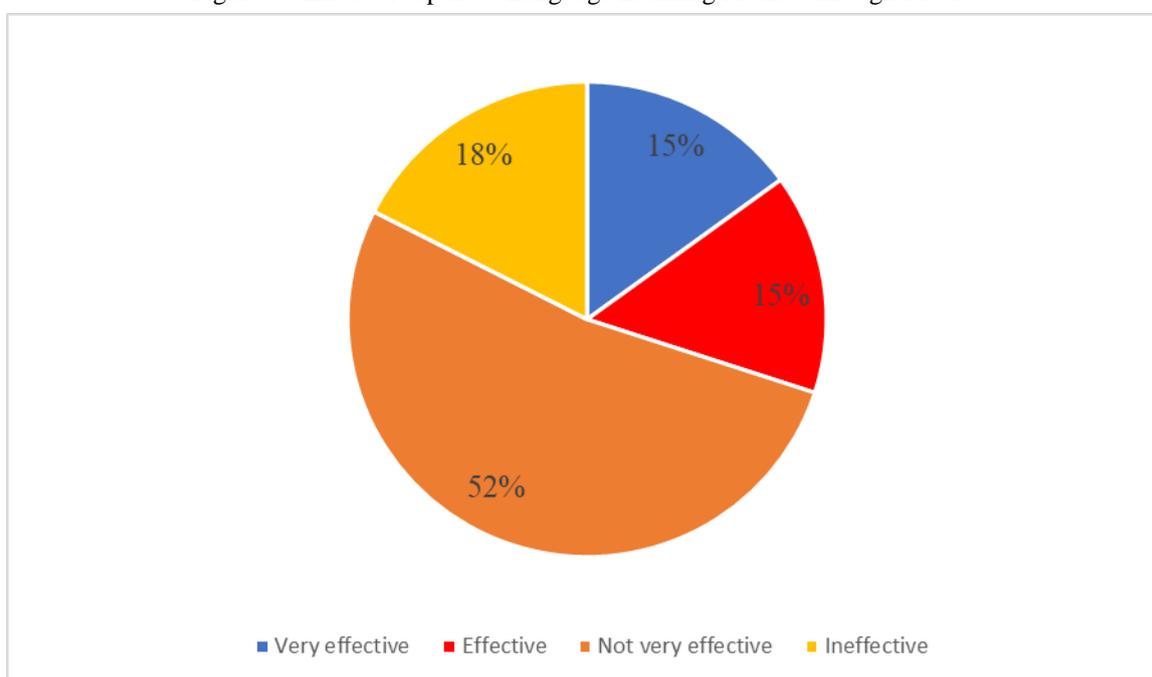
The above figure also shows that those with intermediate Japanese proficiency have tried this method of learning Japanese but almost half of them are ineffective (Figure 1) while there are a few (13%) have never tried this approach. That means if they know how to improve Japanese language by watching Anime or Japanese movies, acquiring a second language is not that hard.

Figure 2 - Skills Acquired when Applying the Japanese Method of Learning through Movies



Through the figure 2, those (30/ 40 respondents) who have used the method have grasped the amount of vocabulary and listening skills better. However, some skills such as reading comprehension and grammar skills are only understood by a few people. Thus, the figure shows that this movie-watching method can practice Japanese learning skills (Figure 2).

Figure 3 - Effect of Japanese Language Learning Method through Movies



Most people (52%) think that this method is not very effective and there are answers that because they do not like to watch Japanese films and because they do not understand clearly or have time to watch, some people (15%) think that this is a good way and very effective, however, it takes time to adapt with the new method. Normally, the learners are not able to keep up with the speed and rhythm of Japanese although it is rather relaxing (Figure 3).

2.6. Proposed Solutions

First, you should watch the movie again with Japanese subtitles. When watching again, let's listen to the movie with only Japanese subtitles to get used to the typography and guess the meaning when listening to the actors speak. We can break the movie down into smaller segments to make it easier to learn [4].

During the playback process, if there are words that are not clear, press the button stop (Pause), then look up the meaning of the new word and rewrite the whole sentence containing the

new word to save to memorize and make use of. If the meaning of the movie is clear, we can watch Japanese subtitles several times without pressing stop [8].

Next is the combination of listening practice with speaking practice. When watching the movie, we can both practice listening and speaking Japanese. If the movie has Japanese subtitles as well, speaking practice will be too easy [9]. But most of the films have only Vietnamese subtitles. So we can practice speaking in short sentences and conversations of the characters [10]. Trying to imitate tone and incorporate more of your emotions when you speak is a great way to improve your speaking and listening skills.

Finally, watch movies without subtitles. When we have a certain amount of Japanese knowledge it is entirely possible to watch movies without subtitles. From there you will be able to improve your listening comprehension skills more [6].

3. Conclusion

This study aims to help intermediate Japanese learners with a certain vocabulary and grammar can apply the method of learning through movies to cultivate a lot of knowledge about Japanese culture and communication. The results show that this learning method is not surely effective. However, through the survey, most Japanese moviegoers can learn a lot because watching movies brings entertainment, satisfies curiosity and helps viewers improve their vocabulary and listening comprehension skills.

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