

JAPAN PRE-MODERN, MODERN AND CONTEMPORARY

A RETURN TRIP FROM THE EAST TO THE WEST

LEARNING IN, ABOUT AND FROM JAPAN



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Japanese Language Changes under the Influence of Information Communication Technologies (ICT)

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Rapid development of ICT (Information Communication Technologies) happening within the last decades has prominently changed not only the way people live, but the way they talk. We'll examine how the social, political and economical trends in Japanese society are reflected in Japanese language by analyzing rankings of so called „vogue words and expressions” („ryukougo”), „neologisms” („shingo”) and „neologisms in press” (so called „shinji jiji yougo”). These words come into being through the scientific and technological progress combined with new global and domestic environment in Japan and with their usage by media personae, popular music and movies. The paper suggests that new social media such as Internet blogs, electronic newspapers and journals rather than traditional media will play the main role in the emergence and dissemination of such words. As a result we've come to the following conclusions. The most active role in dissemination of the vogue words is played by high-school and university students and young people up to the age of 30. The „life cycle” of such words and expressions varies from 1 year to 20-30 years, depending on a duration of a social phenomenon it relates to.

Though there are cases when the social phenomenon still exists but is not popular or focused on, then the new term for it might just gradually disappear. There are also a few examples of vogue words becoming a part of standard vocabulary. It appears that vogue words are not necessarily neologisms, some of them existed in language for a long time before suddenly becoming „vogue”. These words have become vogue mostly due to some media personae, music etc. Analysis of „Vogue words rankings” during a long period of time gives a plenty of material about the social trends in Japanese society and might be used for a broad scope of researches.

As a conclusion we state that studying neologisms and vogue words is an essential part of studying Japanese press, mass media and culture. Students must learn not only a meaning of a word but also have to understand its origin and background situation to be able to translate properly.

Global Negotiation in Foreign Language Education in Japan

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This paper attempts to explore new trends of higher education in Japan, more specifically foreign language education, which is recently undergoing significant changes. The Ministry of Education has encouraged academic institutions to readjust their educational practices and convert the traditional way of knowledge-based teaching (such as grammar and vocabulary as well as translation-based learning) into new methods suitable to an increasing globalized society. Instructors of foreign languages, especially of English, are called to make efforts to renew pedagogical contents as well as teaching methods in order to foster more efficiently students' global mindset. Such a trend covers a wide range of educational settings, from universities to high schools. Some universities have come up with interdisciplinary English programs,