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Use of Comics to Enhance Students' Japanese Ability as Well as to Awake their Hidden Potential

Abstract

In the period of renewal and international integration like today, knowing another language is a very necessary thing. Therefore, the demand for and the number of language learners is increasing, Japanese is not an exception. Therefore, more and more people are approaching Japanese culture through many forms including Manga reading. Manga (Japanese comic) has been introduced to our country since the 90s and has left a deep impression on the comic market in our country. Manga for a long time has been an indispensable "dish" in the daily spiritual life of many people. Not only for entertainment properties only but manga also bring a greater meaning than that. This is also one of the forms of promoting Japanese culture to the world. In addition to the above, manga is also an interesting way to learn Japanese. Especially, it makes it easier for Japanese learners to memorize words, absorb Japanese culture, and use words. In this article, we will answer the reasons why reading manga in learning Japanese will show the benefits and limitations of too abusing manga to absorb Japanese.

Keywords: Improvement, Japanese, Japanese Comics, Manga.

Introduction

Language has long been a tool for humans to communicate with each other and through that to develop together. In the increasing situation of international cooperation in Vietnam, Japan is also among them. More and more young people want to learn Japanese to keep up with the current integration situation (Armour & Iida, 2018). But surely many people already know that Japanese is not an easy language to "swallow" away, it is very different from the national language of Vietnam, so many people have given up right at the beginning, it is easy to understand, they lack enthusiasm to drop into it. If it is not enough to just learn by books, textbooks, and documents, you can learn the language through everything around you. Reading books, textbooks, and materials when learning is not a bad thing, but it will cause dryness and passivity in the listener's acquisition of knowledge, many language learners will

understand that "obsession" (Furuhata-Turner, 2013).

Language learning must incorporate "out-of-the-book" ways of learning in order to as naturally assimilate the local cultures of that language and understand the importance of learning without books. In which, there is a form of learning through reading Manga stories, with vivid and attractive images and dialogues to help acquire knowledge more actively. Because it is a form of learning without books, studying but also having fun, it also partly reduces the pressure and stress of studying. Through the dialogues in the Manga, it can help learners recall the knowledge they have not used frequently and thereby also help them gain the ability to use the same language and behavior culture as the Japanese. The Japanese have an extremely closed personality for a foreigner to make friends, having intimate conversations is quite difficult for many people who are studying Japanese. So if you can absorb the intonation, speaking style like a native

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speaker, even if your Japanese is not so excellent, it will still be "attractive" to Japanese people. But that does not mean that we forget to study in books. Knowledge in manga still has limitations in that its knowledge cannot be as complete as books or Japanese textbooks (Armour & Iida, 2018).

Research Content

Research History

This article discusses the widespread popularity of manga (Japanese comics) among American schoolchildren. The author notes that many parents and educators consider such fun to be inattentive, passive, and uncreative, however, manga can also be used for educational purposes. The use of popular culture such as manga has been shown to be effective in teaching literacy in particular due to its multimodal writing style and semiotics. Manga readers are exposed to subtle and indirect writing, which helps to develop critical and multidimensional thinking (Steele et al., 2018).

Method choices for teaching Japanese (such as 'manga' and anime) have now become the default choices for curriculum designers, material developers, and classroom teachers to make learning 'fun'. More traditionally written-only text-based documents are now in direct competition with such documents. Although there has been a relaxed relationship in teaching complementary languages (L2) between the use of text and images, such as pictures, fuzzy boards, and now much more sophisticated technology (e.g. Rosetta Stone™) to explicitly teach vocabulary grammar, the prevalence of 'manga' in Japanese textbooks and e.g. stand-alone course materials, remains largely unresolved (Furuhata-Turner, 2013).

The reading requirements in college are not easy. The type of reading skills a student acquires will determine whether the student is a "passive" unskilled reader or a skilled "active" reader. In general, reading habits govern the quality of students' academic performance, because they need to learn their expertise through a large amount of reading (Steele et al., 2018). Unfortunately, many new Japanese university students demonstrate unsatisfactory reading ability during their studies. One of the main reasons for this is that they approach manga too much. This is because reading manga is a very important form of entertainment in Japan. This paper presents a comparative investigation of the reading habits of both Japanese and Chinese university students. The results show that Japanese students should raise their awareness in improving their own reading methods to become skilled active readers who can achieve

better results in their studies in Japan. University (A. Schwartz and E. Rubinstein-Ávila, 2006).

This article is a reflective analysis of students' course outlines where 'manga' and anime are the main contributors to Japanese input. By using the modified Bloom taxonomy to analyze the transition of teaching these courses, we were able to include this article in the scholarship of learning and teaching. The analysis shows how the teaching process used by two participating teachers impacted course design and pedagogy. The analysis also reveals the reasons for these processes. The article ends by offering some suggestions for teachers who plan to use anime and/or 'manga' in their Japanese classroom (Armour & Iida, 2018).

The use of Japanese comics as learning tools helps to improve students' translation ability, cultural knowledge and motivation. Due to the strong interest in Japanese popular culture, enrollment of college students in Japanese language classes in the United States has increased since the beginning of the 21st century. This article will explore the advantages of teaching Japanese through translation through manga. This article will present useful information for translating Japanese manga texts, reflecting how Japanese communication choices reflect cultural norms. The characteristics of the linguistic, social and cultural aspects of manga texts will also be discussed (Steele et al., 2018).

Narrative writing can also take many forms, but is not limited to play scripts, illustrated short stories, storyboards, and comic books (Tan, 2019). The main purpose of narrative writing is to have fun, besides, in the process of learning narrative writing is one of the many ways that can be used to improve students' writing skills and make them interested in the content. Learning to write narrative is creative writing, because it uses two sides of a student's brain to improve their imagination and understanding of the content. Some of the benefits of creative writing. First, it supports language development at all levels: grammar, vocabulary, phonology, and discourse. Second, it asks learners to manipulate language in interesting and demanding ways as they attempt to express uniquely personal meanings. Third, it requires you to be willing to play with the language. Fourth, it focuses more on the right side of the brain, focusing on sensations, physical sensations, intuition, and music, and finally, it also affords learners, those in the conventional formal teaching process therefore often has a weakness (Armour & Iida, 2018).

Compare and Contrast Learning Japanese through Manga and Some Other Methods

With the form of learning Japanese together with reading manga will bring a fresher and more accessible perspective in learning Japanese.

Compared with other traditional learning methods such as reading over and over again, learning via flashcards, etc., there are more modern methods such as learning through apps, apps, online learning, etc. Although each method is different from each other. French has its interesting characteristics, but the common point of all the above learning methods is that they do not naturally absorb the culture in the Japanese language. But through the method of learning through manga, the natural, basic and cultural things will be easily absorbed by the readers through the pictures in the manga showing each situation clearly. This method also does not have an age requirement here, from children to the elderly, anyone can find and buy a manga that is suitable for them, especially children., with pictures in the manga will attract the eyes, cause interest, curiosity, especially improve the child's imagination to become rich and parents do not have to force their children to learn, they will

self-absorption is not only the language (Japanese) but also the culture, art, ethics, education... that the author wants to convey to the readers (Rochandra, 2019).

Methods, Scope and Research Object

This article is designed with an online data survey method, the subjects of this survey are students who are studying Japanese at university and majoring in languages (English, Japanese.) within FPT University. This method was chosen because of the convenience when everyone in society now has their own phone or laptop. It also makes it more convenient for surveyors to get many survey subjects without having to spend too much time calling and moving compared to the traditional method of using survey paper. It also helps to make the survey results faster if done via the internet.

Results and Discussion

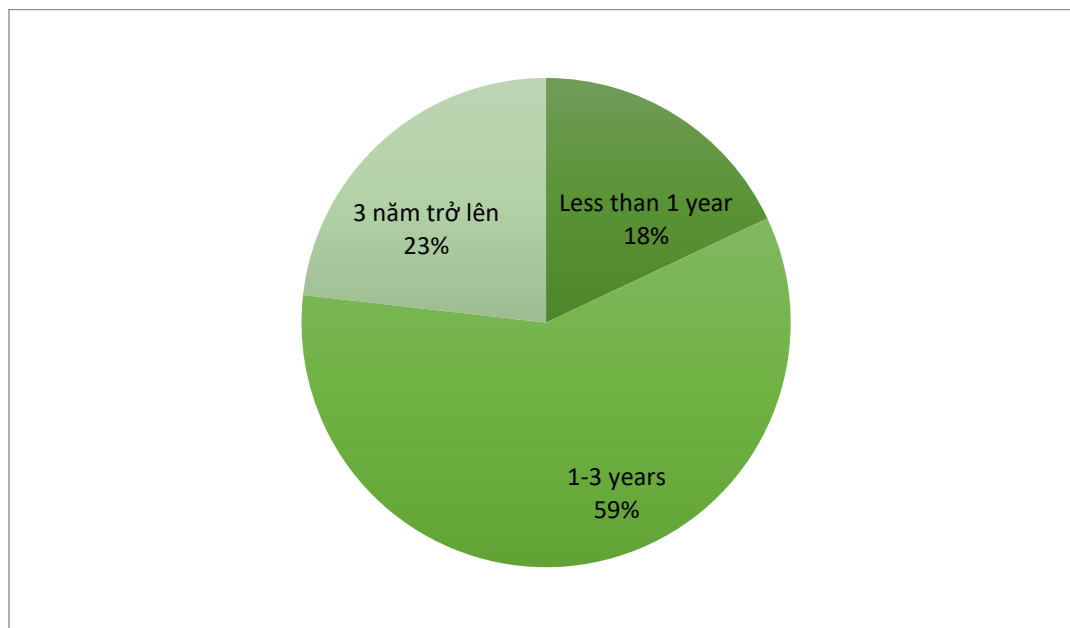


Figure 1.

Learner's time to learn Japanese

According to the survey chart above, the time they are studying Japanese is mainly 1-3 years (59%) then those who have studied for 3 years or more (23%) and finally less than 1 year (18%). Shows the diversity of the respondents to this survey and focuses heavily on those who have been studying for 1-3 years. This is not too much time, but enough for these learners to learn the different learning methods, which are preferred for themselves. In it, there are also participants who have studied for more than 3 years (23%) who have definitely found their own ways of learning

with methods that are most receptive to them (Figure 1).

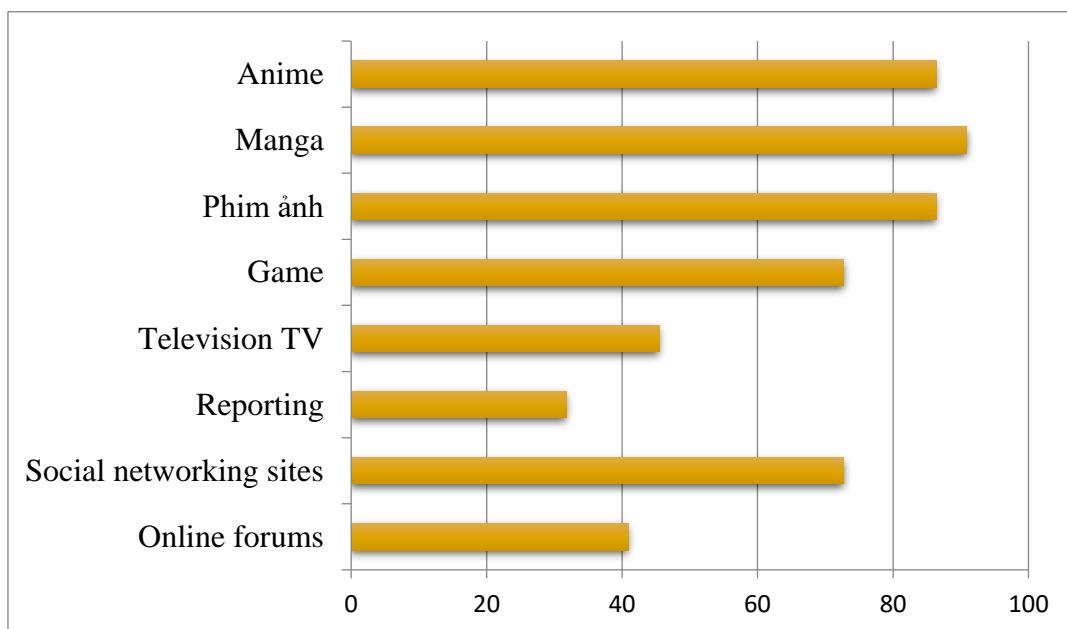


Figure 2.

Japanese language learners' means of approaching Japan

The survey chart above shows that manga is still the main approach to Japan for Japanese language learners, followed by anime and movies. It shows that manga plays a very important and key role for Japanese learners, it is not only to introduce Japanese culture and life to

foreigners but also to introduce foreigners to Japanese through which they can learn Japanese and know Japanese better and also help people who are studying Japanese to improve their Japanese (Figure 2).

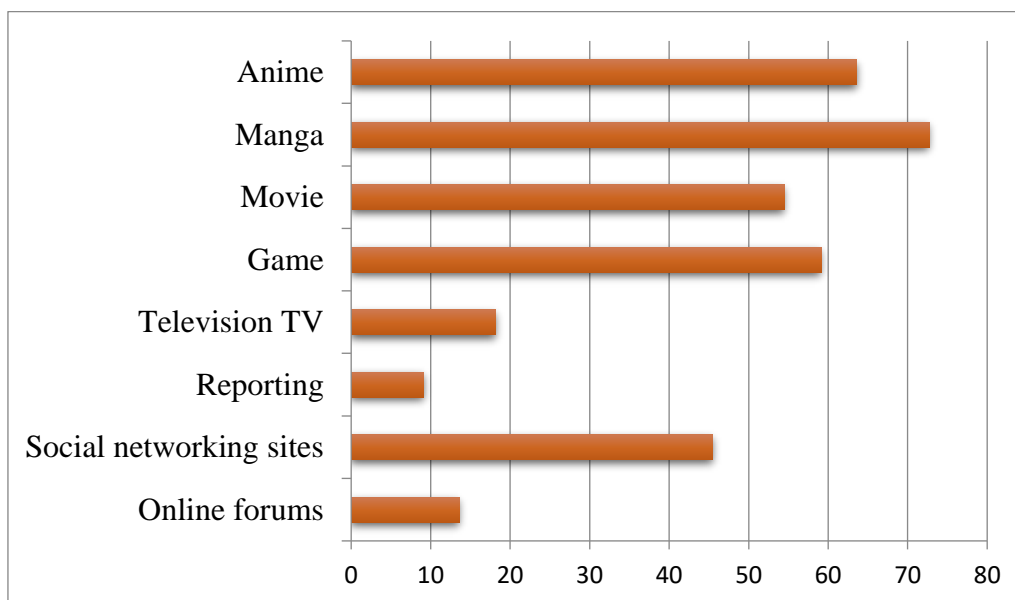


Figure 3.

Other learning methods of Japanese learners

In the chart above, many Japanese learners still choose manga as their main method of extra-curricular learning. Shows how important the method of learning through manga is to learning Japanese. This method of learning

through manga, more or less, is still used by Japanese learners because it brings ease, convenience, and makes learning interesting (Figure 3).

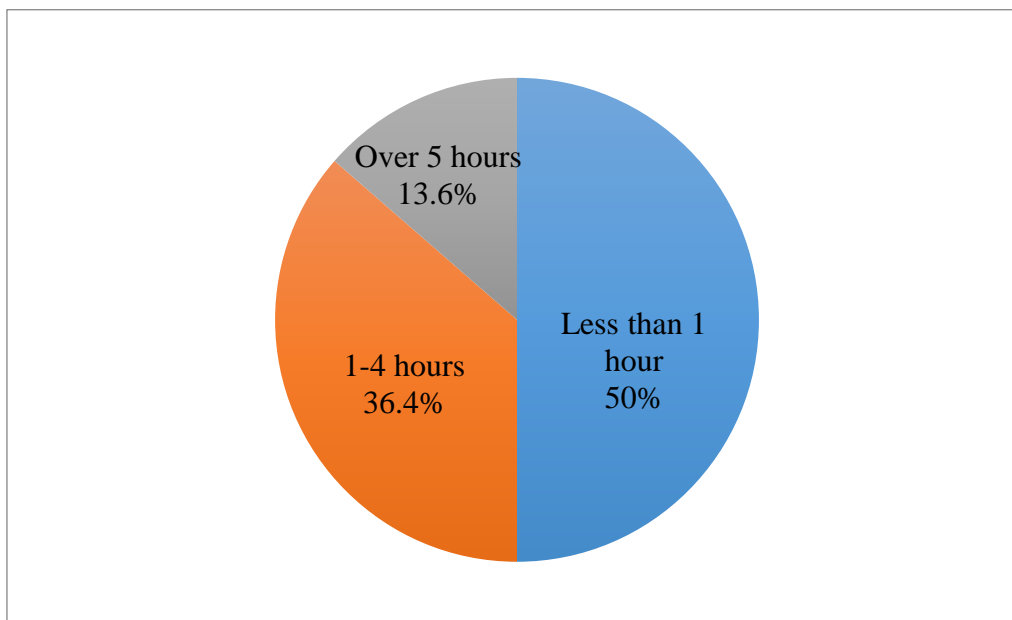


Figure 4.

Time spent reading manga every day by Japanese learners

Half of the survey respondents spend at least 1 hour (50%) a day reading manga. Following that, the number of people who spend 1-4 hours (36.4%) and more than 5 hours (13.6%) further

shows the important contribution of manga to those who are studying Japanese. Shows a significant contribution of manga (Figure 4).

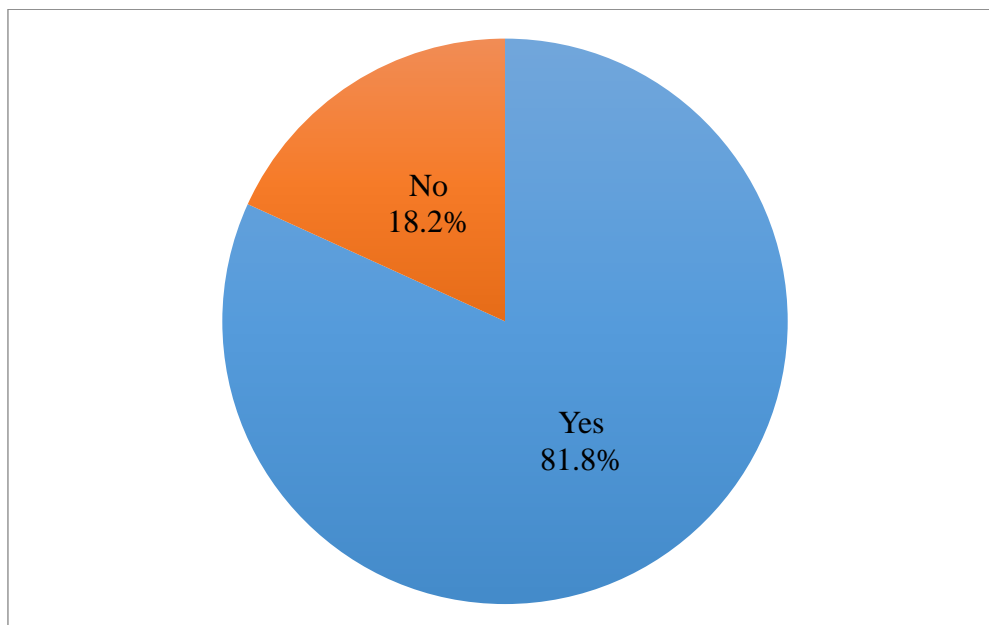


Figure 5.

Japanese language improvement after reading Japanese Learner's Manga

According to the chart above, most people after reading manga have improved their Japanese (81.8%). Show the effectiveness of this method in learning. The above number has reinforced the necessity of this method, each person should equip themselves with the above method in each person's learning. The ease of

learning by this method with pictures and drawings attracts readers and thereby also helps them have more joy in learning, not being constrained, reducing stress and improving their level and ability Japanese language skills (Figure 5).

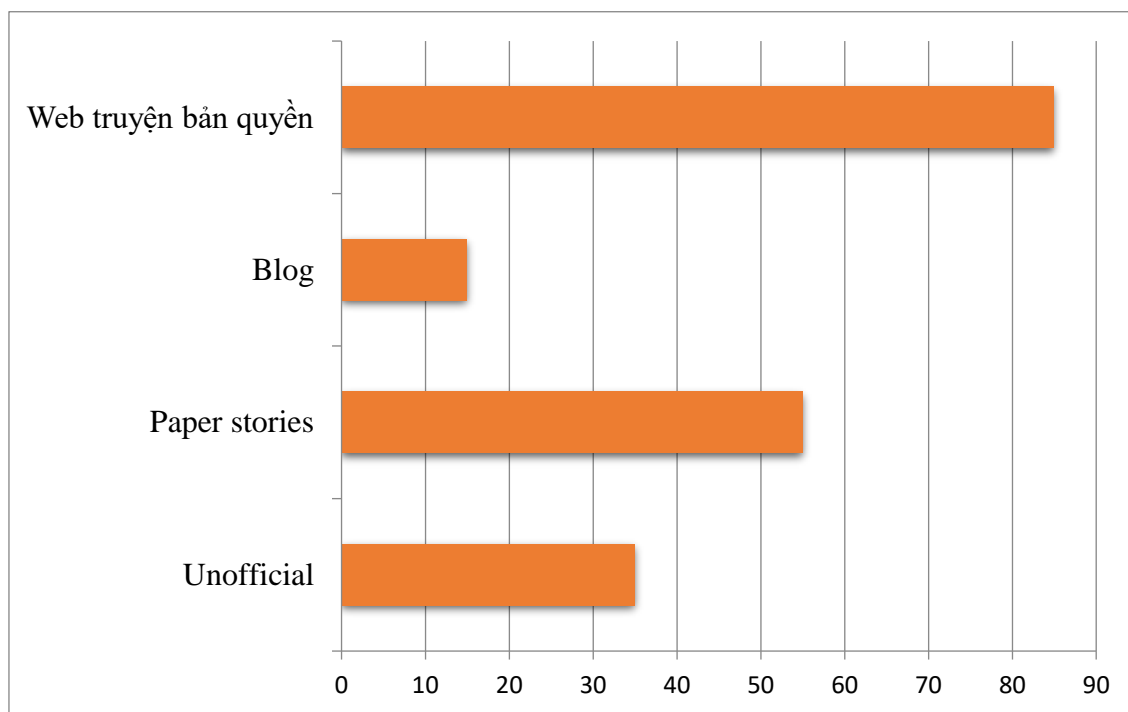


Figure 6.

Japanese learners' approach to manga

The figure above shows that the approach to manga is also easy through many means, most of which are through copyrighted web stories (85%), followed by other means such as paper stories (55%), from other unorthodox sources (35%), and finally through various Japanese blogs (15%). In the era when the internet has become so popular today, almost everyone has a computer, laptop, or phone to use the internet, so it's easy to understand what's on the web like above, and so manga is also easily accessible to many different ages, not only adults who are studying manga, but also stimulate the interest of Japanese with younger ages. Easily read and study anywhere without fear of affecting people around (Figure 6).

Although the method of learning through manga has many conveniences and benefits, this method also has disadvantages and negatives. Overusing this method will make learners bored with books, textbooks, etc. Reading manga too easily will cause cases of spending too much time in a day just reading manga leading to formation. a bad habit of getting too used to looking at interesting images like manga and switching to reading wordy things like books makes learners bored and easy to give up even after only reading the first few lines (Steele et al., 2018). Spending too much time in the day reading manga is also harmful to the body such as eyes, brain and also easily causes obesity, bones and joints because of sitting in one place for too long. In addition to the official works, there are still unorthodox works that exist in parallel, if the learners are not

carefully selected, it will lead to ideological distortions (Armour & Iida, 2018).

Proposed Solutions

In order not to use this method in the wrong way and get entangled in the above, learners should carefully study the content of their chosen manga to match their desired criteria. We should follow strict time management in reading manga, arranging study and work so that this method can be used rationally is not affected by personal life (Rochandra, 2019). We also should plan a monthly, long-term plan to only read a few hours and break that time down throughout the day, finding yourself a companion who can be an over-or over-the-top manga reader is a close friend to go with during this period. It is necessary to make a commitment to them that you will do just that, break the plan down and after each such small plan treat yourself to something like eating your favorite food or going out, etc.

If you have a paper story that you don't bring to work or school to avoid the phenomenon of neglecting to read the story during class time, if you still want to take it with you, you must ask another person, a friend in the office or class. In addition, you can find yourself another small hobby or sport to limit reading too much manga in a day or join clubs and groups to divide your free time (Steele et al., 2018). I don't spend too much time on manga in my day. Not only can you improve your health, but you can also gain an

understanding of new things that you have never or given little attention to before. Most importantly, learners need to have self-discipline in this, must have their own opinions to follow the plans and calendars created by themselves so as not to get caught up in content that is not suitable for themselves and distort ideas, spend too much of their own time and understand that this method only supports, not a dictionary, textbook to spend all their time on research and study but consider this method as a way to deal with stress (Rochandra, 2019).

Conclusion

Although there are still disadvantages as above, this is still a method that Japanese learners should equip themselves with. Although this is a comic book, it is still the work of Japanese artists who want to convey many things to readers. In addition to learning to help learners improve their Japanese, they are also "gifted" with a variety of knowledge, which is very helpful for future learners. It also contributes to being a useful way to relieve stress from the things you have to encounter every day, helping to improve your speaking ability through very Japanese sentences learned through manga. Contributing to broadening the world of thinking and thinking of learners about Japan through the images and enthusiasm of the artist shown in the story.

Conflict of Interests

None.

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