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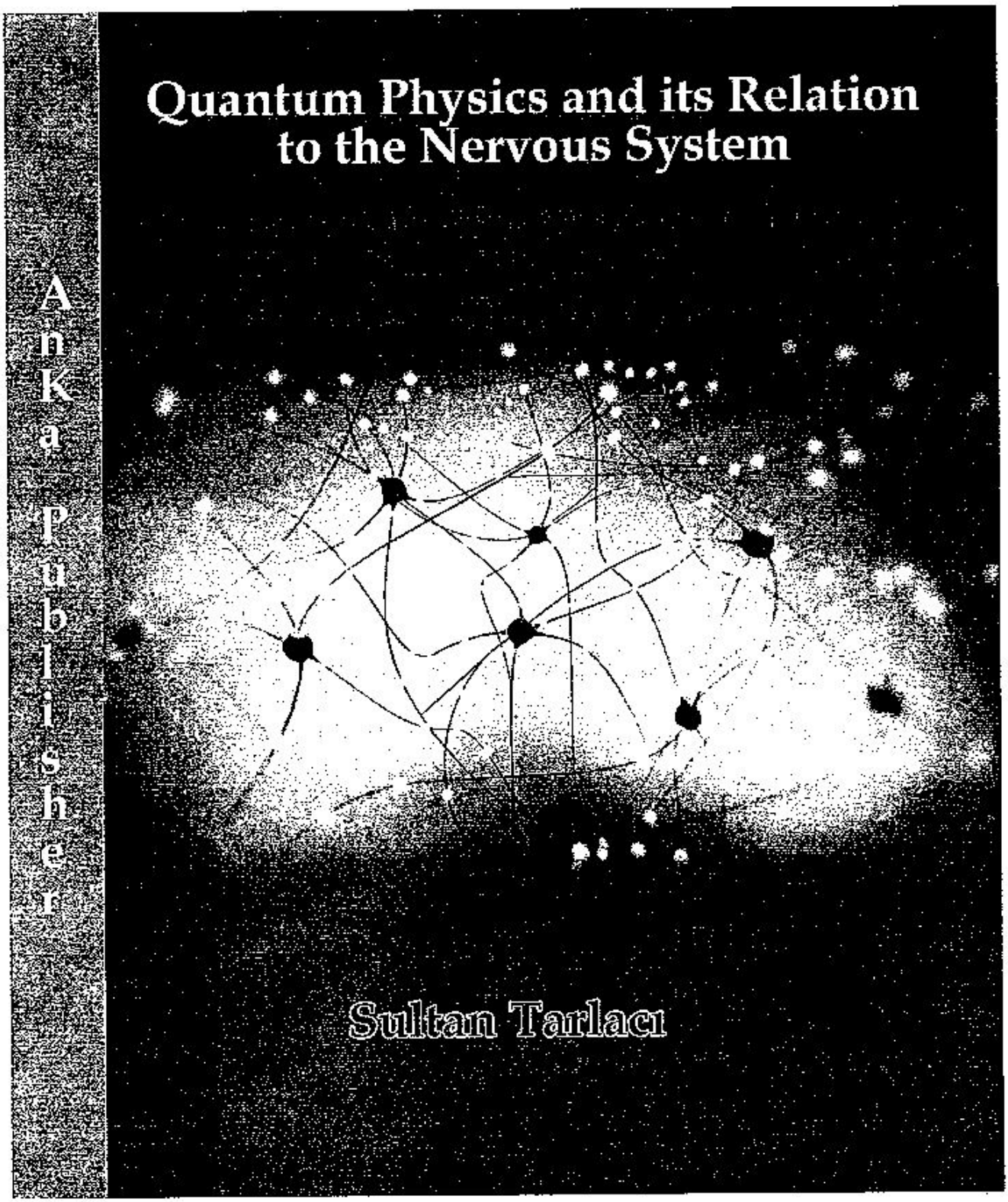

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Jintarat Sangsiri

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Keywords

Japanese Language Skills, Language Potential, Manpower to Work Overseas

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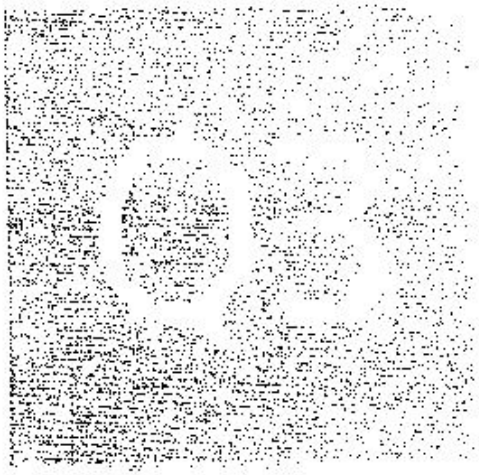

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Development of Japanese Language Proficiency to Upgrade Manpower for Working Abroad

Jintarat Sangsiri[1*]

Abstract

This research aims to 1) Survey the in the interest of Japan and Japanese of manpower who want to go out for work abroad in Phetchabun province and 2) To enhance the Japanese language ability to upgrade the manpower to go to work abroad in Phetchabun Province. The research sample consisted of 15 people in Phetchabun province who were about to go out for working abroad. The research instruments were 1) a test of Japanese language consisting of 30 multiple-choice test items for pre-testing and post-testing 2) a questionnaire on the interest of the manpower in Phetchabun province who were about to go out for working abroad, and 3) six online Japanese language lessons. Data were statistically analyzed using the mean, standard, and t-test. The results of the research showed that,

1. Regarding interest information of the about to work aboard manpower in Phetchabun province, there are opinions about the importance of the Japanese language in which the opinions on the roles and importance of the Japanese language to work in foreign countries are at a high level. ($\overline{X}$ = 3.81, S.D. = 0.89).

2. Japanese language ability of the sample group before studying the Japanese language online content consisting of 6 lessons. The average score of the Japanese language proficiency test of the sample group before the study of Japanese online content was 50.89 points, which is higher than the average of the 6 points before the study of Japanese language content which is equal to 24.23 points and the average difference between the after and before the study of the 6 Japanese lessons equal to 24.23 points (Sig.=0.000 < 0.01) indicating that the knowledge on the Japanese language of the sample group after the experiment was significantly higher than that before the experiment with statistical significance of 0.01.

Key Words: Japanese Language Skills, Language Potential, Manpower to Work Overseas.
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Introduction

The preparation of human resources in the 21st century is very important due to the rapid technological change; the era of robots is beginning and is coming to take over human jobs. Thus, to prepare manpower for skill development, the workforce's skill set consists of cognitive skills such as literacy, basic math knowledge, and knowledge of digital technology as well, Japanese is another language that is important to work. At present, for workers who have a lot of demand to work abroad, most of the workers are semi-skilled workers. If workers have developed language skills, it will enhance their ability to work. one step further (Phonbut, K. 2008; Arthornturasook, P. 2014).

In the past, it can be said that the Thai government has tried to encourage people to realize the importance of language learning after the official entry into the ASEAN Community.

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In addition, Thai people are alert and interested in traveling to work abroad, which many people have crossed over to this opportunity because working abroad offers high pay and many other opportunities. But the labor market exported to foreign countries demands highly skilled workers due to the high competition. One skill that has been mentioned the most is the language skill which Thai workers are still lacking in this skill. It can be concluded that anyone with a language proficiency has an advantage over others and Japan is the top country that is the destination for working for Thai people with the world's 3rd largest economy. Besides being the sixth language for Internet users, Japanese has become a language with greater growth potential, especially in science and technology, with approximately 130 million users. Although Japan's economy shows signs of stagnation, it will soon recover. Because Japan is outstanding in innovation and business people, Japan is the world's 2nd largest investor in research and development. Japan is therefore one of the advanced countries. The most technological in the world (Vichitvejpaisalm, P., et al. 2013; Klinkasorn, P. 2013).

From the preliminary inquiries at the Phetchabun Provincial Employment Office, we received information that there were workers in Phetchabun who were interested in working abroad in Europe, America, and Asia. Japan is one of the countries that have been interested in people who are interested in going to work there in different fields according to the opportunity of each person. The information I received back in the Japanese language is of great interest if allowed to develop a basic Japanese language. For communication or language related to daily life, contacting various agencies, medical treatment, traveling in and out of the country, and improving your Japanese language skills will be useful for living in Japan in the future.

Therefore, for the transfer of Japanese language knowledge to the labor sector in Phetchabun province is the manpower who wants to go to work abroad, use it for benefits create new values , and be able to adapt to live in a digital era. The researcher, therefore, did research on the development of Japanese communication skills for manpower going to work abroad, It is expected to be an important tool in enhancing the language potential for the manpower to continue working abroad. And interested people can use it in a structured and continuous manner.

Objectives

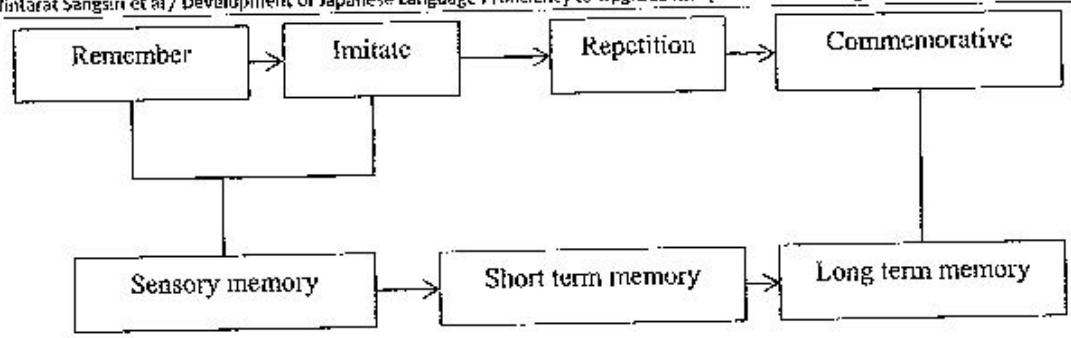
1. To study the interest of manpower to go to work abroad in Phetchabun Province concerning the Japanese language.
2. To enhance Japanese language proficiency to upgrade manpower to go to work abroad in Phetchabun Province.

Literature Review

This research will use 2 theories and concepts as follows

The concept of learning a foreign language describes learning as the process of permanent behavior change as a result of experience, practice, and practice. And the factors affecting learning a foreign language include personal factors, social and cultural factors, pedagogical factors, etc. as Komaratut, S. (2016), concluded that the process of learning a language in humans has two Types are Language Acquisitions and Language Learning.

In conclusion, Language Acquisitions) and Language Learning have different uses: language acquisition enables learners to naturally use language for real-life communication with fluency in it. Language learning is a way to learn the rules of a language to use it properly. useful for checking the correctness of a language and using sentences according to the rules of that language, which is considered both language knowledge and language learning are important factors for learning a foreign language correctly, as shown in Figure 1.



Picture 1. Shows the process of learning a foreign language.
Source: Komaratut, S., 2016: 8.

The concept of language learning strategies refers to specific actions or behaviors, methods or techniques that the learner adopts to help them maximize their learning in language learning, memorization, retention, and the use of the language correctly and quickly and can transfer the knowledge gained to better use in new situations (Komaratut, S., 2016; Vichitvejpaisalm, P., et al. 2013; Klinkasorn, P. 2013).

In conclusion, study strategies are very important to learning a foreign language. Because it is a tool that helps students to have their direction in learning, helping learners to learn easier, faster, more efficiently, and effectively.

Research Conceptual Framework

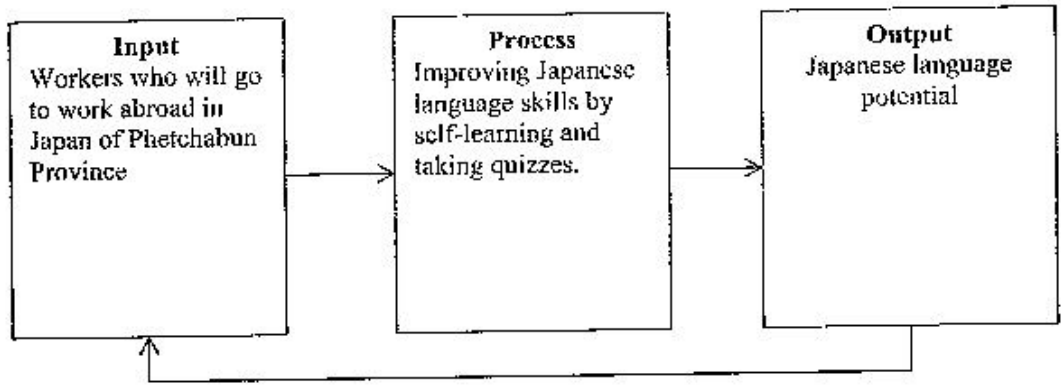


Figure 2. Conceptual framework for research

Methodology

Target Population

The population used in this study is the manpower who will go to work abroad in Phetchabun Province. A sample of 15 people who are the manpower who will go to work abroad in Phetchabun province was selected by the selective method.

Instrument

1. Japanese language test, there is 1 set, used to test before and after studying, which is Paper Test, which is a multiple-choice test of 30 items, which the test before and after has been reviewed by Japanese language specialist and a Japanese language teacher. The data were analyzed using statistics, mean and standard deviation. The IOC value was 0.8.
2. The questionnaire asked the interest of manpower going to work abroad in Phetchabun Province, consisting of 2 parts of the question; Section 1 is basic information about the respondents. Section 2 is the opinions of the respondents. with the interest of manpower to go to work abroad in Phetchabun Province. Data were analyzed using statistical values, mean and standard deviation, which is characterized by a scale of

5 levels of estimation according to the style of the Likert

3. 6 online Japanese lessons: (1) General, (2) Greetings, (3) Dining, (4) Shopping, (5) Love, (6) Emergencies.

Data Collection

In this study, the researcher collected data which was Quasi-Experimental Research, whereby the researchers collected the data in the following order;

1. The sample group was asked to answer the questionnaire on the interest of going to work abroad in Phetchabun Province and analyzed and summarized the data by statistical method.
2. Conducted teaching experiments with a sample of 15 people using Japanese content as the content selected by the researcher from 6 topics of Japanese for Basic Communication, namely; (1) General (2) Greetings (3) Dining (4) Shopping (5) Love (6) Emergencies, by giving time for self-study Through online content for 1 month.
3. Before the experiment, the researcher had the experimental group do a pre-study test created by the researcher, in which the first set took 30 minutes to do the test to calculate the statistical value.
4. During the experiment the researcher taught Introduced 6 topics of studying Japanese content online.
5. After the experimental group studied the online Japanese content of 6 subjects, the experimental group took the test after studying and took the exam to check the scoring record to calculate the statistical value.
6. Analyze and summarize the data by statistical methods.

Data Analysis

1. Data analysis of the interest of manpower going to work abroad in Phetchabun province was based on average and standard deviation statistics.
2. Data analysis to compare Japanese scores before and after the experimental independent t-test statistics.

Part 1 Analysis of the data on the interest of the people going to work abroad in Phetchabun Province The people going to work abroad in Phetchabun have their opinions on the importance of the Japanese language, their opinions on the role, and the importance of Japanese language for working abroad is at a high level.

Part 2 presents the results of data analysis to compare Japanese scores before and after 6 subjects of online Japanese language study. Then, a sample of 15 people was given a Japanese language proficiency test before and after the experiment which was the same test with a total score of 30. The Japanese language proficiency test scores of all subjects before and after studying the online Japanese content of all subjects were higher after studying 6 Japanese language content produced by the researcher.

The difference in scores (D) from the test before and after the highest was 15 points, and the lowest was 9 points out of 30 points. The average score on the Japanese language proficiency test of the sample before after studying Japanese content online was 50.89 points, This was 24.23 points higher than the average score of 6 subjects before studying Japanese content and the mean difference score between after and before studying the Japanese content of 6 subjects was 26.66 points. As in Table 1, the comparison of the mean score, standard deviation, mean difference score, and t-test value of the samples.

Table 1. Comparison of mean scores, standard deviations, mean difference scores, and t-test values of the samples.

Test	Score	$\overline{X}$	S.D.	D	S.D	t	df	Sig.
Pre-test	60	24.23	5.48					
Post-test	60	50.89	3.13	26.66	6.27	33.21	60	0.000

Results

From the study and analysis of research data, the results can be summarized as follows.

1. Information on the interest of manpower to work abroad in Phetchabun Province in terms of opinions on the importance of the Japanese language, especially opinions on the role and importance of Japanese language in working abroad at a high level ($\overline{X}$ = 3.81, S.D. = 0.89).

2. The Japanese language proficiency of the samples after studying Japanese content online of 6 subjects, the average score of the Japanese language proficiency test of the sample after studying Japanese content online was 50.89 points, which is higher than the average of the scores. before the study. For 6 subjects of the Japanese language, 24.23 points, the mean difference between after and before 6 subjects of Japanese language study was 26.66 points (Sig.=0.000<0.01). It was shown that Japanese language proficiency was significantly higher than before studying the Japanese content of 6 subjects at a statistically significant level of 0.01.

Discussion

From the research results, it was found that the interest of the manpower to work abroad in Phetchabun prefecture has a high level of opinion on the importance of the Japanese language, the opinion on the role and importance of the Japanese language in working abroad. The reason may be that the wages you will receive from working are higher in Thailand or the possibility of living and working in attractive and developed countries such as the questionnaire asked about; (1) Opinions on learning Japanese at present, and (2) Opinions on the role and importance of Japanese language for working abroad were at a high level.

Regarding the Japanese language proficiency of the samples after studying Japanese content online, 6 subjects had higher averages than before studying Japanese content. This is because the project participants are interested and intend to improve their Japanese language proficiency. Even if there was no prior knowledge in this area as an open-ended question asked whether the topic of Japanese to be studied is chosen from the topics provided such as greetings, shopping, travel, dining, places, weather, or you can write a topic yourself and explain why (Kanome, Y., and Yoshimine, K. 2015; Klinkasorn, P. 2013).

Recommendations

The finding using recommendation; (1) Studying Japanese online content is a modern method, so it is recommended to study the explanations and how to use the content clearly to understand how to use this online content. And (2) Studying Japanese content online can be learned all the time and spread, so the content created from these 6 research areas should be applied to more people who are interested in learning Japanese.

The further recommendation: (1) Developing Japanese content online at a higher level to further develop the Japanese language proficiency of those who are interested. (2) Developing more diverse forms of online media to help develop the 4 Japanese language skills.

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