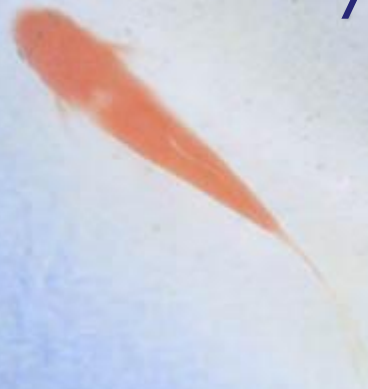


JLPT: Japanese Learning Practice Techniques

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Introduction

- History of Japanese study
 - On my own for ~2 years
 - College course sophomore year
 - Study abroad in spring semester of junior year

The JLPT

- 日本語能力試験 (*nihongo nouryoki shiken*)
 - Japanese Language Proficiency Test
- Certifies a certain level of proficiency in Japanese
- 4 levels available
 - Level 4 is the easiest, level 1 is the hardest
- Looked upon well by employers in Japan
- Also taken just as a personal exercise

How I Studied for the JLPT

- Rote method
 - Direct memorization
 - i.e. lists of vocabulary
- Creative method
 - Practical application of the language
- Goal: to find out which method worked better

Affective Variables

- Affect our ability to learn a language
- Examples include:
 - Foreign Language Anxiety
 - Risk Taking
 - Motivation
- Analysis of my own affective variables

Motivations

- Formal Learning
 - Practical use in life
 - Examples:
 - Living in Japan
 - Japanese relatives
- Informal Learning
 - Just for the sake of learning
 - Examples:
 - Think it's cool
 - Challenging
 - So you can watch anime
- Analysis of my own motivations

Study Method: Journal

- I kept a journal of my life in Japanese
 - Writing practice in a real world context
 - Topic didn't matter: just write

Result:

- A lot more tedious than I had thought
- Had to look up a lot of words to write fluently: brain overload!

Study Method: Anime

- Watched anime, jotting down words I didn't know

Result:

- Very fun
- Learned a lot of new words
- Immediately put into context in a way that will stick
- But found that I was learning a lot of specific words while missing some more basic ones

Study Method: Lists

- Went through long lists of vocabulary, kanji (characters) and phrases

Result:

- Tedious, but not as boring as I had thought
- Used in a creative context (i.e. mnemonics)

Best Solution

- “Anchor” Theory:
- Pick a corpus of material you want to learn
- Learn it by rote
- Apply it creatively

- JLPT study lists make a very good “anchor”