

## **ENHANCING COMMUNICATIVE COMPETENCE THROUGH VISUAL AND AUDIO AID INCLUDED TEACHING IN JAPANESE LANGUAGE CLASS ROOMS**

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Learning foreign languages is a timely need and a trend all over the world, so as in Sri Lanka. Japanese is a popular choice among the undergraduates of the state universities where Japanese offers as main subject for BA and BA (hons) degrees. The situation is same in the Rajarata University of Sri Lanka. However, the problem aroused here was although the number of students increased, whether the undergraduates achieving the major outcome of learning Japanese; enhanced communication competencies in real life situations. To find a answer to this question, the researcher took the sample from the BA degree final year students of old syllabus who are graduated in year 2023 and the students of new syllabus who are becoming graduands in year 2024 in Rajarata University. Altogether 58 undergraduates were participated in the study. The two separate batches were taught the same course content, but using two different teaching approaches. The old syllabus undergraduates were taught using traditional teaching methodologies, sticking mainly on to the grammar and structures. The other batch was taught in a different approach using audio visual contents related to the text book. Finally, the both batches were subjected to a common oral test inclusive of prompt speech, group role play and a self-introduction. Their performances were totally different at the end. The students who were taught Japanese in a grammar and theory-oriented methodology were poor in pronunciation including accents and tones, integrating intercultural understandings to the conversations and using formal conversational etiquettes when compared to the students who learnt with audio visual contents. However, they used proper book grammar and appropriate vocabulary in each task. The undergraduates who were taught with audio and visual study materials, performed satisfactorily good and their expressions, speech etiquettes, choose of appropriate phrases, tones and accents, situational behaviors were in a high standard. The grammar they used was not book grammar, there were mistakes in forms but they clearly communicated the idea. The study highlights the importance of using audio visual aids in enhancing communication skills of the Japanese language learners.

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