

A Study on the Use of Particles by Students Who Study Japanese as a Foreign Language.

ABSTRACT

At present, the study of the Japanese language is conducted in schools, universities as well as in external education institutes in Sri Lanka. Accordingly, language, grammatical and cultural difficulties occur in teaching Japanese to the native speaker of Sinhala. The most common among the grammatical problems is the issue related to the use of particles (*nipa:tha*). The focus of this research is to study the use of particles by students who study Japanese as a Foreign Language. The aim of this research is to identify the accurate and inaccurate use of particles and exploring reasons as such. A question paper consisting of 23 questions based on 11 particles and their different usage was prepared and given to the students to answer. The sample was a set of 35 students who studied Japanese as a main subject for the G.C.E. Advanced Level in 2014. All the students use Sinhala as their first language. The answer sheets were analyzed under 5 sections. According to the analysis of the data there were two basic problems in the use of particles, namely, not using them at the required place in a sentence and the use of incorrect particles. The teaching-learning process can be made successful by using strategies to reduce these problems.

Keywords: Grammar, Japanese language, Particles

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