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Basic Japanese Grammar and Conversation e-learning through *Skype* and *Zoom* Online Application

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Abstract

The objective of this research is to observe the advantages and disadvantages of Basic Japanese online learning through Skype and Zoom application. The range of age of the participants of the research is from twenty to thirty years old. The method applied in this is descriptive qualitative research. The source of the data for the research is the observational data from 5 participants who are basic Japanese learners. The data are in the form of pre-test, post-test, and respond from the participants. The descriptive analysis will be done to describe the result of the pre-test, post-test, and respond from the participant. The result of the analysis indicates that online learning medium can be effectively done for grammar and conversation learning. The advantage of the online media learning webinar, such as Skype and Zoom, is its capability to make the participants are able to interact written and orally and to share presentation screen through sharing display feature. Since one of the most crucial factors of online learning is internet, Zoom is more recommended compare to Skype. The observation shows that Skype is often disconnected in the middle of learning process.

1. Introduction

In general, Japanese language learning is conducted in the class by the native or non-native teacher. This traditional learning is considered problematic if the learners are full-time workers. The problems are non-conducive learning environment, limited time, lack of focus from exhaustion, lack enthusiasm of the long-term class learning process, etc [1]. For that reason, a methodological study related to the full-time worker who wants to work Japanese

language in a more flexible time and place must be carried out. One of leaning method which can answer this problematic condition is the use of online communication media. The online learning sets great instructional environments which will help the teachers and students to save travel time and costs compare to traditional face-to-face class [2]. Through the well-known online communication media such as *Skype* and *Zoom*, the online language learning is getting more popularity. Based on that background, this study explores the advantage and disadvantage of the two web-application for online language learning.

Skype and *Zoom* are online media applications which are usually used for video conferences. The two applications are accessible from various gadget from PC, laptop, android phone, iPhone, and tablet. *Skype* is developed by *Microsoft*. The capacity of the participant in *Skype* is up to 25 people and it enables each participant to display the presentation screen to all other participants. *Zoom*, on the other hand, is able to accommodate up to 200 participants and up to 3000 passive viewers [3].

Through the observation of Japanese online language learning process via webinar applications such as *Skype* and *Zoom*, this study observes and compares the advantages and disadvantages of the two applications. The result of this study is expected to give contribution for the improvement of online language learning process. Related researches [4] [5] observe conventional teaching in class. Both researches show that teaching-learning process with less number of students is considered to be more effective compare to a group of 25 students or more. Based on the field observation, the numbers of Japanese teachers in Indonesia are very limited and only centralized in big cities of Java Island. Many people in rural area and outside the Island find it difficult to get proper Japanese teaching class. This is one the reasons why online Japanese teaching should be popularized to overcome the problem. By comparing and finding out what kind of software best used for Japanese language teaching, people in the rural areas and outside Javanese island can use the platform to join online Japanese language class.

2. Research Methodology

The descriptive qualitative method is used in this study to explain the advantages and disadvantages of two application, *Skype* and *Zoom*. The descriptive qualitative approach is used for this study because through this approach the complex behaviors and experiences of the individual learners can be understood and examined well [6][7]. The data collection is done through observing 5 participants of Japanese online language learning. From a research [5], second language learning process with few participants (5 or less) has a more effective results. The reason is that the teacher can be more productive, have more time to pay attention to each student, to monitor the students' progress, and to give more detail feedback to the students. Based on that research, the participants for this present study is limited into 5 participants to maintain the effectiveness of the online learning process. Another consideration is that this is a pilot study project, therefore 5 participants are enough to show whether bigger scale study is needed or not. Further [4] also confirms that the effective number for language learning study in one class is between 5 to 25 participants.

The participants are full-time workers who want to learn Japanese language via online application because of its time and place flexibility. The age range of the participants is from twenty years old to thirty years old. Four of the participants live in Jakarta and one participant live in Bandung. The materials used as the learning materials are take from education site provided by *Japan Foundation* called *Marugoto Plus Japanese Learning Starter (Level* A1) and *Power Point* which are designed based on the learning material in book. An online pre-test and post-test written test is also given before the online learning process started and after the online learning process finished. The whole process of online learning observation was done for three months, started from July 4, 2016 until September 30, 2016, once or twice a week.

3. Result and Discussion

The popularity of online learning were initially pioneered by the establishment of *Information and Communication Technologies (ICT)*. *ICT* is a system which integrates various data and system in the form of digital information. Computer, e-mail, digital television, and robot are some of the examples of ICT application. Some of