Abstract

The purposes of "A Study of Japanese Language Learning Behaviors of Students Majoring in Japanese at Thai Universities" were to study the total Japanese language learning behaviors of the 424 students majoring in Japanese from 12 universities in Thailand in order to compare the Japanese language learning behaviors of the students studying at government universities and at private universities , students studying at universities in Bangkok and upcountry, male students and female students, students with high and low G.P.A. of Japanese language as well as to study the problems and personalities of population being studied.

Questionaires and interviews were formulated to measure the students' Japanese language learning behaviors .The questionaires consisted of the students' general details , Japanese language learning behaviors before class, while in class, and after class, special activities being used to reinforce Japanese language learning, Japanese language learning attitude, students' problems and personalities. The interviews were to inquire on the students' techniques in learning and memorizing Japanese vocabularies.

The statistics used in this study were frequency, percentage, arithmetic mean and standard deviation. The hypotheses were tested by T-test .The findings were : the students majoring in Japanese at Thai universities showed average in total Japanese language learning behaviors (Mean=3.181), behaviors before class(Mean=3.331) and after class(Mean=2.832) and average in special activities for language learning – reinforcement (Mean=2.669); showed good while in class(Mean=3.432) and showed higher average in Japanese language learning attitude(Mean=3.343). The result of the hypotheses tests were: students studying at government universities showed obviously higher in Japanese language learning behaviors than the students studying at private universities and the students with high G.P.A of Japanese language also showed obviously higher in Japanese language learning behaviors than those with low G.P.A. at a level of significance of .05 , which were consistent with the hypotheses. Furthermore,

the students studying at the universities upcountry showed obviously higher in Japanese language learning behaviors than the students studying at the universities in Bangkok. Male students and female students did not show much difference in Japanese language learning behaviors, which were not consistent with the hypotheses. As for the students' problems ,most of the students (71%) felt uncomfortable when they were talking with the native speakers and about 70%of the students were afraid to use Japanese because they did not have enough confidence in their Japanese language skills and were always worried about their performance and miscommunication. Most of the students could not spend time efficiently and did not like to do the same activity for a long time. However, most of the students had some characteristics that were favorable for language learning. The result of the interviews on the students' techniques in studying and memorizing Japanese vocabularies can be classified into 5 different ways : vocabulary grouping, repeating, inferring, instrumental memorizing and socializing.

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