Abstract

      This study is about the patterns, meanings and usages of mimetic words used with [~to], [~ni] and [~suru] and [~da]. The researcher focused on the mimetic words which are often found in teaching Japanese as a second language. In addition, comparisons were made between the mimetic words which are found in Japanese textbooks used in Thailand.

      From the research, the researcher found that the mimetic words which are often found in teaching Japanese as a second language are 276 words.17 patterns were identified and [ABAB] was the most common pattern. In addition, 10 words were found in primary Japanese textbooks. All of them were included in the data of the mimetic words which are often found in teaching Japanese as a second language. For the intermediate and advanced Japanese textbooks, 124 words were identified. 100 words from this group were included in the original mimetic word grouping but 24 words were not included in that grouping.

      From the study, most of the Japanese mimetic word meanings trended to describe movement when they are used with [~to]. Also, when they are used with [~ni], the meaning trended to describe a static state of being.

      Moreover, the researcher found that the meaning of the mimetic words which can be used both with [~to] and [~ni] can be classified into two kinds. There are words which have different meanings and words which have the same meaning when followed by [~to] and [~ni]. When the same mimetic word is used with [~to] and [~ni] and those two words have a different meaning, the researcher found that the meaning of the word with [~to] will describe movement and the meaning of the word with [~ni] will describe a static state of being. When the same mimetic words used with [~to] and [~ni] have the same meaning, the meaning of both words describe a static state of being.

Regarding the mimetic words using with [~suru] and [~da], the researcher found that word meanings trend to describe movement when they are used with [~suru]. However, some of them describe a state of being which can be used in the form of [Noun + ga ~ shiteiru] or [~ shita + Noun] . In addition, when they are used with [~da], the majority of the words describe a state of being.