

Abstract

The purposes of this study are to survey the beliefs about Japanese Loanwords (Gairaigo) among students, lecturers and Japanese-speaking employees and to compare their theories for investigating different beliefs and opinions that could arise as a problem in a Japanese classroom. In addition, the results of the investigation will be used as guidelines for improving Gairaigo teaching strategies.

The survey was conducted by a questionnaire which included 3 parts: Part 1 - Questions about personal data. Part 2 - Questions about Gairaigo's opinions. Part 3 - Questions about Gairaigo's beliefs. The questionnaire which added subjects about the demand for learning Gairaigo is adapted from BALLI.

The survey polled 264 students who are studying Japanese in a national university, 23 Thai lecturers who are teaching Japanese, and 102 Japanese-speaking employees. The answers have been statistically analyzed by One-Way ANOVA and Chi-Square.

The results indicate the three groups are in agreement that Gairaigo is an important subject to learn, although they do have different opinions about the level of Gairaigo knowledge which a Japanese student should attain as well as the most difficult task in learning Gairaigo.

Moreover, the 3 groups do have the same beliefs about attitude, nature, and learning and communication strategies for Gairaigo. The group does have differing beliefs regarding motivations, difficulty and demand for learning Gairaigo.

The proposal for further studies is to survey the different beliefs between Wago, Kango, and Gairaigo and to investigate relationship beliefs between the Gairaigo and Learning Strategies.