

AJE2020

The Release of a Corpus Analysis System and Its Use in Japanese Language Education:  
An Example of Use in Teaching Writing

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Abstract

The authors have developed a corpus analysis system enabling teachers and researchers to utilize their original data. The system has been open to the public. With this system, teachers and researchers can import their collected data of their students' writing or conversation scripts into the system. The system allows analysis of this data through useful functions such as keywords search, collocation analysis, and frequency comparisons. However, the use of raw data, which include errors or spoken languages, sometimes yields mistaken results. This can be dealt with through taking advantage of tags.

Through the presentation, the authors will introduce the basics of the system and demonstrate its practical in Japanese language education, using real student writing as data. The presenters imported 12 essays written by three students and analyzed them utilizing the system. The results indicated a wide range of mistakes, which differed greatly depending on the student. Through the use of this system, however, the habitual errors of each student can be known. As a result, individualized correction and personalized instruction can be given to answer student needs. Traditional teaching required teachers to abstractly understand these tendencies through reading student work. However, it is difficult to objectively analyze the kinds of mistakes students are more likely to make. By using this system, teachers can know these tendencies and provide more effective teaching for students. This system is accessible to the world and thus any Japanese language teacher may have access to it. It can be applied not only to writing but also to spoken language such as conversation between Japanese learners and Japanese native speakers in many different situations. In terms of multilingualism and multiculturalism, it is necessary to incorporate best teaching methods which match student needs in order to aid in the development of humans capable of interacting on a global scale.