

# USING INFOGRAPHIC IN TEACHING BASIC JAPANESE

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**ABSTRACT**—*Designing effective methods of teaching and transmitting messages is one of the keys to help teachers improve the effectiveness of teaching subjects in general and Japanese in particular. Originating from this practice, the use of infographic helps students grasp the basic knowledge of the subject because infographic is very popular with young people. This is seen as a way to convey ideas and complex information with visual images. These designs provide complex information in a concise, clear form by symbols, symbols, maps, colors, articles. The article deals with the application of infographic in Japanese language teaching with the aim of helping students easily remember important knowledge. The content of the course is thought that the heavy will become less boring, awakening the interest of young people, instead of complicated formulas or words presented through many pages.*

**Keywords**-- *Effectiveness; Infographic; Japanese; teaching.*

## I. INTRODUCTION

From the beginning of the 21st century, with the skyrocketing number, the development of infographic is now an inevitable result of the digital age because this is a tool that allows the delivery and transmission of new information to readers quickly, quickly and effectively. In recent years, infographic has been selected by media agencies to transmit information with increasing frequency, but in education and training, it has only been applied in the first step, individually but not very effectively [1].

In order to contribute to innovating the method of teaching basic Japanese subjects in university, the use of infographic is essential. Within the content of the article, the article delves into the nature, importance, design process and propose measures to effectively use infographic in teaching Japanese language at university [2].

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## **II. THE IMPORTANCE OF USING INFOGRAPHIC IN TEACHING JAPANESE AT UNIVERSITY**

Information graphics or infographics means visual forms of graphics. It is using images to present information, data, or knowledge and presenting complex information quickly and clearly. It is a visual representation of information or data such as charts, diagrams, and words, so it can be understood that infographic is a form of displaying complex information, data or knowledge. The goal of infographic is to transform huge, complex data blocks into a clear, vivid and interesting way by selecting and interpreting them into charts, images, theme, etc. separately [3].

Besides, the characteristics of infographic are generalized, general and highly logical. Because of they allow aggregating information by topic, each infographic pays attention to the logic, arrangement of content and images reflecting causal relationships between events and historical phenomena. Thereby, it helps learners easily gain knowledge, compare, evaluate, contact and apply knowledge to practice, making an important contribution to shape, form and develop students' logical thinking in the cognitive process [2].

In fact, infographic is a modern teaching medium that helps learners memorize knowledge quickly and solidly. Science has proven that, with discrete data, the brain simply decipher their meaning without the memory function. In contrast, systematic information stimulates concepts that are available in the brain, relate to emotions, think and leave a lasting impression through graphics, animation and effects, then arrange creative ideas of infographic, make historical knowledge transmitted to students in a visual and vivid way. Thereby, it helps students remember knowledge easily and is the basis for deep understanding of their nature [4].

Infographic also saves time for learners. Humans congenitally discover the world visually, 90% of the information is recorded in the form of images by the brain. The average human attention span is 8 seconds, while the brain's processing of visual signals is  $\frac{1}{4}$  seconds. Therefore, using images helps convey a large amount of information in a snap. As a result, it helps students avoid boredom and remember longer, the infographic supports the processing of necessary information in the form of images to make students pay attention to the impressive presentation of the infographic. In this way, students have gained more or less information in a very short time. Synthetic infographic helps students in a short time, will discover and occupy a large amount of knowledge [5].

Infographic creates attraction to learners. An Infographic can combine information with creative designs to create an impressive infographic template. This is what makes infographic so much more attractive and engaging to learners than just using words. Knowledge of Japanese is diverse, rich and complex, associating with the event, characters, time, space, happenings, etc. Therefore, the design of infographic includes core knowledge content and appropriate visual images. This will create an attraction in the learning process of aa language like Japanese (figure 1).



Figure 1: The Japanese characters

### III. INTRODUCTION

Japanese infographic means products designed with graphic software, containing Japanese content which has been aggregated, arranged in a certain order and presented in the form of visual and vivid images. It is a type of channel with high visualization, unique products, bearing the personal impression of the designer. Although using infographic in Japanese teaching in universities today is quite new, but in some schools, there are many teachers who successfully apply and create effective, lively and attractive lessons that bring students excitement

and passion for learning. Using infographic as a visual aid tool on the basis of technology application is considered a new teaching method which is of great significance in teaching at school.

Specifically, regarding knowledge, infographic helps students to grasp the basic knowledge of the lesson quickly, systematically and autonomously. The students are free to choose the research knowledge (indicated the correct source), synthesize and memorize necessary information in a short time, helping students feel more autonomous with learning. Thanks to the infographic, with the proactive approach, we will have all the vivid images of the past through interesting guides, vivid conversations, realistic portraits, etc. From there, we ourselves will have our own evaluation and feeling [6].

Regarding skills, exploiting and using infographic help students develop specific skills of the subject such as observation skills, general knowledge reproduction; cognitive skills and Japanese thinking (analysis, comparison, determining the relationship between events, phenomena, figures); skills to review, evaluate, apply the learned knowledge to acquire new knowledge and solve problems of life [4].

Regarding attitude, each infographic is designed with personal colors. The infographic design can be done by teachers or students. With the goal of teaching students to develop their competency, the trend that is encouraging students participate directly in the learning process, designing their own learning products is more and more popular.

The process of searching and collecting information and materials to create an infographic requires students to have access to diverse and rich sources of information, helping students to assess objectively and comprehensively about history, thereby forming a scientific worldview, passion and sense of responsibility for oneself [7].

Regarding capacity, using infographic makes an important contribution to the development of common core competencies (self-learning; communication and cooperation; problem solving and creativity). At the same time, it contributes to the development of the specific capacity of Japanese (applying knowledge and skills to learning and life). Thereby, this contributes to the comprehensive development of students, meeting the requirements of innovation of current education - training objectives.

#### **IV. PROCESS OF INFOGRAPHIC DESIGN IN TEACHING JAPANESE AT UNIVERSITY**

##### **A. *Identifying infographic design goals***

Defining the goal of each infographic is an important first requirement. Because the final goal is to achieve when designing each infographic about knowledge, skills, attitudes and orientations for developing students' competencies, the design must be attractive, easy to understand and easy to remember. The important order of each element depends on the desired effect. The most understandable element is most important when designing an academic infographic. In contrast, with the type of infographic used for propaganda purposes, attraction must be the first factor [6].

***B. Gathering information, images and data to prepare for infographic design***

Information and data in infographic should be brief, concise and focused on the main elements that the topic needs to convey. After having enough content, the next task should be determined when designing the infographic is to choose the way of presenting information with the most appropriate layout possible.

When determining the purpose of design, it is necessary to have a clear picture of the design task. There may be one question like “is the infographic design providing knowledge about the characters, events or comparisons, explanations?” From there, we can choose the layout to suit the content and personality of individual creativity [8].

***C. Using tools for infographic design in teaching Japanese***

Infographic forms can be created by hand with simple tools such as drawing paper, pens, etc. It is also possible to create infographic with software faster and easier such as PowerPoint, Canva, Piktochart, Venngage, Google charts, etc. depending on the conditions of each school and the ability of teachers and students [5].  
measures to use infographic in teaching japanese at universities

***D. Using infographic to create motivation and interest in learning for students***

Motivation for learning can be understood as a general sign and a situation - a specific state. True motivation must be shown in specific tasks. The interest in learning is the subject's special choice attitude towards the object of learning activity, because of its emotional attraction and practical significance in personal life. In order to maintain the motivation of learning, teachers need to attract a large number of students to participate in the learning process, create motivation for learning; encourage students to self-study and self-awareness. There are many ways to focus attention, create fun and learning interest for students, in which teachers can use infographic to start the lesson [8].

For example, when teaching Hiragana (Japanese alphabet), we can introduce the culture of Japan, the birth Japanese letters, some special things about this country before starting the lesson so that students will have a general view about what they will study. Teacher may remind students of the first civilization of the nation based on the thinking that the inheritance and development of national culture in an era of independence and autonomy. From there, students excitedly explore new articles to explore the similarities and differences between this countries with their country (figure 2).



Figure 2: The culture of Japan

The use of infographic to start school hours should be flexibly applied by teachers based on a combination of different methods. It is important to meet the goal of the warm-up activity, that is, we need to focus the attention of students on the first day of school, identify the basic knowledge goals of the lesson to be learned and connect the learned knowledge with knowledge will learn, as the basis for acquiring new knowledge of students [9].

### E. Using infographic to organize students to gain new knowledge

Researching new knowledge is a key element of the teaching process in universities. Its content is the basic knowledge that students need to master in order to understand basic knowledge about the language they are learning. Organizing for students to actively occupy new knowledge in history lessons is the central content of the lesson. In the process of guiding students to form new knowledge, teachers can use infographic to create icons for students in order to find out the connection between what they are focusing on. Because the biggest advantage of infographic is the ability to synthesize knowledge by visual and vivid images.

For example, when teaching about Kanji (old Chinese characters used by Japanese people), instead of guiding students to study the process of writing them correctly, teachers can use a synthetic infographic, helping students impress and remember knowledge faster through the visual image system and concise keyword phrases. At the same time, students can also deeply remember key features. Each character of Kanji has its own meaning and relates to at least one object (the moon, the sun or the tree, etc).

***F. Using infographic to consolidate the learned knowledge for students***

Consolidation activities are regular activities that need to be carried out at the end of each lesson, requiring students to apply the newly acquired knowledge to solve specific tasks. Thereby, these help teachers evaluate the ability, the level of awareness of students and adjust their teaching accordingly. For example, the teacher might ask students to design an infographic about basic structure of affirmative or negative sentences, the above infographic design will help students can arrange the structures in chronological order, remembering basic sentences through the selective images. All of the aforementioned information is condensed into one infographic page to help students save time and improve their learning efficiency [6].

***G. Using infographic to check students' cognitive activities***

Assessment is the last but also the most important step, because it helps both teachers and students verify the level of achieving the lesson objectives. At the same time, it provides useful information to adjust the teaching and learning process. Using infographic in testing is an effective measure to bring about cognitive effectiveness and reduce the stress and heaviness of students when facing the test. For example, after finishing studying the topic, teachers can design one blank infographic, then ask students to complete the missing content. Working results of students will reflect the effectiveness of their cognitive activities quickly, helping them systematize the typical achievements [9].

Since then, they deeply understand the value of those achievements to the nation's ethnic culture. In addition, teachers can use infographic to guide students to self-study (in class and at home) such as requiring students request to collect infographic on books, magazines, on the Internet, etc. for lesson content. The practice can be conducted in class during new lessons, self-study at home, during extracurricular hours, etc. In which, teachers need to diversify tasks and practical products so that students can choose according to their interests and have motivation to complete the learning task depending on the ability and forte of the student.

## **V. CONCLUSION**

Using infographic is one of the important measures contributing to innovation and improving the quality of teaching history in universities. It can be used to combine with teaching methods and techniques as a visual device in order to improve practical capacity for students. Infographic can be used flexibly at all stages of the teaching process and contributes to the development of general and specific competencies for students. However, to effectively design and use infographic in history teaching effectively, it requires the effort and creativity of both teachers and students in the teaching process, as well as necessary facilities conditions.

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