

Japanese Language Learning Situation in Thailand as Seen from the Number of Examinees for the Japanese-Language Proficiency Test: As an Opportunity to Consider the Deepening of Japanese Language Learning

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Abstract

The purpose of this paper is to clarify the status of Japanese language learning in Thailand, which ranked fifth in the world with 183,957 Japanese language learners (2021). About 80% of Japanese-language education in Thailand was at secondary educational institutions, and about 80% were learners at the secondary level. The level of Japanese language learning at secondary educational institutions was beginner level. On the other hand, institutions of higher education accounted for about 10%, and the number of learners accounted for only about 10%. In analyzing and discussing the state of Japanese language learning in Thailand, statistical data on examinees of the Japanese-Language Proficiency Test (JLPT) was used, which was the largest of all Japanese language proficiency tests administered overseas and was administered on a global scale. The overall trend and individual characteristics of Thai examinees were elucidated by focusing on the number of examinees at each level from N1 (Most difficult level) to N5 (Easiest level) of the JLPT conducted in the past eight times and comparing it with overseas trends.

It will be important to consider not only the *Development of learning through repetition at the beginner level* but also the *Gradual development of beginner level learning*, including the presence or absence of learners' needs, through the differences from overseas as a whole. This will be also an opportunity to consider the deepening of Japanese-language education and Japanese language learning in Thailand.

Keywords: Thai learners, the Japanese-Language Proficiency Test, number of examinees, Japanese language level, Japanese-language education

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