



The Use of Japanese Information Applications to Increase Insights about Life in Japan (A Study of Students of SMK N 1 Kedawung, Indonesia)

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Abstract

Indonesia and Japan have a long history in the past. However, currently Japan has become one of the countries with extraordinary economic power so that Indonesia has a lot of cooperation with Japan. One form of this cooperation is in the field of culture which includes how Japanese people live their daily lives. This aspect of life is one that is good to study so that we can imitate and apply good things in our daily lives. From the results of initial observations, students at SMK N 1 Kedawung still do not know about life in Japan. In connection with this, we provide a solution for an introduction method about life in Japan through the Japanese information application. From the results of the questionnaire, it is very clear that learning through information applications is very popular with students so that they are encouraged to study more deeply.

Keywords: *Information Apps; Life in Japan; Japanese Culture; Learning*

Introduction

Indonesia has long had cooperation with Japan, especially in the business sector, investors from Japan who invest in Indonesia from year to year continue to increase. This bilateral relationship continues to be well maintained, especially at this time when Japan is experiencing a decline in birth rates and a shortage of productive workers.

According to Japanese government data, in 2021 the number of births in Japan will reach a record low. Data from the Ministry of Health states that in 2021 births in Japan will reach 811,604 people, but on the other hand the death rate will be higher with 1,439,809 people. This data shows an overall population decline in Japan of 628,205 people as quoted by Reuters (2022). With the decreasing population, Japan is experiencing a productive labor crisis, this is of course contrary to the situation in Japan which is a dynamic country, full of business activities. Based on this, Japan is anticipating by opening opportunities for foreign workers to work in Japan. Many entrepreneurs from Japan come to Indonesia specifically to look for prospective workers who can work there, this is of course a good opportunity for Indonesia because the number of unemployed in Indonesia can be said to be high.

Indonesia, which is the fourth most populous country in the world after America, is one of Japan's main destinations to fill the labor shortage in its country, while on the other hand, many young Indonesians now have dreams of working in Japan, something that can be said to be fitting to complement each other.

In relation to the above, based on the 2021 Japanese Language Education Abroad survey data from the Japan Foundation, Indonesia ranks first in having Japanese language learners in Southeast Asia, namely 711,732 learners (Foundation, 2021). This success reflects the strong drive of the Indonesian people to understand and master Japanese.

The importance of insight into Japanese language and culture in the context of learning emerged as a response to the increasingly close relationship between Indonesia and Japan, both in terms of economy, tourism, and cultural cooperation. A deep understanding of Japanese culture is the key to building a more effective and mutually beneficial relationship between the two countries.

In an era where technology plays a key role in the learning process, the use of Android-based applications has emerged as an efficient and effective solution to provide Japanese language and cultural insights to learners. These applications allow for more flexible learning, where individuals can learn anytime and anywhere according to their needs. The interactivity of the applications also opens up opportunities to increase learner engagement, making learning more interesting and effective.

By combining the positive trend of Japanese language learning in Indonesia and the potential of Android-based applications in providing contextual learning, this study aims to explore and measure the positive impact of using such applications in improving the understanding of Japanese language and cultural insights among Indonesian learners. Thus, this study is expected to provide valuable contributions to the development of language and cultural education and strengthen cooperation between Indonesia and Japan.

Japan is one of the countries that has maintained industrial and cultural progress (Asmayani, 2014). Insights related to Japan, especially related to culture and current conditions, are important for Japanese language learners. How are the geographical conditions, climate, seasons, culture, population descriptions and job opportunities that are possible to be pursued can be a picture of insight to support learners in having comprehensive knowledge about Japan itself. Therefore, learning Japanese is inseparable from the importance of understanding Japanese culture itself. Of course, students can get sources of cultural understanding from various things. In addition to learning from textbooks, it can also be from references on the internet. Along with technological advances, the use of Android-based applications has also become an alternative source of learning materials for students. In the sense that learning resources can include everything that is used to facilitate learning (Diner, 2014).

Mulyasa (2004:48) explains that learning resources can be formulated as everything that can provide convenience to students in obtaining a number of information, knowledge, experience and skills in the teaching and learning process. Warsita (2008:209) added that learning resources are all components of the instructional system, both those that are specifically designed and those that, by their nature, can be used or utilized in learning activities.

In this regard, one of the effective learning sources in increasing students' insight is that the Japanese language learning information system can increase students' interest. With the Japanese language learning application, students do not have to study it in class. This means that students do not always depend on teachers because students can learn it through the application, (Suryani & Ningsih, 2021).

This application-based learning model is often known as Mobile Learning. Mobile learning is a learning model that uses an Android application. This model is unique because learners can access

materials, directions and applications related to learning anytime and anywhere (Yuanti, L, 2012). In addition, the mobile learning learning model using the Android application provides benefits for the availability of teaching materials that can be accessed at any time with a visual display that attracts students, (Listyorini and Widodo, 2013). By using a smartphone, the mobile learning program will be easier to reach and utilize.

Methods

The method used for this research is a descriptive qualitative method. Qualitative research methods are research that aims to understand the phenomena experienced by research subjects. For example, behavior, perception, motivation, actions, and others, holistically, and by means of description in the form of words and language, in a specific natural context and by utilizing various natural methods. (Moleong, 2005).

The approach used is a case study. According to Yin & Robert: 2006, case studies describe the process of seeking empirical knowledge to investigate and research various phenomena in the context of real life. Case studies have an important purpose in researching and revealing the uniqueness and distinctiveness of the characteristics contained in the case being studied, where the case is the reason why the research is conducted.

Referring to Linda, et al. in Wahyudi, et al. (2019) that one of the data collection methods used to meet data needs is through observation (Wahyudi et al., 2019). Observation according to Bogdan & Biklen in Jailani (2023), is an important technique in qualitative research, researchers actively observe and record behavior, interactions, and contexts that occur in the situation being studied (Jailani, 2023). Meanwhile, Jailani (2023) explained that in quantitative research, the data collection technique that is often used is a questionnaire. Sekaran & Bougie in Jailani (2023) added that a questionnaire is a series of tools in the form of questions that have been designed with the aim of measuring research variables used in data collection.

The stages of the research are as follows:

- 1) Conducting initial observations in the instructors' classes;
- 2) Conducting Japanese culture and insight teaching through an android-based application about Japanese Information;
- 3) Distributing questionnaires to measure the research variables used in data collection.

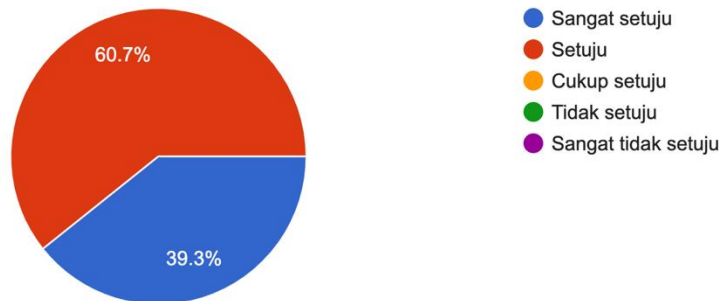
The series of activities were carried out comprehensively and measurably with a total of 28 students as respondents.

Results and Discussion

Based on the results of the questionnaire to students regarding the use of Japanese information applications, the following data was obtained:

Penggunaan aplikasi informasi kejepangan membantu Anda untuk mengenal kehidupan di Jepang.

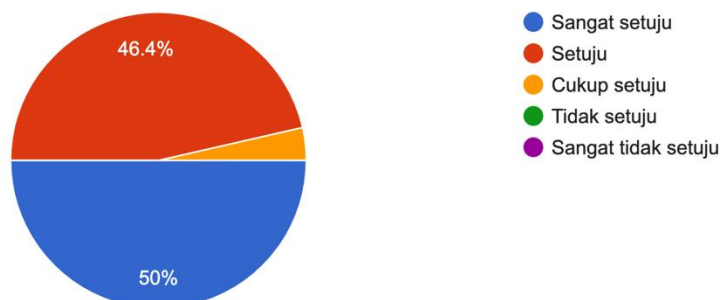
28 responses



From the diagram above, we can see that students feel helped in getting to know life in Japan by using the Japanese information application. All students basically have the same view about the usefulness of this information application, which is that it can help them get to know life in Japan. As many as 60.7% of the total respondents agreed and 39.3% strongly agreed. With the existing data, it is important for us to provide a more integrated information system and add more diverse knowledge about Japan so that learners can gain broader insights by using technology that is easily accessible to anyone. This is in line with the results shown in the following data diagram;

Aplikasi informasi kejepangan menyediakan informasi yang mudah diakses.

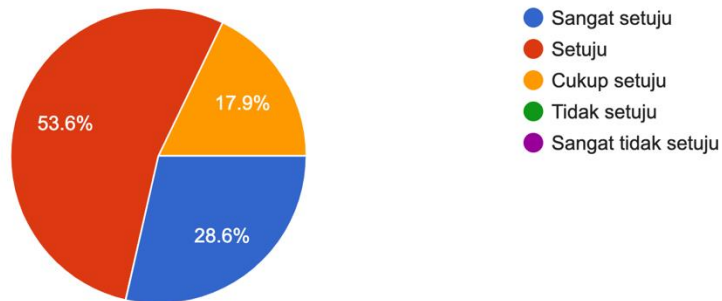
28 responses



Referring to the diagram above, we can see that the majority of students agree with the opinion that the application used is able to provide easily accessible information with statements strongly agree and agree as much as 50% and 46.4%. Ease of accessing information in the application is important for every student who will learn, so that they can learn independently.

Proses penginstalan aplikasi kejepangan mudah dan praktis digunakan.

28 responses

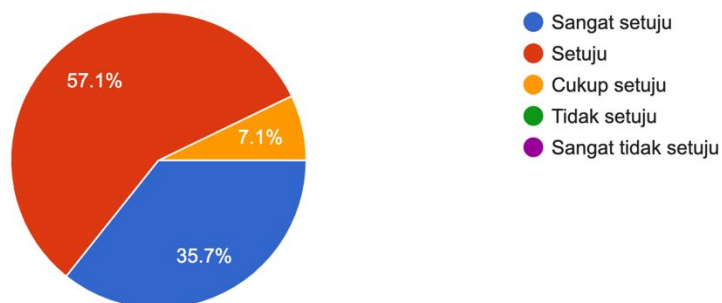


From the diagram above, we can see that the Japanese information application used by students in learning about life in Japan is very practical and easy to use, starting from installation to opening the information features in the application.

The most responses, 53.6%, stated that they agreed about the ease of installing the application so that it is practical to use. While a number of other responses stated that they strongly agree and quite agree with the number of responses of 28.6% and 17.9% respectively.

Tampilan aplikasi kejepangan sangat menarik.

28 responses



Another important aspect of a learning application is the display content of the features in it. The more attractive an application feature is, the more interested learners will be in accessing its contents. This can be seen from the diagram above, the majority of participants agreed with this opinion with a total of 57.1%. Then as many as 35.7 percent stated that they strongly agreed that the information application used had interesting features.

Referring to the data above, the use of Japanese applications used as a learning tool to get to know life in Japan is very important to be developed further. This is able to encourage students' interest in learning more deeply about the material presented and is able to arouse a higher curiosity.

Conclusion

The Japanese information application used by students in learning about life in Japan has proven to be able to help students understand the material presented. According to students at SMK Negeri 1 Kedawang, the Japanese information application was able to increase their insight into life in Japan.

The applications used were assessed by students as follows;

1. All students agreed that the use of the Japanese information application helped them to get to know life in Japan.
2. The majority of students agreed that the Japanese information application provided information that was easy to access.
3. The majority of students agreed that the installation process of the Japanese information application was easy and practical to use.
4. The majority of students agreed that the appearance of the Japanese information application was very attractive.

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