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IN LANGUAGE LEARNING

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What Motivates L1 English-Speaking Long-Term Residents to Learn Japanese?

Sunday 18 May 2025 09:30 (25 minutes)

TITLE

What Motivates L1 English-Speaking Long-Term Residents to Learn Japanese?

RELEVANT SIG

Lifelong Language Learning

FORMAT

Research-oriented Oral Face-to-face presentation (25 minutes, including Q&A)

Short English description

KEYWORDS

Japanese as a second language
Motivation
Q methodology
L2MSS

First-time presenter?

ABSTRACT

This case study utilized Q methodology to examine the Japanese as a second language (JSL) motivation of three L1 English-speaking long-term residents of Japan. Using the L2 motivational self system (L2MSS) as a framework, the participants reflected on the influence of their ideal and ought-to selves as well as their language learning environment on the efforts they made to improve their Japanese. The participants first did a Q sort of 34 statements regarding motivations to study Japanese related to the L2MSS. Then were then asked to elaborate on which statements they felt most strongly about and the thought process behind the choices they made when sorting the cards. The interviews revealed that despite having similar learner profiles (e.g.,

length of time in Japan, extent of Japanese education), the participants had different degrees of motivation for learning the language and reasons for doing so, including career advancement, a desire to be independent, and the need avoid embarrassment. In addition, several demotivating factors were identified, such as the belief that they would never be able to integrate into Japanese society, and an introverted personality. The findings are examined with the aim of identifying factors which foster motivation to learn the language.

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