Information Technology for Japanese Learning

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Abstract. The purpose of this study is to find out the use of social media for Japanese language learning. The study used a survey method for 24 students of Japanese Program of Universitas Komputer Indonesia. The results show that social media has a great potential to be used as an effective medium of Japanese language learning for learning or improving the ability of Japanese language because the average level of usage time is quite high. This study discusses how often social media is used. This shows that social media is one of the effective media for learning Japanese. This learning technique is expected to help make it easier for students in the process of learning and understanding Japanese language.

1. Introduction
Now, a lot of progress has been made in the field of technology. One of them is social media. Social media is a place to communicate online without the need to meet face to face. Social media gives birth to social interactions in cyberspace. But not only to communicate, social media also can be used as a place to get something or learn something. According to Jeaff Seaman and Hester Tinti-Kane, technology is increasingly important from year to year for higher education institutions to look for opportunities for educators and students [1]. In 2006 Baird and Fisher, stated that in a decade towards the new millennium, a new era of teaching and learning was in its heyday, where learning was centered on two students, technology, and promising social improvement [2]. This technological progress was followed by the rise of social media. Where social media can be a medium for learning something. According to the results of a survey conducted by Mike Mora, Jeff Seaman and Hester Tinti-Kane, more than 90% of faculties use social media for class, professional relations, or both [3]. This was also stated by Linda Weiser Friedman and Hershey H. Friedman, that currently information and knowledge can be known through DVD, Ebooks, and Youtube [4].

Social media also has many benefits. Mangold, W. G., and Faulds, D. J. argues that social media allows several people to meet many others [5]. This opinion was supported by Camille Rutherford who stated that if more and more students use social media to prepare assignments and discuss with their classmates, this also makes natural social interactions [6]. To learn languages, students do not learn enough in formal time students are required to have hours of independent learning. According to Nada Dabbagh and Anastasia Kitsantas, a personal learning environment is a promising educational approach to integrating social media to help students learn independently [7]. As social media technology advances are inseparable, Sitaram Asur and Bernardo A. Huberman say social media has become important for social networking and content sharing [8]. Meanwhile, Ennoch Sindang said that social media attracted many people because it was fun [9]. As time went on, Indonesia began to follow it. Now, Indonesia is one of five countries with the largest social media users [10].

[1] Jeaff Seaman and Hester Tinti-Kane,
[2] Baird and Fisher,
[3] Mike Mora, Jeff Seaman and Hester Tinti-Kane,
[4] Linda Weiser Friedman and Hershey H. Friedman,
[5] Mangold, W. G., and Faulds, D. J.
[6] Camille Rutherford
[7] Nada Dabbagh and Anastasia Kitsantas
[8] Sitaram Asur and Bernardo A. Huberman
[9] Ennoch Sindang
[10] Indonesia is one of five countries with the largest social media users
Currently there are several social media that are very well known among young people and students such as a) Facebook; social media that has more than one billion active users so it is very possible for Japanese language students to meet and interact with other people who are both learning Japanese, or can even be friends with Japanese directly. Currently on Facebook there are many official groups or accounts about learning Japanese. b) Twitter; through this social media users can send and read messages based on text. Twitter has 500 million active users and is one of the 10 most visited sites on the Internet. c) Hello Talk; social media created for people who want to speak in a foreign language. In this application, we have to fill in the name, mother tongue, language mastered, and the language you want to learn then we will connect with people who want to learn the language we master, and we will be connected with people who master the language we will learn. d) Instagram; based application where users are when taking photos or videos, then can edit and share. Social life on Instagram is in the form of interaction with one another through liking and commenting on something in photos. In addition, on Instagram, someone can send messages directly through the Direct Messaging feature. e) Row; This social media is in the form of sending messages in the form of text messages, voice messages, photos and videos. The line is claimed to be a favorite application in 42 countries. It has Line Square features that can be a medium for Line users who have the same interests or hobbies. This social media can be used for Japanese learners to be in groups with people who learn Japanese too.

Social media users come from all over the world with diverse language backgrounds, including Japanese. Based on this, the author has the opinion that social media can be used as a learning tool, including learning Japanese or improving one's Japanese language skills. Therefore, the purpose of this study was to find out using of social media in Japanese language learning. This study used a survey method. Data is collected through google form filled in by respondents.

2. Method
This study used a survey method. Data collection was carried out through questionnaires using Google Form which contained 3 questions for 24 Japanese Department students of Universitas Komputer Indonesia. The purpose of this data collection is to find out how effective it is to learn Japanese through social media.

3. Results and Discussion
Based on questionnaire question No. 1 about "Do you think it is effective to learn Japanese through social media?" The answers are as follows: 30.43% of students state that learning Japanese through social media is effective; 47.83% state learning Japanese through social media was less effective; and 21.74% state that learning Japanese through social media was not effective (see Figure 1).

![Effectiveness Chart]

**Figure 1.** Research result
Based on questionnaire question No. 2 about "What type of social media is used by respondents to learn Japanese?", the respondent's answers are as follows: 31.8% of respondents stated using Instagram social media, followed by Line 22.7%, Facebook 9.1%, Hello Talk 9.1%, and Twitter 4.5%. Meanwhile, 22.8% of respondents used other social media applications, such as Youtube and Duo Lingo (See Figure 2).

![Figure 2. Research result](image)

Based on question questionnaire no.3 about the duration of respondents in using social media to learn Japanese the respondent's answer is as seen in the following Figure 3.

![Figure 3. Research Result](image)

From diagram 1.3 it can be seen that 74% of respondents use 1-2 hours to study or interact using Japanese, 13% of respondents attend 3-4 hours, and 13% of respondents answer more than 4 hours. From the diagram above, it can also be seen that the use of social media is growing, so that in an effort to learn Japanese social media has a significant role to increase the willingness of students to interact using Japanese. However, further research is needed to find out whether the entire time of social media used by respondents is fully used for learning Japanese or interacting in Japanese.
4. Conclusion
Based on this survey, the time of using social media is high enough so that if used optimally it can be one of the means of learning Japanese or improving Japanese language skills effectively in addition to formal learning. Social media can provide great benefits to support the learning process of Japanese language. Many types of social media with a variety of features available so that learners, especially Japanese learners can choose the one that suits their needs.

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