

BATJ-JF Japanese Language Education Seminar

How Useful Are Smartphones for Learning Japanese?: The reality of the use of dictionary tools among learners of Japanese in the United Kingdom

This Seminar will be organised by the British Association for Teaching Japanese as a Foreign Language and the Japan Foundation, London. Each year, we use these seminars as an opportunity to explore practical, every-day themes that apply to both younger and older learners, studying at all types of educational institutions. We invite educators at the forefront of their fields to provide a novel and exciting learning opportunity.

The 2023's seminar will focus on learners' dictionary-usage behaviour. In recent years, various digital tools and services have been developed and learners are now familiar with a wide variety of tools. Some teachers say that learners rely too much on digital tools, and that their Japanese language skills are not improving. But what digital tools do learners actually use and how do they use them to learn? The answers to these questions are not yet fully understood. In this seminar, we welcome Professor ISHIGURO Kei, from the National Institute for Japanese Language and Linguistics (NINJAL), to explore this topic in an online setting.

We look forward to receiving your applications.

Event Outline

Date/Time: 11th February 2023 (Saturday), 10:00 to 12:30 GMT

Theme: How Useful Are Smartphones for Learning Japanese?:

The reality of the use of dictionary tools among learners of Japanese in the United Kingdom

Speaker: Professor ISHIGURO Kei (Director of The Center for the Promotion of Collaborative Research, the National Institute for Japanese Language and Linguistics; Collaborative Professor, Graduate School of Language and Society, Hitotsubashi University)

Target audience:

Japanese language educators and post-graduate university students specialising in Japanese language education who are based in the United Kingdom and Europe.

(Applications from those in other regions will also be accepted if places are available)

Maximum number of participants: 80

Location: Online seminar using Zoom software

Spoken language: Japanese

Cost of seminar/applications: Please visit [the link here](#).

Application deadline: 31st January 2023 (Tuesday), 12:00 GMT

* Once the number of places has been filled, applications will close.

Organisers: The British Association for Teaching Japanese as a Foreign Language and the Japan Foundation, London.

Summary of the Seminar:

Learners nowadays do not bring paper dictionaries to the classroom, but instead use smartphones. Even students who do not use a smartphone tend to use a computer or a tablet to look up words using dictionaries, search engines and applications on the internet.

But when, where, what, and how are learners using these devices to look things up? Are they getting to the information they need as a result? The reality is that Japanese language teachers do not know the answers to these questions.

Therefore, with the cooperation of teachers from the British Association for Teaching Japanese as a foreign language (BATJ), we asked learners enrolled in British universities to record screenshots as they looked up Japanese expressions using digital tools. Based on this data, we will examine learners' behaviour in a workshop style and consider how dictionary use can be appropriate in the age of AI.

Speaker Profile:

Professor ISHIGURO Kei

Director of The Center for the Promotion of Collaborative Research, the National Institute for Japanese Language and Linguistics; Collaborative Professor, Graduate School of Language and Society, Hitotsubashi University

B.A. (Sociology), Hitotsubashi University, completed PhD coursework at Graduate School of Letters, Arts and Sciences, Waseda University in 1999, and obtained a PhD in Literature in 2008.

In 1999, Professor Ishiguro joined The Center for International Student Education (now The Center for Global Education and Exchange) at Hitotsubashi University, where he taught Japanese for sixteen years. In 2013, he became a professor at The Centre for Global Education and Exchange and The Graduate School of Language and Society at Hitotsubashi University. In 2015, he moved to The National Institute for Japanese Language and Linguistics (NINJAL), where he concentrated on research in the field of Japanese language education, while also supervising post-graduate students at Hitotsubashi University, with which he is affiliated.

Professor Ishiguro's fields of specialisation are text theory and discourse analysis (Japanese linguistics), and composition and reading education (Japanese language education). He researches the overall process of language processing of the four skills of reading, writing, listening and speaking.

He has authored twenty-three books as the sole author and forty-two books in total including co-edited works. His best-known works include: 『よくわかる文章表現の技術(全五巻)』 明治書院、『文章は接続詞で決まる』『「読む」技術』『日本語は「空気」が決める』『語彙力を鍛える』『段落論』 光文社、『論文・レポートの基本』『形容詞を使わない大人の文章表現力』 日本実業出版社、『大人のための言い換え力』 NHK 出版.

