

Collaborative Extensive Reading for Japanese Language Learners in Indonesia and Indonesian Language Learners in Japan Through Online Extracurricular Activities

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ABSTRACT

One of the most challenging skills for foreign language learners is reading. Extensive reading, or ER, is one strategy for improving reading skills. Extensive reading (ER) is a reading activity that involves the independence of each reader by silently reading a large number of books that are appropriate for the learner's ability level. This study focuses on the perceptions of Indonesian Japanese language learners toward ER activities conducted collaboratively with Indonesian language learners studying at Asia Pacific University, Japan, through online out-of-class activities. This study is a qualitative descriptive study using questionnaires and interviews as research instruments. The respondents were 10 students from the Language and Culture Program at Al Azhar University Indonesia who were studying Japanese at an intermediate level. This study found that Indonesian learners of Japanese responded positively to ER activities with Japanese students. In addition to learning vocabulary and practising reading, these activities also increased their understanding of the cultural differences between Japan and Indonesia. However, learners still found it difficult to retell the content of the reading in Japanese. The results of this study are expected to contribute to the teaching of Japanese reading skills, improve reading ability, and enhance cross-cultural understanding.

Keywords: Extensive Reading, Collaborative, Reading Skills