

Title of Session: Benkyoukai - Community Based Japanese Language Course

Moderator: Keiko Schneider

Guest Speaker: Kitagawa Goshihiko

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Room: After School Online Room

KeikoS: Welcome to benkyoukai!

PantelisC: Nihon GO!

KeikoS: Today the featured speaker is Kitagawa sensei from Turkey

KeikoS: This is how it goes.

PantelisC: Dozo Yoroshiku

KeikoS: First of all I will ask him to introduce him. then...

KeikoS: everybody takes a short moment to intro

KeikoS: then I will project his summary of the presentation and he can do his thing

EmiA joined the room.

KeikoS: We will comment and ask questions.

KeikoS: So kitagawa sensei?

KeikoS: Humm, maybe we just intro each other.

KitagawGst7: I'm Toshihiko Kitagawa, instructor of Japanese, JLT Department, Canakkale Onsekiz Mart Univ. Our dept provides course for future language teachers

ClaireC: ok~this is Claire, came from Taiwan.

KeikoS: I am Keiko Schneider, the organizer of benkyoukai, occasional HelpDesk here at TAPPED IN

ClaireC: I am an English major in FCU

KeikoS: Pantelis? Priscila?

KitagawGst7: Nice to meet you Claire, and thanks of joining us.

ClaireC: nice to meet you, too. it's my pleasure.

PantelisC: I am Pantelis Chatziioannou, eigo benkyo desu no Centre of Applied Linguistics, Swansea A No Wales

KitagawGst7: yes.

KeikoS: Kitagawa sensei's paper summary is here

KeikoS: <http://www.vesta.dti.ne.jp/~ktoshi/senseionline.html>

PantelisC: ie Applied Linguistics, Applied Language Studies desu

KeikoS: You can click, it is a hyper link.

PriscilaA: I am Priscila, student of EDTEC at San Diego State University. I am here as a part of an assignment. I am interested in the process of teaching languages.

KeikoS: GREAT group!

KeikoS: Kitagawa sensei, would you like to start?

KeikoS looks at Ochiai sensei

KitagawGst7: yes, shall we start? as you can see in the URL, we provide free Japanese course for local community taught by our students,

PantelisC kitagawa san

KeikoS . o O (great idea)

KitagawGst7: firstly, it intends to provide our students to use their Japanese.

PantelisC: Ima nihon go desu ka

KitagawGst7: secondly, we would like to provide community service as the dept and univ.

KitagawGst7: these are the two main reasons.

KitagawGst7: and we expect our students to motivate themselves, by taking advantage of what they have studied.

KitagawGst7: and also make links between practice and theories.

PantelisC: is it a Japanese lesson?

KitagawGst7: yes, it is Japanese lesson.

KeikoS: Kitagawa sensei trains future teachers

PantelisC: oh good so I should wait. arigato!

KitagawGst7: for Turkish people, who live in the city.

PantelisC: ooo

KitagawGst7: third year students teach for these courses.

KeikoS: Great!

PantelisC: good

KitagawGst7: but we have one year for preparatory, so they are actually "forth year" students in the US scale.

KeikoS: Ok...

EmiA: I have a question

KitagawGst7: we have 5 years programme for BA

KitagawGst7: yes, please.

EmiA: three years in language and one in teaching theory?

PantelisC: two?

PantelisC: ni?

KitagawGst7: no three yeas for language training and two years for teacher training.

EmiA: But..

KitagawGst7: we have 5 years in order to complete BA.

EmiA: the students go to teach before the last year?

KitagawGst7: that's right.

KitagawGst7: let me explain.

KitagawGst7: We have teaching practicum in the fourth year, which is in fifth year.

KitagawGst7: it is obligatory unit that everyone has to take, and to be graded.

KitagawGst7: however, this community service is volunteer base.

EmiA: So how the rest will graduate w/o the fifth year?

KitagawGst7: so this free course is organized by volunteer base.

KitagawGst7: in the fifth year, everyone have to do teaching practicum, but they teach Japanese to prep students.

KitagawGst7: not to locals.

KeikoS: prep students/ high school?

KitagawGst7: before officially being undergraduate students,

EmiA: Q!

KitagawGst7: they have spend one year intensive Japanese programme,

AtkGst8 joined the room.

KeikoS waves to AtK

KitagawGst7: at this point, they are not registered as "undergraduate" students.

KeikoS: ahh

KitagawGst7: but as "prep" students. It is one year "Yobi katee"

KitagawGst7: this is obligatory for all foreign language teaching departments in Turkey.

KeikoS: Neat idea

KitagawGst7: so they study FLT department, they have to spend 5 years to complete BA course.

KeikoS: wow

KitagawGst7: No matter what language you study, English, German, Japanese....

KitagawGst7: they have to do for 5 years.

KitagawGst7: but for Japanese,

KitagawGst7: there is not demand for Japanese language teachers, so it was difficult for them to practice teaching to real learners.

EmiA: I have a question.

KitagawGst7: we have only two high schools that provide Japanese lessons in Turkey.

KitagawGst7: yes please.

EmiA: What do you think the difference you see between the students who taught in prep school and the ones that taught to community member?

KitagawGst7: As for the course to community,

KitagawGst7: only volunteer students participate, so they are more motivated in general

KitagawGst7: in general.

KitagawGst7: because they teach these course during weekends,

KitagawGst7: but for teaching practicum, which is an obligatory unit,

KitagawGst7: most of them do it because they have to do it.

KitagawGst7: so some enjoy teaching.

KitagawGst7: but mostly, not.

KitagawGst7: probably.

EmiA: Do you see the difference after one year?

KitagawGst7: yeah.

KitagawGst7: those who teach for locals,

KeikoS: No, not here

PriscilaA: I have a question

KitagawGst7: they do observe more classes, and well-prepared for teaching practice.

KitagawGst7: yes, please.

PriscilaA: Why is there a Japanese program in turkey if there is no demand for it. What would be the goal of these students who are in the program?

KitagawGst7: however, those who participate in this free course, they are usually "motivated" students.

KitagawGst7: well,

PantelisC: nihon go desu ka

KitagawGst7: in the early 1990,

KeikoS: I was going to ask comments about students your teachers teach

KitagawGst7: PM visited Japan

KeikoS: of Turkey you mean

PantelisC: sorry but kitagaw seems not to teach Japanese

KitagawGst7: PM of Turkey visited Japan, and he decided to open some Japanese programme in secondary school.

KitagawGst7: then two school opened.

PantelisC: but speaking and advertising his thing

KeikoS: Pantelis, he trains future teachers

KitagawGst7: at that time, they are expecting more in the future.

PantelisC: so this is not a lesson of Japanese

KitagawGst7: therefore, they need to establish JLT department

KitagawGst7: however,

KeikoS: <http://www.vesta.dti.ne.jp/~ktoshi/senseionline.html>

KitagawGst7: after having two schools.

KitagawGst7: no more schools have been set up.

EmiA: I have a question.

KitagawGst7: last year, ministry of education officially announced to install more Russian, Chinese, and Japanese courses in secondary schools in turkey.

KeikoS: Wow

KitagawGst7: so we will have demand soon.

KitagawGst7: hopefully.

KeikoS: I heard Turkey is a good place to teach

KeikoS . o O (then we should ask Emi sensei to ask her question)

KitagawGst7: yes. Well, Japanese studies is still growing here while other European countries rather decline.

KitagawGst7: Please Emi san.

EmiA: Why the government is supporting for Japanese education...any reason?

KeikoS . o O (I actually have a question when you are done)

KitagawGst7: Mostly because it has been neglected in the past years.

KitagawGst7: and, they try to provide more choice to people, I think

EmiA: Wow..that could be a reason...nice!

KitagawGst7: While Japan had boomed, and now China is rising.

KeikoS nods solemnly

KitagawGst7: there is no much specialists of China and Japan in this country.

EmiA: Any economic reason?

KitagawGst7: probably, linguistic feature as well.

KitagawGst7: in Turkey, English and German are popular.

EmiA: This is also to Schneider sensei, but what do you mean by "Turkey is a good place to teach" means...many jobs?

KitagawGst7: probably business, yes. possibly.

KeikoS: I heard students are motivated and job is plentiful

KitagawGst7: East Asia has been neglected in Turkey since they dream of joining EU.

KitagawGst7: all the time.

KeikoS . o O (don't know if this is right)

KeikoS: I see.

KeikoS raises her hand

KitagawGst7: you can see Japan Foundation website in order to read outline of teaching Japanese conditions in Turkey.

KitagawGst7: yes, please Keiko sensei.

KeikoS: So this is taught by motivated future teachers...

KeikoS: who are still in training.

KitagawGst7: yes, you can say so.

KeikoS: Anybody supervises?

KitagawGst7: I do.

KeikoS: Any set curriculum to follow?

KitagawGst7: yes

KeikoS: Oh, I see.

KeikoS: so free volunteer class supervised by an experienced teacher

EmiA: I have a question.

KitagawGst7: in the third year, I teach "Japanese Language Teaching Methodology"
"Educational Technology" "Materials Development"

KeikoS: So students in the community are happy and getting what they want

KeikoS: becoming more proficient?

KitagawGst7: and these courses go simultaneously with the free course.

KeikoS: nice

KitagawGst7: after they learn about Needs Analysis or Course Design, Selection of
Teaching Materials,

KitagawGst7: they actually have to do it for the course.

KeikoS: Wow

KitagawGst7: so both the free course and these teacher training courses are synchronized

KitagawGst7: yes, please Emi san

EmiA: So you don't have problems finding people in the community whom your students
teach?

KitagawGst7: not at all,.

KitagawGst7: we usually have 200 applicants,

KeikoS: 200!

EmiA: Who are they, actually.

KitagawGst7: and students select 90 out of them

KitagawGst7: so we have three classes, with 30 students

KitagawGst7: in the beginning.

KeikoS: That is actually a big class.

KitagawGst7: well,

KitagawGst7: after a few weeks later

KitagawGst7: it would be around 10

KeikoS: Humm

KitagawGst7: and these 10 people complete the course

KitagawGst7: and they get certificate of completion.

KeikoS: not credits

KeikoS: . o O (I assume)

EmiA: Do you happen to know what kind of people are they?

KitagawGst7: no, no credit

KitagawGst7: they are univ students from other depts, school teachers, secondary school
students, housewives

KitagawGst7: or company officers.

KeikoS: sounds like you COULD make up an official class

KitagawGst7: but probably a half of them are univ students.

KeikoS: official weekend class

KitagawGst7: well,

KitagawGst7: once you start to charge...

KitagawGst7: no so many people come up.

KeikoS: That is interesting...

KitagawGst7: besides, official faculties teach 15-20 hours a week,

KeikoS looks at her watch

EmiA: How do you select student to make 200 to 90?

KitagawGst7: so if we start to teach, we would have any holiday.

KeikoS grins

KitagawGst7: they have to write short essay why they want to study Japanese.

KitagawGst7: and students select them by themselves.

EmiA: Nice!

KitagawGst7: so our students have chance to teach,

KeikoS: Well, I am really enjoying the discussion, but Kitagawa sensei has been talking for a while.

KeikoS: I wonder how his fingers are.

KitagawGst7: university provides community service,

KitagawGst7: and official faculty members don't have to do anything, except for me...

KitagawGst7: but my interference is not much.

KeikoS: I think it is time for the last question...

KeikoS looks around

KeikoS: Well, if not, I would like to thank Kitagawa sensei...

KeikoS claps loudly

EmiA: I just think your project is wonderful! Arigatoo gozaimashita.

KitagawGst7: thank you very much.

KeikoS: and thank you everybody for your participation.

KeikoS: Again the paper is at

PriscilaA: Thank you, very informative.

KitagawGst7: having a speaker from Turkey in Thanksgiving...

EmiA: Schneider Sensee mo arigatoo gozaimashita.

KitagawGst7: thanks for active participation, Emi san.

EmiA: I learned a lot.

EmiA: Bye for now.

KitagawGst7: thanks for your attention, Priscila san.

PantelisC: when is the next real Japanese lesson?

KitagawGst7: from next weekend.

PriscilaA: No, thank you. I had a good time, thanks also to Keiko. You were great!

PriscilaA: Bye now!

KitagawGst7: now we have many people come over to ask about this course.

PantelisC: interesting things but expected something else however I learned things Arigato!

KitagawGst7: the course last for three months.

PantelisC: waves bye

KitagawGst7: ciao.

KitagawGst7: being a speaker is a bit difficult, isn't it? You have to type a lot!! hahaha.

KitagawGst7: Keiko sensei arigatoo gozaimashita.

KitagawGst7: it was a good experience, indeed.