

(Abstract)

Past and Present of Japanese Language Education in France
—Mainly Grenoble University—

Education for Japanese language in France consists of three period.

In the first period where Japan was in a isolation policy, Léon de Rosny studied Japanese language without a teacher under limited text-book and became a teacher at "Ecole impériale et spéciale des langues orientales", at where he edited many text books and reference books.

In the second period, the second world war covered the world resulting in the decline of Japanese language education. However, after the war, Japanese films and novels were introduced in the beginning of 1960's and study of Japanese language was booming again.

In the third period, Japanese economy was extremely expanded throughout overseas since 1980's and Japanese Yen Rate went up so as to be esteemed international status. This situation is still continuing up to the present. Since 1980, that is, in the third period, many schools and special lectures were created not only in Paris but local cities.

Under these circumstances, I was engaged in Japanese language education as a foreign lecturer for one year since October 1993 at Grenoble University in France. Japanese language lectureship in this university was created in 1986 and since then, the language was mastered as a compulsory subject or an optional subject, and lifelong subject according to student's intention. Since 1990, students can acquire

"Diplôme de langue japonaise" for 2 years and "Diplôme de langue et civilisation japonaises" for 4 years, though not national license. Since 1992, the professor's chair of Japanese language was created. Taking this opportunity, a French teacher began to give lecture and a new course of study "LEA" (Langues Etrangères Appliquées) where students could study Japanese and English was created when I arrived there. The new course, however, could not afford teachers and budget, and was seemed to be in groping, though students welcomed LEA.

I sent a questionnaire to Japanese language studying students to obtain informations about Japanese language, motive of studying the language, lecture of the language in Grenoble and other university.

From the answer, I found that many students were interested in curious language and culture differing to Europe so-called exoticism. But, on the contrary, they also evaluated that usability of Japanese language was helpful to work and recruit. That is, they had the two contravertial motives.

Additionally, they had less opportunities to contact Japanese people and to speak Japanese language outside school in Grenoble compared with in Paris, and also it was difficult to obtain Japanese reference books, dictionaries and any other informations. These are the general and common problems in local cities. As to teachers, it was pointed out that very few teacher was well-trained in Japanese-language education. It is the most important matter solving these problems satisfying student's requirement that method of foreign language education and Japanese language text book for French teacher must be renovated. Moreover, the close cooperation of specially trained Japanese teacher and domestic French teacher is important.