

# **A Qualitative Study on the Comprehension of Sino-Vietnamese Words among Native Vietnamese Speakers: Re-Examining Their Availability for Japanese Vocabulary Acquisition**

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## **Abstract**

This study investigates native Vietnamese speakers' comprehension of Sino-Vietnamese words and re-evaluates their applicability to Japanese language learning. We conducted a survey on the familiarity of 764 Sino-Vietnamese words with the highest semantic correspondence to Japanese, followed by a semantic reproduction survey of 152 words representing the top and bottom 10% of familiarity rankings. Through an analysis by bilingual researchers proficient in Japanese and Vietnamese, it was found that certain high-familiarity and low-familiarity words exhibited semantic deviations or entirely different meanings compared to Japanese. These discrepancies were systematic rather than coincidental. The findings revealed that even among the words deemed most useful for Japanese learning, native Vietnamese speakers' familiarity varied. Some high-familiarity words showed semantic inconsistencies with Japanese, while some low-familiarity words were not understood at all. These results suggest that dictionary-based semantic alignment alone is insufficient for determining the utility of Sino-Vietnamese words in Japanese education. Therefore, a more nuanced approach reflecting learners' linguistic practices is necessary. While Sino-Vietnamese words can aid Japanese learning by offering a shared linguistic foundation, some are challenging to use effectively, while others may lead to misinterpretation. This study underscores the importance of a more detailed analysis of learners' familiarity and semantic understanding in order to optimize the use of Sino-Vietnamese vocabulary in Japanese language education. This highlights the need for selective and careful integration of Sino-Vietnamese words into educational strategies.

**[Keywords]** native Vietnamese speakers, Sino-Vietnamese words, vocabulary acquisition