ASSISTIVE TOOL FOR ASSIMILATING MNEMONICS IN JAPANESE HIRAGANA SYLLABARY

[1]Hana Wahida-Adli, [2] Nor Arzami-Othman & [3] Dr. Naginder Kaur
[1]hlhanalee@gmail.com
[2]arzami@perlis.uitm.edu.my
[3]naginder.kaur@gmail.com

ABSTRACT

University students that learn third language especially Japanese often find it challenging to learn to read it, since it is not their native language. In view of this, the researcher had attempted to introduce ATAMJHS, a new learning alternative intended to attract university students in learning one out of the three components of the Japanese syllabary which is Hiragana. ATAMJHS is a desktop multimedia application used to learn basic Japanese Hiragana along with a third-party application called HP Reveal. This is done by using mnemonics, blending with multimedia elements, such as text, graphics, audio, and video and combining with the use of Tangible User Interface that connect the digital world with the physical world to stimulate multimedia learning and multiple sensory learning. Evaluation had been conducted to one expert with Japanese background and another two experts with multimedia background along with thirty-four university students with or without Japanese education background to evaluate its effectiveness and usability. The pre-test and post-test discovered that ATAMJHS increase Japanese literacy among students either with or without Japanese education background. Meanwhile, usability test revealed that ATAMJHS is usable and accepted as a viable learning alternative for university students. In the future, the research can be further improved by including all Japanese writing system components. Other than that, the research may implement better and clearer sound set along with the ability of data keeping and tracking of progress from the application's previous usage. In conclusion, ATAMJHS would be interesting and valuable for students in improving Japanese reading skills, especially Hiragana, as it is an important part of the Japanese writing system.

Keywords: Multimedia application, Tangible User Interface, HP Reveal, Mnemonics, Japanese Hiragana Syllabary.