Handout 1

To survey participants

Purpose of the survey

This survey is conducted by National Institute for Japanese Language and Linguistics as part of a project (led by Hisashi Noda) to create a Reading Comprehension Corpus. Participants are non-native speakers of Japanese. The purpose of this survey is to record the comments of the participants in their native language about their comprehension process while reading texts written in Japanese. The purpose is not to examine participants' reading abilities.

Advance preparations for the survey

Please select something in Japanese that you want or need to read. You will read that in the survey. Do not choose educational materials for learning Japanese, such as Japanese language text books. As much as possible, select copyright-free materials or materials that can be viewed on websites for an extended period of time. Please consult with the data collector when selecting your reading material.

Here are some examples of the kinds of reading materials you may select.

Flyers and pamphlets, product instructions, bulletins

Emails and websites

Newspapers, books, academic papers

When you have selected your reading material, send it to the data collector or inform the data collector of what kind of material you have chosen. Also, remember that the day of the survey will be the first time you read this material, so please do not read it before then.

The data-collector will send you a "Survey Participation Consent Form" and a "Participant Background Questionnaire" in advance. Please sign the "Survey Participation Consent Form" and fill out the required information on the "Participant Background Questionnaire".

Survey procedure

Read the reading material you have selected in the way you usually read, talking little by little in your native language about how you comprehend the meaning of the words and sentences. Use your dictionary or computer in the same way that you usually use them when reading.

Talk not only about the things you understand, but also about the kinds of things you think about while reading. When reading, talk just as you think about your guesses, things you do not understand or are undecided about, changes to your interpretations, and so on.

The data collector will ask you about the contents of the reading material, so please answer the questions.

Everything said during the survey will be recorded.

What to bring on the day of the survey
Please bring the following items with you on the day of the survey.

The dictionaries, computer, etc. that you usually use (you will use them when looking up words)

The signed "Survey Participation Consent Form"

The "Participant Background Questionnaire" with all the required information filled out

Contact

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