

To interpreters

- Purpose of the survey

This survey is conducted 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 the survey is to record the comments of participants in their native languages about their comprehension process while reading texts written in Japanese.

- Survey method

Before the day of the survey, the participants, who are non-native speakers of Japanese, will select something in Japanese that they want or need to read.

During the survey, participants will read in the way they usually read, talking little by little in their native language about how they comprehend the meaning of the words and sentences. They will use their dictionaries or computers in the same way that they usually use them when reading.

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

The data collector will ask a participant some questions, which the participant will answer, when the data collector is confirming parts of the material to which the participant has not referred, as well as in cases where, when listening to a participant's comments, it is not clear to the data collector what kind of meaning the participant has inferred from the material.

Comments by the data collector and the participants which are translated into Japanese will be published as corpus data. The contents of the interpreter's translations will not be published. However, if a discussion between the data collector and a participant cannot be clearly understood without publishing the contents of interpreter's translation, that part only will be published.

- Contents and method of interpretation

Please translate all comments by the data collector and the participants during the survey almost simultaneously. When you ask a question to check the intention of a participant's comment, you should also translate that discussion.

- Points to note when interpreting

Please note the following points when interpreting.

(1) Do not provide a free translation, but only translate exactly what participants say

Please do not freely translate what participants say. In order that participants'

comprehension processes can be understood “as is”, translate exactly what they say.

(2) Translate everything, including when the participants are talking to themselves

Please translate everything participants say, including when they are talking to themselves or correcting themselves. Translate when they are thinking aloud (“Well, I’m not really sure”) and correcting themselves (“Nippon Television is a company that makes TVs. No, wait - it’s a company that makes TV programs”).

(3) When the data collector points out a word in the middle of a sentence, you should do the same.

When referring to a word in a sentence that a participant is reading, saying that word aloud in Japanese might help the participant to understand it. In order to avoid this situation, the data collector will point out the word without saying it aloud, so please do the same.

(4) Do not answer participants’ questions about the content of the text

If a participant asks you a question about the pronunciation of a Chinese character or requests that you check the content of the text, please do not answer their questions.

(5) Do not affect the survey

Please be careful not to affect the survey with your comments or behavior. For example, do not say anything that could be a hint about the answer to a question by the data collector. When a participant makes a mistake, do not react in such a way as to make them aware that they have made a mistake.

(6) Translate while keeping the overall situation in mind

Please be aware of the timing of comments between the data collector and the participant in order not to interrupt their discussions and, as much as possible, do not overlap.

(7) Take a break if you are tired

If you are tired, please feel free to notify us that you want to take a break.

● Advance preparations for the survey

Before the day of the survey, the data collector will explain to you about the survey method. Please watch the sample video for participants, ask questions to the data collector, and make sure you thoroughly understand the survey method.

When explaining the survey method, the data collector will send you the materials that will be read in the survey. Later on, the data collector will explain to you what questions they may ask the participant and the intention behind the questions, so please review the material thoroughly in advance. If there are words which you do not know how to translate into your target language, please study them before the day of the survey.

If there is anything you do not understand about the survey method, please ask the data collector.

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