

# What's New?

Niihama City

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謹 賀 新 年



## My Journey on Studying Japanese

By Michael Susanto Slamet

Sometimes people tell me that my Japanese is good. And every time that happens, I always answer them:” I watch too much Anime.”

I have always liked watching anime from about ten years ago. At first, I always enjoyed watching the all-time popular ‘Doraemon’ or ‘Dragon Ball’ every Sunday morning on TV. While recently, I like to watch ‘Ika Musume (イカ娘)’ or ‘The world God only knows (神のみぞ知る世界)’ , so I watch them every week.

Leaving the reasons I like watching anime aside, this hobby of mine really has a major effect on my Japanese skills, especially listening and pronunciation. I’ve watched a lot of animes even before I came to Japan. My mum, who saw that my hobby has a good effect, bought me many anime DVDs. This enabled me to hear a lot of Japanese conversations and songs. And so, by watching English- subtitled Japanese anime, I can feel that little by little, I began to understand the words, pronunciations, and grammar.

However, it was certain that you can't learn to speak fluently just by watching anime DVDs. So, I started learning Japanese as extracurricular activity for 2 years when I was in high school 5 years ago. And then when my study abroad to Japan was decided, I started going to the library of the Japan Embassy to read Japanese mangas, while holding a dictionary, to study kanji from it. Of course, I also read normal Japanese textbooks, too, a little.  
(笑)

But, when I came to Japan and study at a real Japanese language school, I realized that the Japanese I instinctively learned until then was still very far from good. I found myself discovering a lot of mistakes in my Japanese. Still, this doesn't mean that all my efforts until then was a waste. Thanks to my being familiar with anime, my Japanese study after that made a rapid progress. As a result, after I came to Niihama, I can even speak Japanese properly with my friends every day. And as a side effect, even my monologue is in Japanese now. (笑)

But still, only with Japanese written in those textbooks, I felt that I couldn't adapt myself to the Japanese young people (my fellow students) use. So, once again, I moved from textbooks, back to anime. Watching the same anime with the Japanese I studied from textbooks felt like a new experience. The things that I didn't understand or what I misunderstood before now became very clear to me.

Furthermore, ever since I came to Japan, I watched not only anime, but also variety shows and other stuff. This made me learn Japanese humor such as boke-tsukkomi (ボケ—突っ込み), ippatsu gyagu (一発ギャグ), etc. I felt that this made my Japanese skills a level higher than before. I also plan to start reading short novels, to improve my vocabulary.

I entered Japanese language study through anime, manga and game, learned through textbooks, went back to anime, advanced to variety shows and dramas, improving my Japanese in different places. In Japanese, there is a saying:”好きこそものの上手なれ。”,

meaning:” We tend to be good at things we like.” As in Indonesia, we have a saying:”Tak kenal maka tak sayang,” which means:”Not knowing means not loving.” I think that to like or to have curiosity in things is the key in learning something. So, why not try finding something about the Japanese culture that you might like, and start studying Japanese from that point? I’m sure that it can give you a great motivation to learn! Remember, a journey can only start when the adventurer makes his first step.

> Michael Susanto Slamet, from Indonesia.

Niihama College of Technology, Electric and Information Engineering Department 4<sup>th</sup> year student.

A not-so-normal foreign student who loves martial arts(3<sup>rd</sup> kyu Taekwon-Do & 1<sup>st</sup> dan Kendo), karaoke, and anime.

*~Humans do weird things, but that’s what makes us humans~*



## 1)Exhibitions at the lobby of the City Office;

**Jan.4-14.**

Photos of Niihama TAIKO Festival.

Tel 32-4028

**Jan.24- Feb.4**

Model trains of free gauge.

Tel 65-1261

## 2)Science Show

**“ A strange world of electricity and magnetism”**

Until Jan.30

In the science technology hall on the 3rd floor of Ehime Prefectural Science Museum

Tel 40-4100

## Household Fire Alarm – it is Obligatory to Install by May 31, 2011.

( From Niihama Shisei Dayori, Nov. 2010 issue )

1. According to the law, every household is obliged to install household fire alarms before May 31, 2011.

2. Why is it obligatory to install fire alarms?

\* the rapid increase of deaths due to house fires.

\* a further increase in the number of deaths is expected amid the aging population.

\* a major cause of death in fires is failure to escape from the fire.

As the situation stands, there's an increased risk of fatalities due to lack of awareness of fires while sleeping.

As a trump-card measure to protect people from deadly house fires, the installation of household fire alarms has been specified as an obligatory requirement by law.

3. Where to install and where to purchase fire alarms?

Where to install fire alarms?

\* Bedrooms used daily, including children's and elderly people's bedrooms if used daily.

\* Staircases where bedrooms are on the second floor of a home.

Where bedrooms are on the first floor only, no fire alarm installation is necessary in the staircase.

Where to purchase?

\* Household electric appliance stores

\* Home centers

\* Electric appliance stores

It is recommended to purchase products bearing the "NS mark", approved by the Japan Fire Certification Society.



## People watching on trains

( From the Ashahi Shimbun 2010/11/2)

Someone once said, "The train is an excellent place for people watching as it allows us to see a perfect cross section of the present society." I took a train early one morning and found two middle-aged office workers sleeping in front of me. Looking around, I saw many other people dozing, too. I once heard a non-Japanese person saying, "Why do so many Japanese people sleep on the train?" "It is like telling someone to steal anything they want from you!" said the man seriously. Some data says that more than 60% of the Japanese people take pride in the safety of their country. Japan may be a relatively safe country compared with other countries but what are some of the reasons for this mass drowsiness? One of them is that a lot of people spend a long time commuting every day. It takes an average Japanese worker 50 minutes to commute to work, while an Englishman spends 39 minutes and a German 36 minutes commuting. Another major reason may also be the long working hours in Japan.

Many people use the time to check their cell phones. As soon as they sit down, they take out their cell phones ~ some read the news on the Internet, others are absorbed in texting or games, while some of them look addicted to using cell phones and appear restless when they don't have their cell phones in their hands. More than half of the passengers were using cell phones. On the other hand, I was surprised to see so few people reading magazines.

No wonder the printing industry has been suffering badly from the recession since its peak back in 1997.

Besides the decline in magazines the many empty spaces on advertising boards also added to the feeling that we really are deep in a recession. The next day I got on the train after the rush hours of the morning's commute, expecting there would be more empty seats but it was 70% filled with the elderly. The rapidly aging society and Japan's declining birth rate are both becoming features of the present age we live in.

# MOVIE



## TOHO CINEMAS Niihama (AEON Shopping Center)

November 19 ~	Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows: Part 1		English/Dubbed
December 10 ~	Robin Hood		English
December 13 ~	Tron : Legacy	3D	English/Dubbed
December 18 ~	Shrek Forever After	3D	Dubbed
December 25 ~	Shrek Forever After	2D	Dubbed
January 7 ~	Unstoppable		English
January 15 ~	Social Network		English
January 22 ~	Green Hornet		English

Information Service

Internet: <http://niihama-aeonmall.com>

Tape (24 hrs): 0897-35-3322 (in Japanese)

あけましておめでとう  
おめでとうございます  
今年もよろしく  
おねがいいたします。



<Contributed by Adam Schartup>

SGG would welcome any suggestions, questions or ideas for monthly articles.

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\* The editors for this month are XXXX & XXXX

# ONE POINT JAPANESE

## いろいろな“もう” No.2

しんねんかい  
(新年会で) (At the New Years party)

- A : Cさん、なかなか来ませんね。  
C-san, nakanaka kimasen ne.  
(C is really late!)
- B : 時間もきたし、もう始めましょうか。  
Jikan mo kitashi, mō hajimemashō ka.  
(It is time, so shall we begin now?)
- D : もう来ると思うので、もう少し待ってみませんか。  
Mō kuru to omou node, mō sukoshi matte mimasen ka.  
(I think C will come soon, so why don't we wait just a little longer?)

- A : ごちそうさま。  
Gochisōsama.  
(Thank you. That was delicious.)
- B : えっ? もう終わったんですか。  
Ee? Mō owattandesu ka.  
(What? Are you done already?)
- A : お正月に食べ過ぎたので、ダイエットしているんです。  
Oshōgatsu ni tabesugita node, daietto shiteirun desu.  
(I overate during the New Year holiday, so I'm on a diet now.)
- B : 残念ですね。ケーキもあるんですが・・・  
Zannendesu ne. Kēki mo arun desu ga...  
(That's too bad! There's cake...)
- A : えっ? ケーキ? 食べます、食べます。  
Ee? Kēki? Tabemasu, tabemasu.  
(What? Cake? OK. I'll eat. I'll eat.)
- B : えー! ダイエット、もうやめるんですか。  
Ee! Daietto, mō yamerundesu ka.  
(Oh, no! Are you going to quit your diet already?)
- A : いいえ、あしたからまた始めることにします。  
Iie, ashita kara mata hajimeru koto ni shimasu.  
(No, I'll start dieting again tomorrow.)

< by Niihama Nihongo no Kai >

NNK also provides Japanese lessons for foreigners living in Niihama.

Feel free to contact us at ~Tel : 0897-34-3025 (Manami Miki).

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