JPN 330
LINGUISTIC ANALYSIS OF MANGA & ANIME

Fall 2024
INSTRUCTOR
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PREREQUISITE
JPN 202 or equivalent; or instructor consent.

# OF CREDITS AWARDED
3 credits

COURSE DESCRIPTION
Japanese manga and anime—which have gained global popularity over the past decades—are known to have distinctive artistic styles, covering a wide range of story genres and topics (e.g., shonen, shojo, BL, action, SF, historical, satirical, etc.). While visual and story aspects of manga/anime are often highlighted in public discourse, the language used in manga/anime receive scant attention. How real is the language used in manga/anime? What are interesting linguistic phenomena observed in manga/anime? When manga/anime are translated into other languages, are all the nuances in the original language kept in translation? To address these questions, this course introduces students to basic linguistic concepts and tools that can be used to analyze the language of manga/anime. More specifically, the course covers different types of nonstandard varieties of Japanese, including gendered speech, dialects, sociolects, idiolects, slang and profanity, and role language, as well as other linguistic phenomena observed in fictional work, such as onomatopoeia, ateji (special use of kanji characters), and gairaigo (loanwords). While the primary focus is placed on manga and anime, other types of fictional media sources, including novels and movies, will also be introduced and discussed in class. In addition to research articles on Japanese fictional work, students will also engage in hands-on analysis activities of actual manga/anime, translation exercises, and a research project, using a corpus technology and a survey/interview method. Through these assignments, this course aims to cultivate students’ further understanding of Japanese language.

STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES
Upon successful completion of the course, students should be able to:
1. Comprehend and use a wide range of linguistic concepts, such as indexicality, contextualization, and intertextuality.
2. Develop familiarity with existing linguistic research on Japanese fictional work, including manga, anime, novels, and films.
3. Critically analyze the language of Japanese fictional work, including manga, anime, novels, and films.
4. Carry out a research-based project on a topic of interest, using a corpus technology and/or a survey/interview method.

In addition, the following Study Abroad Center Course Objectives apply to this course:

5. Demonstrate awareness of own cultural values and biases and how these impact their ability to work with others.

6. Demonstrate knowledge of diversity with a focus on the population or topic of interest in the specific Study Abroad program.

7. Communicate appropriately and effectively with diverse individuals and groups.

8. Demonstrate an increased capacity to analyze issues with appreciation for disparate viewpoints.

COURSE GRADE

Reading Responses and Class Participation (SLO#1, 2, 5, 7)................................. 20%
Assignments................................................................. 40%
  • Analysis activity (SLO#3, 8)
  • Translation exercise (SLO#3, 8)
  • Corpus practice (SLO#3, 8)
  • Interview practice (SLO# 7, 8)

Final Project (SLO#1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8).................................................... 40%
  • Data collection
  • Analysis
  • Presentation
  • Paper

GRADE DISTRIBUTION

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<tr>
<th>Grade</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
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<tr>
<td>A+</td>
<td>97.0% or above</td>
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<tr>
<td>A</td>
<td>93.0 – 96.9%</td>
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<td>A-</td>
<td>90.0 – 92.9%</td>
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<tr>
<td>B+</td>
<td>87.0 – 89.9%</td>
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<td>B</td>
<td>83.0 – 86.9%</td>
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<tr>
<td>B-</td>
<td>80.0 – 82.9%</td>
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<tr>
<td>C+</td>
<td>77.0 – 79.9%</td>
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<tr>
<td>C</td>
<td>73.0 – 76.9%</td>
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<tr>
<td>C-</td>
<td>70.0 – 72.9%</td>
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<tr>
<td>F</td>
<td>59.9% and below</td>
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REQUIRED TEXTS/MATERIALS

All the required texts and materials will be made available on the course management site.

SCHEDULE OF TOPICS

Week 1: Introduction to linguistic analysis
Week 2: Linguistic varieties of Japanese
Week 3: Gender and sexuality
Week 4: Regional dialects
Week 5: Ainu
Week 6: Idiolects and colloquialism
Week 7: Portrayal of foreigners in manga/anime
Week 8: Role language vs. sociolects
Week 9: Gairaigo and onomatopoeia
Week 10: Ateji and special character use
Week 11: Intertextualities  
Week 12: Translation of fictional work  
Week 13: Corpus technology and usage-based analysis of manga/anime language  
Week 14: Interview method and Japanese perceptions of role language  
Week 15: Final project presentation

COURSE POLICY

a) **Attendance**  
   This course will be delivered in the in-person format. Students are required to be present and engage in discussions in each class meeting.

b) **Reading and Reading Responses**  
   Regular class attendance with readings in hand (either print outs or reliable e-versions on a laptop computer/tablet, not your smartphones) is mandatory. Students are expected to read assigned texts before class and post at least 3 comments/questions to “Perusall” by 10:00 pm before each class.

c) **Informed Participation**  
   Students are expected to contribute to the class discussion by asking questions, making comments, bringing additional information, etc. They are also expected to actively participate in and contribute to group activities.

d) **Homework Assignments**  
   Various assignments (e.g., analysis) are given to facilitate students’ understanding of materials. Students are expected to complete and submit these assignments by specified due times/dates.

e) **Final Paper and Presentation**  
   In a group of three, students will be conducting a research project on a topic of their interest, using a corpus technology and/or a survey/interview method. For the corpus research, students should create a database on their own and analyze particular aspects of language use using the corpus. For the survey/interview research, students should come up with survey/interview questions and conduct perceptual analysis of fictional language use. Research topics must be aligned with the course objectives (i.e., linguistic issues surrounding fictional work). Students will summarize their research in a written report and share the findings in an oral presentation. Details will be announced in class.

ASSIGNED READINGS (TENTATIVE)

**Week 1**  
What is linguistics? What do we study?  
TBD

**Week 2**  
Linguistic varieties of Japanese: An overview  
Week 3 Gender and sexuality

Week 4 Regional dialects

Week 5 Ainu

Week 6 Idiolects and colloquialism

Week 7 Portrayal of foreigners

Week 8 Stereotyping: Role language vs. sociolects
Week 9 Gairaigo and onomatopoeia


Week 10 Ateji and special character use

Week 11 Intertextualities

Week 12 Translation of fictional works into English

Week 13 Corpus analysis
TBD

Week 14 Survey and interview method
TBD

Week 15 Final project presentations
*In addition to these academic articles, students will be assigned to read/watch manga/anime in the original Japanese

**ASSESSMENT RUBRIC FOR THE FINAL PROJECT**

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<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>4 Excellent</th>
<th>3 Satisfactory</th>
<th>2 Acceptable</th>
<th>1 Unsatisfactory</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Mastery of linguistic concepts (SLO#1)</td>
<td>Clear evidence of mastery</td>
<td>Sufficient mention/use of linguistic concepts</td>
<td>Only marginal mention/use of linguistic concepts</td>
<td>No mention/use of linguistic concepts</td>
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<tr>
<td>Reference to the existing research (SLO#2)</td>
<td>More than five references are cited</td>
<td>More than three references are cited</td>
<td>1-2 references are cited</td>
<td>No reference is cited</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Quality of research design (SLO#4)</td>
<td>Very effective and innovative research design</td>
<td>Appropriate research design</td>
<td>Minor changes are required</td>
<td>Major changes are required</td>
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<tr>
<td>Quality of analysis (SLO#3)</td>
<td>Accurate and convincing analysis</td>
<td>Analysis is mostly accurate but some parts are not convincing</td>
<td>There are some inaccurate parts in analysis</td>
<td>Major issues with accuracy</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Quality of arguments/discussion (SLO#5, 6, 8)</td>
<td>Abundant display of awareness toward diverse, disparate viewpoints and issues involved</td>
<td>Some display of awareness toward diverse, disparate viewpoints and issues involved</td>
<td>Insufficient display of awareness toward diverse, disparate viewpoints and issues involved</td>
<td>No display of awareness toward diverse, disparate viewpoints and issues involved</td>
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<td>Process of research collaboration (SLO#7)</td>
<td>Research process, including communication with team members, was collaborative</td>
<td>Research process, including communication with team members, lacked collaboration</td>
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