

THE JAPANESE UNDERSTANDING ON NEW WORDS WITH SUFFIX *-TEKI* ACROSS GENERATIONS

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ABSTRACT

The research attempted to portray the language dynamic on using the suffix -teki among Japanese based on old and young generations as reflected by age. Data were collected by using questionnaires distributed to the Japanese native speakers. New words were responded to as understandable, doubtful, and difficult. Descriptive and inferential statistical analyses were used in order to find out the results. For both the young and old generations, the stem words from Kango were the easiest to understand, yet, the most difficult words were groups of Gairaigo, Wago, and Konshugo. A significant difference was found between the age groups. The old generation expressed more doubt on new foreign words than the young one only in using -teki for Gairaigo word group. It is concluded that some meanings of words with suffixes are understood across young and old generations. However, the development of technology and globalization may impact some doubtful responses that differentiate between these two generations.

Keywords: new word understanding, Japanese suffix *-teki*, Japanese generations

INTRODUCTION

Language and culture have various relations of meaning and interpretation according to the content of its discussion (Sutjiati & Rasiban, 2018). Some people view both as being subordinate, where the language is part of the culture. However, others see it as having a coordinative relation, considering language and culture as equal and equivalent. Another opinion places the two as important components that interact in society. The research considers all three types of relationships by raising the case of a suffix in Japanese from the lens of native speakers of different generations, i.e., young and old.

A word is a part of language as well as a small unit of a sentence. Through a word, communication between certain language users can be established. There are several ways of forming a word, and one of them is through giving suffixes. Suffix gives a certain meaning to the created word. The suffix is one of the main components in almost all languages. For Japanese itself, there are various prefixes and suffixes with diverse functions. One example is the suffix *-teki*

that has a variety of definitions (Otsuka, 2019). A suffix *-teki* could define ‘like’, ‘has the characteristics of’, or ‘related to’ the stem word (Mochizuki, 2010; Takahashi, 2005). The newly created words from *-teki* itself would always be classified as an adjective-noun (Jin, 2012; Yashima, 2019).

The suffix *-teki* is unique in many ways with unusual characteristics compared to other suffixes in general. A suffix usually has a restriction for the stem words, only permit an adjective, for example, but for *-teki*, various kinds of nouns, from *Kango*, *Wago*, *Gairaigo*, to sentences are possible (Endō, 1984; Takahashi, 2005). Thus, this suffix has been widely known to easily create new words (Mochizuki, 2010; Yashima, 2019). Young Japanese started this trend by the year 2000, when they combined a noun *watashi* ‘I’ with *-teki* to create a totally new Japanese word *watashi-teki* ‘related to me/me-like’, often in expressing self-opinion without considering the correctness of Japanese grammar (Harada, 2017; Mochizuki, 2010). However, it is sometimes redundant for an adjective to be a stem word for *-teki* because the result would be another adjective-noun unless the adjective stem word

itself has another characteristic of a noun (Takahashi, 2005).

Japanese vocabulary classification based on its origin is called *Goshu*. It consists of four types, namely, *Kango*, *Wago*, *Gairaigo*, and *Konshugo* (Harada, 2016; Kaji, 2018; Kenki, 2018; Kondō, 2017; Ogura, 2017). *Kango* is a Japanese vocabulary derived from Chinese and is generally written using Japanese Kanji. *Wago* is an authentic Japanese vocabulary created without the influence of a foreign language. *Gairaigo* is a vocabulary formed from foreign languages, except Chinese. *Gairaigo* can be formed from the uptake of English or other foreign languages. *Konshugo* is a vocabulary formed from the combination of the other three *Goshu*, such as the merger of *Wago* and *Kango*, *Kango* and *Gairaigo*, or *Wago* and *Gairaigo*. These four kinds of *Goshu* are all acceptable as the stem word for *-teki* (Jin, 2012; Takahashi, 2005).

Studies on *-teki*, have been done in Japan for a long time ago. The first was done by Endō in 1984, who looked for examples of new words suffixed *-teki* in various written media, such as newspapers, magazines, and essays. His findings were then matched with three Japanese dictionaries, and among the words, only the vocabulary found in all three dictionaries was examined. The aim was to find vocabulary acknowledged in the dictionary and lessen the number of Japanese language learners' errors from Chinese language background. For suffix *-teki* is not used only in Japanese, but also in Chinese, yet with a different pronunciation. It is revealed that some vocabularies are not found suffixed *-teki*, and those are semantically classified as words with the meaning of social statuses, such as family relations, and young and old (Endō, 1984). Even though he did not examine *Goshu* as the stem words, Endō (1984) found in newspapers, magazines, and essays that *Kango*, *Gairaigo*, phrases, sentences, and even proverbs could have suffixed *-teki*.

Endō (1984) is not the only researcher compared *-teki* in written media. Jin (2012) has also conducted a study on *-teki* but by using the internet as the data source. He has searched for examples of sentences suffixed *-teki*, then compared it with vocabularies suffixed *-teki na* (the latter is commonly used by the young Japanese). Similar to Endō (1984), Jin (2012) does not specifically examine *Goshu* suffixed *-teki*, but he has found various types of vocabulary as stem words for *-teki*, ranging from *Goshu* (*Kango*, *Wago*, *Gairaigo*, and *Konshugo*) to words, phrases, and even sentences.

In the last five years, there has been an increasing number of studies examining the suffix *-teki* (Harada, 2015, 2016, 2017; Kaji, 2018; Kenki, 2018; Otsuka, 2019; Wang, 2016; Yashima, 2019). Some of them specifically analyzed *-teki* and *-teki na*, which have different nuance. Although both used *-teki*, the usage of *-teki na* softens the impression of the words spoken (Jin, 2012). Also, *-teki na* is followed by more variety of *Goshu*, in comparison to *-teki* (Harada, 2015). Kenki (2018) has analyzed *Goshu* as the stem words for

-teki, together with other eight suffixes. For *-teki*, the dominant stem words are *Kango*. On the other hand, there is only one or no *Wago*, *Gairaigo*, and *Konshugo* has a suffix *-teki* (Kenki, 2018).

Kagoshima in Otsuka (2019) has discussed the vocabulary suffixed *-teki* and compared its acceptance between the Japanese junior and senior high school students. Comparisons are per some words, so it is not a representative result for all words suffixed *-teki*. Interestingly, although *-teki* is known to easily create new vocabularies, not all the newly created words are equally accepted by all Japanese native speakers. Some words like *ippanteki* are accepted by the majority, but most of them view *mokuhyōteki* as unacceptable, despite both *ippan* and *mokuhyō* are *Kango*. New words created by *-teki* have been shown to have increased both in daily usage and in official written media like Japanese dictionaries (Wang, 2016). However, it is important to note some differences between what is expressed by native speakers with foreigners learning the Japanese language (Mochizuki, 2010). Despite the various perspectives used in studying this suffix have been done, so far, no one has examined how native speakers perceive the new vocabulary created by this suffix with all *Goshu* as the stem words.

The suffix *-teki* is popularized by Japanese young people (Harada, 2017; Mochizuki, 2010). However, the way older Japanese perceive new words created by this suffix, whether they have the same understanding with the young people, has not been studied yet. Following the recent development, the research would like to find out whether Japanese understanding of the stem words combined with *-teki* also varied or not. The difference between this research and previous research is that first, the internet is used to find initial data sources. Second, the research focuses on an understanding based on *Goshu* suffixed *-teki*, which are not much focused in previous studies. The research uses age as an independent variable, considering that this has not been found in previous studies. Therefore, the research tries to answer two main research questions, namely (1) what is the description of the understanding of suffix *-teki* based on *Goshu* as the stem words, and (2) are there any differences in understanding words suffixed *-teki* by the Japanese people based on their age?

In relation to the proposed research questions, the research contains two objectives. The first is to know the description of the suffix *-teki* based on the stem words. The second is to find out the similarities and differences in understanding suffixes *-teki* between the young and the old generation. The research's expected benefits are to help Japanese learners in learning and understanding the suffix *-teki* deeper, viewed from the stem words. Thus, the reader can use this suffix directly in conversation and writing, both when communicating directly with Japanese people or vice versa. It is also enabling the Japanese culture and language observers to choose certain words to be compared with Indonesian.

METHODS

The research is designed through the following steps. First, new words suffixed *-teki* are collected from the internet using the Google search engine. At this stage, the stem words are classified too based on *Goshu*. At first, there are 1.121 words collected. These words are reduced by re-checking the stem words and those new words suffixed *-teki* in the three Japanese dictionaries, namely the *Gyakubikijiten* dictionary, the *Gyakubikijiten* electric dictionary, and the 7th edition of the *Shinmeikai Kokugo Daijiten* dictionary (Yamada et al., 2012) based on two principles. First, if the new word suffixed *-teki* has already appeared on the dictionary, then it would be excluded from the research. Second, whether the stem words are listed in the dictionary. If only one of the principles above applied to the vocabulary, it would be excluded from the research.

From the selection of the initial research, 502 words are used in the research. Those are new vocabularies not available yet in the three Japanese-Japanese vocabularies. Based on the *Goshu*, the entire vocabularies consist of 300 *Kango*, 67 *Wago*, 122 *Gairaigo*, and 13 *Konshugo*. All these vocabularies are used in the questionnaire as the research instruments. The 502 words are divided into eight questionnaire files; each consisted of 61-63 words. Although divided into eight parts, each respondent has to answer all the 502 words. Using a questionnaire is not a new thing for analyzing *-teki*, as Harada (2016) has also used one, except the questions focused more on comparing *-teki* and *-teki na*. The elements in the research questionnaire are basic information about gender, age, vocabulary items (with and without *-teki*) accompanied by three choices for each of the vocabulary (understandable, doubtful, and difficult to understand).

The questionnaires are distributed within the area of Hiroshima University campus in the suburb of Saijō, together with Nishitakaya, and Hiroshima city. Some of the participants answer the 502 words immediately, while some others take it home and return the answers several days later. All participants are given time between two to three weeks to finish their answers. Time is given due to the enormous number of words that have to be answered. All respondents are randomly selected for filling out the instruments. From a total of 60 people, 34 provides the full answers. Thus, only data received from those 34 participants are analyzed. In terms of age, 17 respondents aged 19-30 years (young group) consist of 8 men and 9 women. The remaining 17 respondents are aged 40-80 years, consisting of 7 men and 10 women, and are considered old.

Data collected from the questionnaires are then processed statistically to answer the research questions. The analysis utilized is descriptive and inferential statistics (Field, 2017; Aldrich, 2019). Descriptive analysis is used to describe the understanding of the new vocabularies in this research. At the same time, the inferential statistics of the t-test is used to examine

whether there is a difference in understanding between the young and old groups.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSIONS

The findings are presented in two age groups, namely young (19-30 years old) and old (40-80 years old). Description of *Kango*, *Gairaigo*, *Wago*, and *Konshugo* are presented by looking at each age group in all three categories of understanding. First, the description of understanding *Kango* with the suffix is shown in Figure 1. Overall, the highest average is in *Kango-understandable* answer. Both age groups have an average of 50% and above. The young group has a slightly higher average of 53%, with a 3% average difference from the old group. Next is the *Kango-doubtful* answer. Both groups' ratings are equally below 20%. The old group has a higher average of 17%, while the young group with an average of 13%. The percentages indicate that the two groups do not have sufficiently high doubts when they find the *Kango* suffixed *-teki*.

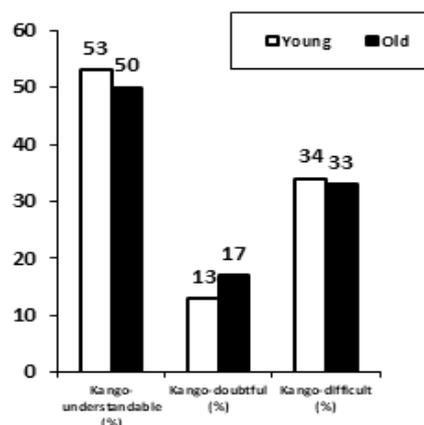


Figure 1 Understanding of *Kango* Suffixed *-teki*

In *Kango-difficult*, the average of the two groups is 33% and 34%, and the young group has an average of 34%. The average *Kango-difficult* is still below the average *Kango-understandable*, but slightly higher than *Kango-doubtful*. There is a tendency of having difficulty understanding *Kango* with *-teki*, but the possibility is still below 50%. Sometimes *Kango* with *-teki* could cause a sense of difficulty for any age group.

In contrast to *Kango*, the understanding of the *Gairaigo* word group that has *-teki* is shown in Figure 2. Overall, the highest average is in the *Gairaigo-difficult* answer. Both the young and old groups have experienced difficulties when dealing with the *Gairaigo* suffixed *-teki*, where the young group appears to have more difficulties (average 58%) than the elderly. In terms of *Gairaigo-understandable* answer, the old group has a higher average of 33%, only 1% difference from the young group. *Gairaigo* originates

from foreign languages, and the number continues to grow as more foreign words enter Japan. In general, the young generation is the one who accepts changes easily, including new foreign vocabularies. However, this data contradicted that general opinion.

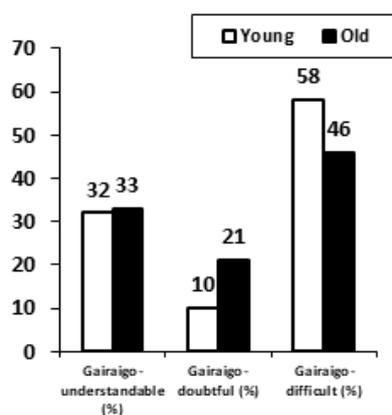


Figure 2 Understanding of *Gairaigo* Suffixed *-teki*

Regarding *Gairaigo-doubtful*, the old group has a higher level of doubt than the young group, as evidenced by an average of 21%. The young group, however, has 10%, and the difference is 11%. Doubts could arise for middle and upper age groups when they encounter new words considered less prevalent in their generation. This is possible because *Gairaigo* is a foreign vocabulary absorbed into Japanese.

The understanding of the *Wago* word group with *-teki* is illustrated in Figure 3.

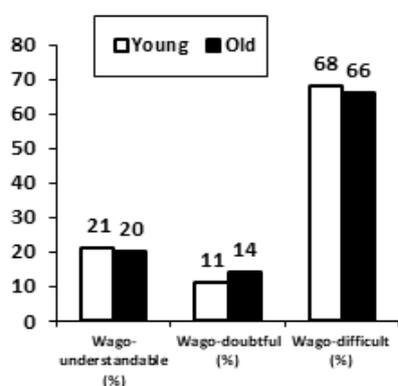


Figure 3 Understanding of *Wago* with *-teki*

Like *Gairaigo*, *Wago*'s highest average also demonstrates in *Wago-difficult* answers. Both groups have experienced similar difficulties, with an average above 50%. Only the young group has a slightly higher average of 68%, and the average difference is only 2%. Regarding *Wago-understandable*, the results show that the understanding level of the two groups is at approximately the same degree, around 20%, the difference is only 1%. Meanwhile, the young group

has a higher average of 21%. For the *Wago-doubtful* answer, the average of the two groups is below 20%. It could be concluded that the tendency of doubtful answers is not too high. The old group has a higher average of 14%, followed by the young group, with an average of 11%.

Figure 4 presents an understanding of *Konshugo* suffixed *-teki* based on the age group. Similar to *Gairaigo* and *Wago*, the highest average is in *Konshugo-difficult* answers with a mean above 50%. The young group seems to have more difficulty with an average of 68%. For *Konshugo-understandable* answer, the old group has a higher average of 26%, only 2% higher than the young group.

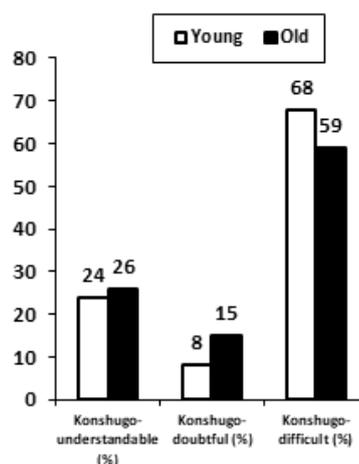


Figure 4 Understanding of *Konshugo* Suffixed *-teki*

Next is *Konshugo-doubtful*. The old group has a higher average of 15% compares to the young group. The average difference is 7%. Of all the *Goshu* word classes, only *Kango* has the highest average of 'understandable' answers. Other word classes, such as *Wago*, *Gairaigo*, and *Konshugo*, actually have the highest average on 'difficult' answers.

The results of inferential data analysis that examined differences between the young and the old generations are summarized and sorted according to the four classes of *Goshu* words. The results of the t-test are summarized in Table 1, which detailed the *Kango*, *Gairaigo*, *Wago*, and *Konshugo*. The t-value proves that the mean data between the two generations do not differ significantly ($p > 0,05$). The same thing happens to the new words of the *Wago*, and *Konshugo* with new words that are easily understood, doubted, or considered difficult to express by the two generations without significant differences.

However, the data in *Gairaigo* show differently. There are a number of words stated to be easily understood accurately by young and old respondents. Likewise, a number of new words are still said to be difficult to understand by both generations. However, in expressing doubts about a number of vocabulary words, statistics reveal significant differences between generations. The t-value of the data also prove that

there is a significant difference ($p = 0,042 < 0,05$) between young and old generation when doubting a number of new vocabulary words. The old group has a higher level of doubt than the young one. This finding might express how dynamic the doubt among both groups of participants.

Table 1 A Summary of T-Test Results

Variable	T-Test	
	T	Sig
<i>Kango-understandable</i>	0,51	0,615
<i>Kango-doubtful</i>	-1,0	0,281
<i>Kango-difficult</i>	0,12	0,904
<i>Garaigo-understandable</i>	-0,20	0,841
<i>Garaigo-doubtful</i>	-2,16*	0,042
<i>Garaigo-difficult</i>	1,16	0,254
<i>Wago-understandable</i>	0,23	0,821
<i>Wago-doubtful</i>	1,07	0,293
<i>Wago-difficult</i>	0,31	0,761
<i>Konshugo-understandable</i>	-0,35	0,728
<i>Konshugo-doubtful</i>	-1,90	0,067
<i>Konshugo-difficult</i>	1,23	0,229

Notes: * Significant difference between generations

The old group ages are ranged between 40-80 years. That said, the suffix *-teki* used today is not based on the correct use of grammar. Initially, it is younger Japanese people who popularized the usage of *-teki* (Harada, 2017; Mochizuki, 2010). Due to the increasing number of users, *-teki* begins to be recognized and used widely. Nonetheless, *-teki* is not a suffix used in the generation of middle to upper age groups. This might be the reason behind the hesitation of the 40-80-years age group in answering. They may have understood the stem word meaning, but because they feel that the new word suffixed *-teki* is not used by people their age, they become doubtful. In addition, it should be noted once again that *Gairaigo* is an uptake of a foreign language. Certainly, the number continues to grow over time. Those who do not master the new vocabulary might find it difficult to understand. This could be why the middle and upper age groups' doubts when facing *Gairaigo* with *-teki*. For example, a word サポーター的 *sapōtāteki* has mean ratings from the young group as 75% difficult, and 12,5% doubtful. However, the old group means ratings for this word are 47,1% doubtful, 29,4% difficult, and 23,5% understandable. *Sapōtā* is a *Gairaigo* word derived from the English vocabulary 'supporter', although it is not clear the possible meaning of this new word suffixed *-teki*. In this case, although the combination of

sapōtā and *-teki* might seem confusing and difficult to understand, the old group prefers to answer 'doubtful' (47,1%) over 'difficult' (29,4%).

The research is begins with the discovery of several Japanese vocabularies that are not well known at the time of collecting data. They appear on the internet but are not necessarily understood in the wider community. It is found no less than 1000 new vocabulary suffixed *-teki*. Although *-teki* is already known for creating new words easily (Yashima, 2019), these results reflect how rapidly new words appear from time to time. The development of any new words could emerge gradually, like *-teki* that created 13 new vocabularies in 1898 to new 450 new words in 2008. All are officially recognized in the Japanese dictionary (Wang, 2016). This number certainly does not include new words developed among daily conversation or written media such as magazines, newspapers, and internet websites. Similar to Japan, Indonesia also has and is experiencing a similar development. In the ongoing third millennium period, with the breakthrough of globalization across the globe, language life can develop even more dynamically and bring several inevitable consequences.

The results of descriptive statistics reveal that related to the inclusion of suffix *-teki* in Japanese. The easily understood vocabularies are created from *Kango* as the stem word, which is an uptake of Chinese. Although this does not seem a novel finding, as Kaji (2018) has already noted, comparing all the *Goshu*, *-teki* is suitable for having *Kango* as stem word, except that the research does not consider age as the variable. Thus, in the research, a similar result is demonstrated by both generations, young and old. Given the historical point of view, some Japanese vocabularies are originated from the influence of its neighbors' cultural environment (Chinese and Korean). Thus, this finding is very reasonable if Japanese speakers maintain and still understand that aspect well. Although some *Kango* is considered difficult to understand when suffixed *-teki*, it might be due to these new words' unfamiliarity. For example, in the research, 100% of the young group regards 紹介的 *shōkaiteki* as 'difficult', while on the other hand, answers in the old group is varied (82,4% 'difficult' and 17,6% 'doubtful'). Nevertheless, both groups view 基礎的 *kisoteki* as 'understandable' (mean above 85%), despite both *shōkai* and *kiso* are both *Kango*. *Shōkai* means 'introduction', and *kiso* means 'foundation'/'basis'. Thus, *kisoteki* is regarded as more familiar than *shōkaiteki* for both groups. *Kango* itself undergoes changes through some Japanese era, in which some become more familiar in the Japanese conversation and some still used in written Japanese (Konno, 2017). Similar to the experience of Indonesia, although it is influenced by various foreign languages, the Malay language (Aziz et al., 2017; Niess, 2016), which is the forerunner of the unifying language, is still used and understood well.

The new words suffixed *-teki* that considered difficult for most native speakers in Japan, both young

and old, mostly have stem words from *Gairaigo*, *Wago*, and *Konshugo*. For example, in *Wago*, there is 全く的 *mattakuteki* that perceived 100% difficult by both the young and old group. *Mattaku* is an adverb that defines ‘completely’, ‘truly’. In *Konshugo*, there is エネルギー面的 *enerugiimenteki* that perceived as difficult by both the young (81,3%) and old group (70,6%) as well. *Enerugiimen* is a combination of *Gairaigo* (*enerugii* means ‘energy’) and *Kango* (*men* means ‘face’/‘surface’). These results are in line with Kenki (2018). These three groups of *Goshu* words reflect absorption words from western languages, current Japanese, and a combination of both. This difficulty may reflect that if something new is not necessarily understood on its own, it still needs to be adjusted and understood gradually. Although young people tend to be divergent or get out of the establishment by using new vocabulary, it is not necessarily immediately well understood by their fellow colleagues. Another possible reason is some words could naturally be accepted as having other suffixes like *-sa*, *-sei*, for example, rather than *-teki* (Kaji, 2018).

Thus, the next question is, if previous research (Kenki, 2018) has already found only *Kango* are mostly suffixed *-teki*, then where from and for what purpose the other *Goshu* has suffixed *-teki* and why those were available on the internet? Like the trend of *watashi-teki* that happened in 2000 (Harada, 2017; Mochizuki, 2010), the young Japanese could have been made, although no evidence has directly stated it.

The significant finding of the research is the doubt in understanding new words absorbed from western languages, especially English. This finding seems to prove language as a mirror of a generation (Severin, 2017). Older users are more hesitant to understand the meaning of new vocabulary than the younger generation. The younger generation’s presence in this research expected to be born in the 1980s-1990s is bringing social change due to the influence of technology access (computers, cell phones, and other similar gadgets) in their lives. Their presence, along with the explosion of digital technology, has been able to make collaboration to care about problems in society. This phenomenon has an impact on how to communicate and speak globally. This finding suggests the same symptoms so that the differences between generation Y (young) and generation X (old) begin to appear. For the next decade, it is estimated that this difference can be increasingly clear and striking.

Language always grows and develops according to the times. It grows and develops if there is a dynamic in its vocabulary and becomes stunted if there is no movement in its vocabulary. Language is like a tree, and leaves are the vocabulary. If the tree grows, of course, there will always be new leaves that grow, and inevitably, there are also yellow leaves that wither and fall. Everything turns, likewise, vocabulary in developing languages. There will always be new vocabulary; there may also be old vocabulary forgotten and not used by the user. That is the life of language. Suffix, too, could undergo changes. An example is

-hashi, a suffix frequently used in the old Japanese, but then declined as lesser people used it (Murayama, 2019). Another example is how handbook changes its content does impact a generation’s understanding of vocabularies (Narikawa, 2017). Some words could be familiar to the older generation, but not for the young group and vice versa. In this case, the suffix *-teki* gets popularized by the younger Japanese generation, is still developing now. However, not all of the new words might be necessarily understood by the older Japanese. For example, findings from Otsuka (2019) that varieties might persist in native Japanese elementary school children’s understanding of vocabularies suffixed *-teki*. The reason is partially that the definition of the suffix *-teki* in their dictionary varies. Some have a full explanation, others only have a simple definition, yet the suffix *-teki* is available in their workbook that sometimes differed from their dictionary (Otsuka, 2019).

Age does play a role in language usage, especially acquiring the native language (Inaba, 2018). In Japanese itself, when teenagers start to become in the twenties to thirties, they start to neglect some of their young people’s language (Bankawa, 2020; Haristiani & Putri, 2018). Although, as they age, the Japanese still consider themselves learning their native language (Kawasaki, 2017). Thus, it is not surprising to find different answers between participants from the same or different age group.

It is important to preserve the usage of *Goshu*. *Kango* is important to know the root of some Japanese words, and *Wago* is essential to know the richness of original Japanese words (Kawauchi, 2016). Although in written media, like magazines, *Kango* becomes lesser found, and *Wago* emerges significantly or vice versa (Kondō, 2019; 2017). Both younger and older generations need to preserve the words by using them in daily conversation or as the written language. The dynamics of language occur everywhere without distinguishing the origin of culture, geographical location, or ethnicity of the speakers (Tajeddin & Ghaffaryan, 2020). In general, the findings of the research reflect the life of a language in one of the East Asian countries that are capable of producing new vocabulary through absorption from outside and within its environment. That indicates that the language is developing and very dynamic.

At present, most languages experience dynamics in the midst of globalization that has plagued various aspects of life (Valdez & Flores, 2019). The dominance of developed industrial countries is enormous in the process of globalization. People can watch entertainment (films, music, and cultural activities) originating from western cultures that are different from eastern cultures, access films or news about world figures, and so on through the media. From these media, foreign lifestyles and cultural values are absorbed into consciousness. In the context of language dynamics, the phenomenon of globalization leads people to various possibilities, extremely positive or extreme negative, or various

variations in their midst. Such contemporary meaning has not yet been the focus of the research.

The globalization era is full of charm and offers a lot of convenience to life, both through mass media such as television, magazines, and online media. In Japanese, too, the increased use of *Gairaigo* cannot be separated from the role of globalization (Raversa & Haristiani, 2020). In addition, *Gairaigo* is often associated with a modern, sophisticated image, so it is not surprising that young people also start using it. When compared with Indonesia in the last decade, regional languages are threatened with extinction (Nurrochsyam, 2015; Sitokdana, Tanone, & Tanaem, 2019). Many factors cause language to become extinct (Sitokdana, Tanone, & Tanaem, 2019), including the factors of globalization and nationalism. The globalization factor is in the form of the threat of displacing the national language by English. Preservation of language and culture is absolutely necessary because the community has the right to preserve and maintain their language and culture. The same symptoms are also present in Japanese culture and language but have not been supported by valid evidence in the research.

The younger generation has a duty to preserve and maintain the use of their language by using it in daily conversation so that the language would not become extinct (Ortega, 2020). However, besides using the correct language, the younger generation tends to act and do something divergent or deviates from publicity and make new breakthroughs. Japan, as one of the developed countries where quite a number of young generation globalized globally, the idea of preserving its own language becomes a unique challenge. The use of suffixes is also appropriate to be taught to Japanese language learners (Harada, 2017). Because these suffixes easily produce new vocabulary, the vocabulary that has been officially recognized should be introduced first to students. The suffix *-teki* can be followed by various modifiers, producing only *-teki*, *-teki na*, *-teki da*, and others (Harada, 2017). This is not easy, but it does not mean impossible because, in reality, the traditional language and culture in Japan are still preserved until today.

CONCLUSIONS

The conclusions are drawn based on three choices, namely understandable, doubtful, and difficult. There are two conclusions drawn from the findings of the research. First, the understanding of both the young and the old generations are high for the *Kango* with *-teki*. The word classes *Gairaigo*, *Wago*, and *Konshugo* that have *-teki* are generally classified as difficult to understand by the native speakers. Second, doubts in understanding the words of *Gairaigo* that generally come from the west show a significant difference between the old and the young people. The young group seems more permissive than old participants.

The findings and discussions of the research imply four suggestions for the future. First, to consider carefully the formalization of vocabulary that has sprung up from time to time. If it meets the rules of the language, it is time to edit and record it into a dictionary that has been circulating in the form of the latest edition. Second, young people who tend to be more progressive and crash into established language structures are commonplace and should be given a place to express and innovate in various forms. Third, for Japanese language learners to be aware of and recognize the dynamics of everyday language that develops and has the opportunity to give a unique nuance in society. Fourth, for future research, the format of it could be replicated for variations in new vocabulary opportunities that are developing with larger samples to reflect more reasonable population parameters with smaller error opportunities. In addition, variations in the meaning of words in terms of expansion vs. narrowing and adaptation vs. amelioration, the effects of globalization, and various effects of the media today might be examined through research as well.

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