

トルンに於ける日本語教育事情

Information about teaching of Japanese in Toruń

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I am physicist, but I have been interested in the Japanese language and Japanese culture since my first visit to Japan, March-June 1975, on invitation of Prof. Makoto Matsumoto of the Kyoto University. I took then my first course of Japanese in Kyoto school of Japanese led by an American mission. After my return to Poland I continued my studies, and especially during my next visits to Japan (together I have been in Japan 6 or 7 times, when we add it will be more than 3 years). To have a permanent motivation I decided to teach elementary Japanese to the students of our University. Regular courses started in 1978 and it was at the beginning 27 students from many faculties, 6 hours a week. Only 4 students finished the courses in that academic year. The next academic year, 1979/80, 22 students started and 5 students finished, etc. The courses were carried out each year, except at the time of my travelling abroad, especially to Japan. In some years I was essentially helped by native Japanese who either stayed in our University or were specially sent for teaching Japanese by JOCV/JICA after our applications through the Japanese Embassy in Warsaw. They were:

- 1) Koji Kobayashi 1982/83, fellowship in law,
- 2) Teruaki Nakagomi 1991/92, fellowship in physics,
- 3) Hiroyuki Honda 1993, JOCV/JICA,
- 4) Hideki Sato 1993-now JOCV/JICA.

Up to 1991 it was impossible to teach more than beginning Japanese of the first course. But in 1991, together with T. Nakagomi, we started also the 2nd course, giving 8 hours a week for the 1st course, and 8 hours a week for the 2nd course. Last year, 1994/95, we had already 3 parallel courses, for beginners, intermediate course, and advanced course, and two groups in the courses for beginners. Next year we plan four parallel levels of teaching. In 1993/94 we had 50 students in two groups for beginners, and of them 23 students finished this course. Last year the figures were similar. Such a great development was possible first of all because of the endeavours of Mr. Sato who is an excellent teacher of Japanese and is working very hard. Great help was also of Mr. Zbigniew Urbalewicz who is our best student after 4 years of studies in our courses and 3

months of intensive course in Japan in the school of JOCV/JICA in Tokyo. Now he helps in teaching, especially kanji and calligraphy (he is an artist graphic by profession). All these courses (together 17 academic years) were held in Department of Practical Study of Foreign Languages (Studium Praktycznej Nauki Języków Obcych) of Nicholas Copernicus University in Toruń.

On January 9, 1995, President of our University, Prof. A. Jamiołkowski, founded in the Faculty of Humanities the institutionalized Workshops in Japanese Language and Culture (Pracownia Języka i Kultury Japońskiej), and then called Prof. Alfred Majewicz of Adam Mickiewicz University in Poznań to head the Workshops as a visiting professor. In the 2nd semester of the academic year 1994/95 the Workshops offered 3 monographic courses to the Faculty:

- 1) A. Majewicz, Languages of the world, 1 hour a week,
- 2) R.S. Ingarden and Y. Uetake, The structure of the Japanese language, 2 hours a week,
- 3) K. Stefański, An outline of the history of Japan, 2 hours a week.

Each course attracted 10-25 students. Especially popular was the third course in which students from the Faculty of History participated.

To complete this picture I have to mention the activity of Polish-Japanese-Italian Scientific Society in Toruń, recently renamed to International Society of Open Systems and Information Dynamics with a subsidiary Polish-Japanese Institute. The Society helped to organize the courses of Japanese, the "Days of Japanese Culture" in Toruń (organized in 1994 and 1995), and other cultural and scientific activities connected with Japan, such as collaboration with Japanese scientists, special seminars and publications. Now Dr. Krzysztof Stefański is Director of Polish-Japanese Institute. He is physicist and Vice-Dean of the Faculty of Physics and Astronomy, but also a great hobbyist of the Japanese history and language.