

Top Ten Translanguaging Tips: Japanese & English

Adjective-Noun Order



Japanese

- All adjectival elements, no matter the length, must precede the noun they modify
- No relative pronouns or clauses

“学校で新しい先生”
(the new in school teacher)

English

- Adjectives precede the noun they modify
- Adjectival relative clauses follow the noun they modify

“The teacher, who is new in school”

Japanese

- Verbs are not modified or inflected for person or number

“彼は文法を学びます”
“文法を勉強しています”
“彼らは文法を勉強します”

English

- Verbs are inflected or modified with an auxiliary verb for person and number

“He studies grammar.”
“I study grammar.”
“They study grammar.”



Verbs: Person & Number



Negation

Japanese

- Negation is formed by adding the negative auxiliary verbs “nai” and “n”
- Affixed after the verb at the end of the utterance

“私は勉強しません”

English

- Negation is formed by an auxiliary/modal verb + not structure prior to the verb

“I do not study.”

Japanese

- Questions are formed by adding the particle か “ka” after the complete sentence

“今日勉強しましたか?”

English

- All question forms utilize subject-verb inversion. Questions are formed: [Question Word] + Aux. Verb + Subject + Verb + other sentence elements, if present

“Did you study today?”



Question Formation



Sentence Order

Japanese

- Utilizes Subject-Object-Verb order
- As long as the verb is placed last, other sentence elements may be reordered as desired

“田中なかさんが今いまから学校がっこうに行く / 行きます。”

English

- Utilizes Subject-Verb-Object order
- Transposed elements must be dependent phrases or clauses

“Mr. Tanaka will go to school from now.”
“From now, Mr. Tanaka will go to school.”

Top Ten Translanguaging Tips



Articles

Japanese

- No articles exist
- If needed, the demonstrative *その*, *sono*, meaning "that/those", may be used for English "the"

"学生は文法を学びます"
"その文法を学ぶ学生"

English

- Specific, countable nouns require the definite article: *the*
- General, plural nouns and noncount nouns do not require articles

"The students study grammar."

Japanese

- Most conjunctions are placed at the end of the 1st clause, prior to the comma between the two clauses

"この本は新しいですが、小さいです。"

English

- Conjunctions are placed at the beginning of the 2nd clause, following the punctuation between the clauses

"This apartment is new, but it is small."



Conjunction Placement



Auxiliary Verbs

Japanese

- Auxiliary verbs are expressed as verbal suffixes or inflections
- Never independent structures

"彼は勉強していた"
"私は英語を勉強しています"

English

- Many verb tenses are expressed in two-part structures of the auxiliary verb, expressing the tense, and another verb, expressing the meaning

"He was studying."
"I am studying English."

Japanese

- Utilizes postpositions, where particles are adjoined to the end of the prior structure word

"図書館の後ろに"

English

- Utilizes prepositions, where small, independent location words are used prior to a nominal phrase

"Behind the library"



Pre- and Postpositions



Future Tense

Japanese

- The future tense is indicated by context and adverbial elements, no conjugation

"放課後にお手伝いします"

English

- The future tenses are formed with the auxiliary verb "will", which precedes the main verb

"I will help you after school tomorrow."

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