

Re: Japanese learning, is anybody as frustrated as me?

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Travers Naran wrote:

>>

>>>*Don't be. I believe it's the easiest language an English speaker can*

>>>*learn. Even easier to learn than the low Dutch and Old & Middle*

>>>*English that modern English evolved from.*

>>

>>*I believe the Dutch is easier to learn than French for native English*

>>*speakers...*

>

>*My mother speaks an off shoot of low Dutch called Afrikaans, and no*

>*matter how many times my family has tried, I just couldn't pick up the*

>*language. And it's the language she spoke most often at home. Yet on*

>*the other hand, she can converse with Dutch people almost fluently. So*

>*my mileage was poor.*

>

There is one (other) phenomenon of learning language. A language which is very similar with, but different from a language you speak well, is very easy to recognize, passively understand, but very difficult to learn to speak "perfectly". For me, it was when I was living in Kyoto, that I can understand near 100% of Kyoto dialect, but speaking 100% like people there was impossible. I learned French and Spanish, and so I can understand most of Italian when I hear, but when I try to speak it, my mind starts to think in Spanish then I can't speak proper Italian.

(unless/until I learn it properly, of course).

If you put the same effort/energy to learn French and Dutch, I'd bet you master the Dutch faster and easier. That's what I'm saying.

>

>>>*whole syllabells this way. I suspect the way to learn is memorizing*

>>>*LOTS and LOTS of French sentences and dialogs so that way it becomes*

>>>*easier for your brain to recognize the patterns.*

>>

>>*This is the way to learn "any" language! :)*

sci.lang.japan: Re: Japanese learning, is anybody as frustrated as me?

>
>
> *Well, yes you could. But you could also cut down a tree with a sledge
> hammer.*
>

I don't know what you want to say with it. Learning the phrases, sentences, typical dialogs, are the way to learn "any" language, it's like a saw to cutting a tree, not a sledge hammer.

>
>>>*Heheh. Mine was trying to pronounce "rien" to a French waiter and him
>>>giving me ever more anxious and confused looks.*
>>
>>*Probably he heard you that you were ordering him "urin". 8)*
>
>
> *Haha! You know, that's probably what happened. "REEE-en". And we
> were talking about beer at that moment...*
> *(The closest proper pronunciation, I believe, would be ryen)*
>

Maybe you didn't get my point. Pronunciation of 'r' in French and English are so different, (well, in North and South of France are already so different ;) and English 'r' tends to (or always?) vocalise before you start to roll your tongue, and it may sound like saying 'u' for (Northern) French people.

You thought saying /ryen/ and it may sound to him as /uryen/.

(Riksha drivers in Yokohama, after Japan opened its ports to foreigners, learned English words "phonetically", just as they hear, and they registered the English word "red" as /ure/. Probably it still holds that Japanese boys & girls, who learned to say /ur/ to pronounce 'r' in English may be heard easier by native speakers of English...)

muchan