

## Re: Need help choosing a novel to read

**Source:** <http://sci.tech-archive.net/Archive/sci.lang.japan/2005-01/0555.html>

---

**From:** necoandjeff (*spam\_at\_schrepfer.com*)

**Date:** 01/14/05

Date: Fri, 14 Jan 2005 04:21:03 GMT

Kevin Gowen wrote:

> *necoandjeff* wrote:

>> *Kevin Gowen* wrote:

>>

>>> *necoandjeff* wrote:

>>>

>>>> *Kevin Gowen* wrote:

>>>>

>>>>

>>>>> *Gavin Steyn* wrote:

>>>>>

>>>>>

>>>>>> *Since teaching myself Japanese*

>>>>>>

>>>>>> *No, you aren't.*

>>>>>

>>>>>

>>>>> *As a fellow dokukgakuer, I wonder if you might clarify what you*

>>>>> *mean here Kevin.*

>>>

>>> *You've never had any guidance whatsoever?*

>>

>>

>> *From a teacher? No, not until I had already been studying for 4*  
>> *years and was conversational. Even my girlfriend back then didn't*  
>> *really give me guidance so much as act as a sounding board for*  
>> *things I figured out on my own. I learned most of my Japanese early*  
>> *on from dictionaries, trudging through books word for word, and*  
>> *television dramas, as well as listening in on conversations among*  
>> *Japanese. The only real guidance I had was for one year at Nagoya*  
>> *University, but that was after 4 years of studying on my own and*  
>> *getting to the point that I was able to pass the test and get the*  
>> *monbusho scholarship. By then I was already approaching JPL2*  
>> *ability.*

>

> *By "guidance" I don't necessarily mean an instructor. No one ever*  
> *taught me English.*

sci.lang.japan: Re: Need help choosing a novel to read

No one ever taught you English? Well perhaps that is why you are having trouble with what English speakers commonly mean when they say self-taught. By your definition, I think it is safe to say the only person in the world who is self-taught in a language is L.L. Zamenhof, being self-taught in Esperanto. Do you suppose that is how "self-taught" is commonly understood, Kevin? If you learned in a classroom under the guidance of a teacher, you are not self-taught. If you learned by yourself using reference books, dictionaries, texts, etc., outside of the formal classroom setting you are self-taught. Does anyone else have trouble with this concept?

Jeff

Jeff