

Re: Beginner Question about Kana/Kanji/Romaji

Source: <http://sci.tech-archive.net/Archive/sci.lang.japan/2007-07/msg00417.html>

- *From:* Ben Finney <bignose+hates-spam@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx>
 - *Date:* Fri, 27 Jul 2007 12:59:38 +1000
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Bart Mathias <mathias@xxxxxxxxxx> writes:

Ben Finney wrote:

[...] I think there's a good reason **against** learning romaji in the early stages. The reason is that your brain, through your childhood language learning, already "knows" how to pronounce those symbols, and this will warp your pronunciation of Japanese if you read it using romaji.

Absolutely! It is well known that no one who reads English as a native language is ever any good at French, German, Spanish, etc., but fairly easily learns to pronounce Russian Cyrillic like a native (we English speaker are of course more aware of the converse—French, Spanish, German speakers who never lose their accents because English is written with the same symbols, by and large, that their languages are written with)!

What a pretty straw man you erect. I especially like the entirely fabricated absolutes in the argument.

Like any straw man argument though, it's not the position I expressed.

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Eccles: "I just saw the Earth through the clouds!" Lew: "Did |
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it look round?" Eccles: "Yes, but I don't think it saw me." |
o) — The Goon Show, *_Wings Over Dagenham_* |
Ben Finney