

Re: Culture clash

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- *From:* Ben Finney <bignose+hates-spam@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx>
 - *Date:* Fri, 07 Sep 2007 11:21:46 +1000
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Phil Yff <phil.yff@xxxxxxxxxxxx> writes:

Are you suggesting that:

The spoken Japanese language is much easier for a native English speaker to learn after childhood, than it is for a native English speaker to learn during childhood.

No.

Or are you suggesting that:

The spoken Japanese language is much easier for a native English speaker to learn after childhood, than it is for a native Japanese speaker to learn the spoken English language after childhood.

Yes.

If the latter, a greater percentage of native Japanese speakers learn English after childhood than native English speakers learn Japanese.

What relevance do you think this has to the ease of learning in each case? How do you remove the factor of enormous economic pressure for adult-NSoJ-learning-English, and very little the other way?

My evidence, on the other hand, is largely anecdotal. NSoE that I speak with who have learned Japanese *outside* Japan to the point of conversational fluency speak highly of how ordered and easily-learned

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the (spoken) language is. Whereas NSoJ that I speak with struggle for many years with English *immersed* in an English-dominant environment and still frequently make frustrating corner-case errors that significantly impede understanding.

The *perception* of these (anecdotally-selected) people, at least, bears out the hypothesis that adult-NSoE-learning-Japanese has an easier time than a corresponding adult-NSoJ-learning-English.

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\ "I think it would be a good idea." -- Mahatma Gandhi (when |
\ asked what he thought of Western civilization) |

o) |

Ben Finney

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