

## Abstract

This research focuses on the usage of possessive verbs “aru” and “motsu” in Japanese, and on Thai students’ understanding of these verbs. The hypothesis of this research is that Thai students can not use the possessive verbs “aru” and “motsu” in Japanese correctly because explanations about the usage of these verbs is not shown in any Japanese textbooks which the Thai students usually use.

One hundred 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> year Japanese major students from 4 universities - Thammasart University, Naresuan University, Prince of Songkla University and Khonkhaen University - were the sample populations. Descriptive statistical analysis and percentile were performed to answer the research question.

The research is divided into 3 parts. The first part consists of the study of the usage of possessive verbs “aru” and “motsu” from previous research and the new usages which were simplified for Thai students. The second part is an analysis of the explanation about the usage of these verbs in the Japanese textbooks. The last part is an analysis of Thai students’ understanding about these verbs from the questionnaires.

Findings show that there are 6 usages for Japanese possessive verbs “aru” and “motsu” ; (1) if the possessive objective is a concrete property, both “aru” and “motsu” can be used ; (2) if the possessive objective is an abstract characteristic of the owner, both “aru” and “motsu” can be used ; (3) if the possessive objective is a member of the family or a person who is close to the owner, only “aru” can be used. However, if the mentioned person is modified, “motsu” tends to be used ; (4) if the possessive objective is a part of the body or a physical characteristic of the owner, only “aru” can be used, but if the possessive objective implies more than the stated meaning, both “aru” and “motsu” can be used ; (5) if the possessive objective is a responsibility of the owner, only “motsu” can be used and (6) if the possessive objective is used in a sentence in which the verb has to be conjugated such as “meirei form” or “ikou form”, only “motsu” can be used.

The data also shows that there are only 7 textbooks which contain the explanation about these verbs, but their explanation does not cover every usage. Hence, almost all Thai students still misunderstand how to use these verbs correctly.