

## Abstract

The purpose of this study was to investigate the Japanese problem encountered with Yo-on pronunciation (Japanese contracted sounds) in order to analyze Yo-on ( contracted sounds) error and to study demographics affecting the contracted sounds pronunciation by Thai learners studying Japanese Language. The result was useful directly to plan the form of pronunciation skill practice (the contracted sounds) and the trying out Japanese pronunciation practice pedagogy in order to improve Thai learners' capabilities of Japanese pronunciations. The scope of this study was investigated and collected data by a researcher. The sample consisted of 120 the first year to the forth year Japanese Major Students from the two institutes by using general questionnaires and the test of 100 pronunciation items.

The result found that the first year students occurred the highest pronunciation contracted sounds errors, then following the second year students, the third year students and the fourth year students respectively. In other words, the sample getting high Japanese language experienced pronounced well the contracted sounds more than the sample getting less Japanese language experienced. Moreover, the pronunciation (the contracted sounds) errors were varied as follows: 1) To pronounce the contracted sounds as a single consonant , 2) To pronounce the short contracted sounds as the long consonant, 3) To pronounce the long contracted sounds as the short consonant, 4) To pronounce the single consonant as the contracted sounds, 5) To pronounce the unclear consonant, 6) To pronounce the contracted sounds as Thai consonant , 7) To pronounce one contracted sound to other contracted sound and 8) others errors. In addition, this study revealed that some individual factors: educational level, domicile , the period of Japanese studies, living experiences in Japan, studying Japanese in school before entering the university and the pedagogy of Japanese pronunciations of Thai lecturers in classes after enrolling the university, affected the contracted sounds pronunciation by Thai learners.