

Essays on Kanji

One Chinese character per Day [July and August]

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I organized “the Study of Effective Teaching of Kanji, Kango (Japanese words of Chinese origin), and Kanbun (Chinese classics)” in the Institute for Advanced Studies in Education during 2008–2009. This paper is a form of report on my activities in this research section.

There were fifteen meetings in this research section over two years. During each meeting, I came to give a short lecture in my role as the chief of this section, and sometimes introduced a mini-essay of mine on one Chinese character selected by myself. All of members joined in a discussion about Kanji, Kango, and Kanbun, and some of them tried writing mini-essays on their favorite Chinese character.

Kanji, Kango, and Kanbun are alive in daily Japanese life. Especially, Kanji are the most fundamental and important element in the Japanese language. So we need to realize the origin and meaning of each Chinese character, and improve our knowledge. On this occasion, I collated my mini essays on Chinese characters which wrote every day in July and August, like a diary.