SUMMARY

Change in Reporting on Japanese Language Education in Australia by Japanese Newspapers over the Past 100 Years

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Japanese language education was first provided by public institutions in Australia during the First World War. In 2012, the number of Japanese language learners in Australia has grown to approximately 300,000.

In the nearly 100-year history of Japanese language education in Australia, Japanese newspaper publishers have displayed interest through occasional reports on Japanese language education in the country. The present study examined Japanese newspaper's specific focuses of attention on Japanese language education in Australia, and analyzed what they reported and what they did not report.

The study revealed that Japanese language education in Australia over the past century has been reported on almost exclusively in periods during which Japanese newspapers perceived an increasing "Japanese language learning boom" (Nihongo gakushu netsu). Reports have used a large number of vague, sensational expressions such as "Japanese language learning boom," which have given readers the impression that the number of Japanese language learners was spontaneously increasing. The reports did not focus on the effects of Australian language policies on the increase in the number of Japanese language learners in Australia. In contrast, no reports were published on Japanese language education in Australia in periods when a "Japanese language learning boom" was not recognized to be growing stronger.