

## **A Study on the Use of Anime and Manga as Educational Resources for Enhancing the Knowledge on Japanese Language Expressions and Culture**

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Anime and manga, born from the rich tapestry of Japanese culture, have evolved into captivating art forms that transcend borders. Anime, a fusion of animation and storytelling, offers a visually immersive experience, exploring diverse themes with vivid characters and intricate narratives. Manga, the inked masterpiece on paper, delves into the depths of human emotion, showcasing the power of sequential art in conveying complex stories. Together, they create a vibrant subculture, influencing global entertainment, fashion, and even technology. However, Anime and manga are not solely limited to entertainment; they can also serve as valuable teaching materials, particularly for Japanese language learners. Not every aspiring Japanese learner has the opportunity to travel to Japan and immerse themselves in the language and culture firsthand. Japanese enthusiasts in countries like Sri Lanka have few opportunities to interact with Japanese people or experience authentic culture. Also Learning Japanese language used in daily life cannot be achieved solely through a textbook. To address this issue, the study proposed utilizing Japanese manga and anime as a solution. This research explores using anime and manga as educational tools for learning Japanese and enhancing cultural understanding. Through surveys, interviews, and assessments, it evaluates the effectiveness of incorporating anime and manga in language education. In conclusion, the study discovered that using anime and manga as teaching materials requires careful preparation, as simply watching and explaining may not be effective. Teachers should observe and select suitable content. Some learners have successfully learned Japanese solely from anime, but textbooks are essential for grammar. Adaptation based on learners' levels and preferences is crucial. Anime and manga offer valuable insights into Japanese language and culture, making them versatile teaching resources when properly introduced. Findings will inform pedagogical implications and offer practical recommendations for educators and curriculum developers.

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