

A Comparative Study of Four-Character Idioms in Japanese Language with Myanmar Language

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Abstract

This paper comparatively studies Four-Character Idioms in Japanese Language with Myanmar Language from semantic point of view. Understanding of similarities and differences of these idioms between the Myanmar and Japanese language and helps both of Japanese language learners and Myanmar language learners to speak it eloquently by using four-character idioms. In both languages idiomatic expressions are based on social and cultural fields. Myanmar and Japan are different in language but both are same Asian countries, so that customs, culture and ways of thinking are similar in basically.

Introduction

In every language there are idiomatic expressions to use as guidance and directives to follow. By studying similarities and differences of idiomatic expressions between Myanmar and Japanese languages, learners can know culture, customs and ways of thinking of Myanmar and Japanese. In addition, learners can perceive and high standard of its literature. Both Myanmar and Japan people define idiomatic expressions in various ways as ornaments of speech, true speech, echoes of experience and mirrors of thinking and to educate people in short sentence.

Aims and Objectives

Not only the learners of Japanese but also the Myanmar language learners of Japan nationalities aimed to know similarities and differences of customs, cultural aspects of both languages. Helping to create perceive the high standard of literature and conversation.

Data and Method

Data of four-character idioms have been collected from books on Myanmar and Japanese and Internet Websites. Among them selected specific common use of idiomatic expressions to express the meanings. By using comparative and descriptive methods, collected data have been analyzed for four groups as follow:

1. Four character idioms concerning with character or nature of human beings it depends on his action (behavior) and thought (idea).
2. Four character idioms concerning with Religion (especially in Buddhism)
3. Four character idioms concerning with the world's nature.
4. Four character idioms concerning with human beings' lives, career also include fate, morality, difficulty (trouble), mistake and failure.

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Scope of Study

Definition of four-character idiom

Four-character idiom (yojijukugo) is a Japanese idiom consisted four characters called kanji. It is only word and especially doesn't contain lesson as like proverb and saying.

Research Question

1. Why do Japanese Four-character idioms (yojijukugo) are need to understand with Myanmar Language?
2. Are there same meanings of Japanese Four-character idioms in Myanmar Language?
3. How can be used Japanese Four-character idioms with Myanmar Language?
4. What are the some benefits by learning Japanese Four-character idioms?

Literature Review

In acquisition of language, learning idioms, proverbs and sayings is one of the interesting factor .There are a lot of studies on different approaches to idioms learning, but there is lack of comparative study of four-character idioms of Japanese with Myanmar Language.

Finding and Discussion

In Myanmar and Japanese language there are so many idiomatic expressions in various sectors, such as cultural, educational and social affairs and so on. Among of them have been selected and found that similar in meanings although they are a little different. In this paper, thirty idiomatic expressions are easy and appropriate for learners.

1. Four character idioms concerning with character or nature of human beings it depends on his action (behavior) and thought (idea).

(1) 後悔、先に立たず(こうかいさきにたたず)

(koukaisakinitatazu)

ことが終わったあとでいくら悔やんでもみても、もう どうにもならない。だから後悔しないように事前に十分注意せよと言ふこと。

နောင်တဆိုတာနောက်ကျမှရတယ်

Repentance comes too late.

This idiom means in both Myanmar and Japanese language that some people get lesson when the case is over.

(2) 自画自賛(じがじさん)

(jigajisan)

自分がした行為を自分自身で褒めること。

ကိုယ်.ဂုဏ်ကိုယ်ဖော်

Self admiration , self-approval

This idiom means in both Myanmar and Japanese language that some people proud and admire their action.

3. 正直は一生の宝(しょうじきはいっしょうのたから)

(shoujikihaisshounotakara)

正直者は人から信頼され、その信頼によって幸福を手にすることができる。正直にこそなにもものにも替えがたい一生の宝だと言うこと。

ရိုးဂုဏ်ကအကောင်းဆုံး

Honesty is the best policy

This idiom means in both Myanmar and Japanese language that almost all people think or accept honesty is the most valuable thing in this world.

4. 不言実行(ふげんじっこう)

(fugenjikkou)

あれこれ言わず、実行に移すこと。

အပြောမဟုတ် အလုပ်နဲ့သက်သေပြ

Action before words

This idiom means in both Myanmar and Japanese language that some people proof their work rather than words.

5. 一石二鳥(いっせきにちょう)

(issekinichou)

1つの行為から二つの利益を得ること。

ခဲတစ်လုံးငှက်နှစ်ကောင်ရ

Killing two birds with one stone

This idiom means in both Myanmar and Japanese language that sometimes can get two or more benefits by working one action.

6. 十人十色(じゅうにんといろ)

(jyuunintoiro)

好みや考え方、性格などが人によってそれぞれ違っていること。

လူအမျိုးမျိုး စိတ်အထွေအထွေ

So many men , so many minds

This idiom means in both Myanmar and Japanese language that in some association or group there are so many members and difficult to adjust them.

7. 一致団結(いっちだんけつ)

(ittidanketsu)

組織や団体の全員が心を一つにして、力を合わせて纏まる様子。

ပေါင်းစည်းမှုအင်အား

Unity, Solidarity, Cooperation

This idiom means in both Myanmar and Japanese language that if the members of association or group have unity and cooperative mind, it becomes strength and will be success.

8. 不眠不休 (ふみんふきゅう)

(fuminfukyuu)

眠ったり、休んだりしないこと。

မအိပ်မနေ

Sleepless, Night and day

This idiom means in both Myanmar and Japanese language that people can get success who handle and manage the time effectively.

9. 右の耳から左の耳 (みぎのみみからひだりのみみ)

(miginomimikarahidarinomimi)

ものごとを聞いた端から忘れてしまうこと。また人の意見や忠告を心にとめず軽く聞き流すこと。

ဘယ်နားဝင် ညာနားထွက်

Left ear in Right ear out

This idiom means in both Myanmar and Japanese language that some people neglect or ignore one's idea or advice.

10. 左見右見 (とみこうみ)

(tomikoumi)

右を見たり、左を見たりあちらこちらを見ること。

တောင်ကြည့်မြောက်ကြည့်ကျိုးကန်းတောင်းမှောက်

Look left and right

This idiom means and use in both Myanmar and Japanese language to express someone's behavior or action when he doesn't understand what to do.

11. 異口同音 (いくどうおん)

(ikudouon)

多くの人が口をそろえて同じことを言うこと。また多くの人意見が一致すること。

တစ်ကျိတ်တည်းတစ်ညာဏ်တည်း။ တစ်လေသံတည်း တစ်သဘောတည်း

Same idea same mind

This idiom means and use in both Myanmar and Japanese language that sometime people's ideas or talks are the same when they blame or praise for others.

12. 有言実行 (ゆうげんじっこう)

(yuugenjikkou)

言ったことは実行するということ。

အပြောနှင့်အလုပ်ညီ

Same work with say

This idiom means and use in both Myanmar and Japanese language that some people's action is same with what they talk.

13. 七転び八起き (ななころびやおき)

(nanakorobiyaoki)

何度失敗しようとかじけることなく心を奮い立たせてがんばること。 また人の一生が波乱に満ちていて浮き沈みの激しいことのたとえ。

လဲကျပြန်စ

Life is full of ups and downs

This idiom means and use in both Myanmar and Japanese language that human beings' life is not smooth and full of ups and downs. When faced with downs must stand and try again.

14. 人中之竜 (じんちゅうのりゅう)

(jinchuunoryuu)

多くの人の中で、ひときわ優れた人物のたとえ。

မတစ်ထောင်တစ်ကောင်ဖွား

Genius

This idiom means and use in both Myanmar and Japanese language that some people are born as talent and posses good ability.

15. 不撓不屈 (ふとうふくつ)

(futoufukutsu)

強い信念を持ってどんな困難に直面してもくじけないこと。

ကြံ့ကြံ့ခံစိတ်ဓာတ်

Unyielding, Unflagging, undomitable

This idiom means and use in both Myanmar and Japanese language that some people are in high spirits and don't give up easily.

16. 机上の空論 (きじょうのくろうん)

(kijounokuuron)

頭の中で考えただけの理屈で現実には役に立たない理論。

တွက်ရေးစက်သူဋ္ဌေး

An armchair (impractical) theory

This idiom means and use in both Myanmar and Japanese language that some people are over thinking in their business and it don't come true and only be in dream.

17. 大言壮語 (たいげんそうご)

(taigensougo)

出来もしない大きなことを大いばりで言うこと。またそのことば。

မစားရဝခမန်း

Big talk, big words, bombast

This idiom means and use in both Myanmar and Japanese language that some people are exaggerating on some cases which cannot rely on actual condition.

2. Four character idioms concerning with Religion (especially in Buddhism)

1. 諸行無常 (しよぎょうむじょう)

(shougyoumujoyou)

万物は常に變化し、少しもとどまらないこと。

အရာအားလုံးဟာဘာမှမမြဲ

All things are influx and nothing is permanent.

This idiom means and use in both Myanmar and Japanese language that all things in the world are not permanent and sure to ruin.

2. 因果応報 (いんがおうほう)

(ingaouhou)

良い行為をすれば良い報、悪い行為をすれば悪い報があること。

ကိုယ်ပြုသည့်ကံကိုယ်ဆီပြန်

Retribution retributive

This idiom means and use in both Myanmar and Japanese language that if someone do good thing will get good result and if do bad thing will get bad result.

3. 老少不定 (ろうしょうふじょう)

(roushoufujou)

年寄りが先に死ぬとは限らないし、若者が長生きするとも限らない。人間の寿命はだれにも予測できない。

သေခြင်းတရားအရွယ်မရွေး

No age in death

This idiom means and use in both Myanmar and Japanese language that, there is no limitation of age in death and young may die early and old may die late.

4. 一日一善 (いちにちいちぜん)

(itinititizen)

一日一つの善行をし、そのことを日々積み重ねて生きなさいという呼びかけ。

ကောင်းမှုတစ်ခုနေ့စဉ်ပြု

One good deed a day .

This idiom means and use in both Myanmar and Japanese language that if someone do good thing every day, good deed will pile up day by day.

5. 運否天賦 (うんぷてんぷ)

(unputenpu)

運を天に任せること。運が良いか否かは天が定めることであると言うこと。

ကံစီမံရာ

Determined by one's deed

This idiom means and use in both Myanmar and Japanese language that people cannot control the destiny and must accept without complaint.

6. 会者定離 (えしゃじょうり)

(eshajouri)

出会った者はいつか必ず別れる運命にあるという、この世の無常を説いた仏教のことば。

တွေ့ဆုံကြိုကွဲ ဖြစ်မြဲဓမ္မတာ

Meet ended with apart

This idiom means and use in both Myanmar and Japanese language that people meet by chance and sure to part. It is unchangeable theory.

3. Four character idioms concerning with the world's nature.

1. 東は東、西は西 (ひがしはひがし、にしはにし)

(higasihahigasi,nisihanisi)

東洋と西洋は本質的に異なるものであると言うこと。

အရှေ့ကအရှေ့ အနောက်ကအနောက်

East is east, West is west

This idiom means and use in both Myanmar and Japanese language that there are so many differences East and West such as climate, culture, living style and so on. so should not try to do same action of different matter.

4. Four character idioms concerning with human beings' lives, career also include fate, morality, difficulty (trouble), mistake and failure.

1. 一期一会 (いちごいちえ)

(itigoitie)

一生に一度しか会う機会がないような縁であること。

တစ်သက်တစ်ခါ။ ကြိုတောင့်ကြိုခဲ

Treasure every meeting, for it will never recur.

This idiom means and use in both Myanmar and Japanese language that sometimes people meet once-in-a-lifetime and should be treated as rare chance.

2. 起死回生 (きしかいせい)

(kishikaisei)

滅びかかっているものを元に戻したり、絶望的な状態を再び盛んにすること。

ဘဝရဲ့မျက်နှာသာပေးမှု

Epic recovery, the kiss of life

This idiom means and use in both Myanmar and Japanese language that people have to devise measures to recover from recession.

3. 善は急げ (ぜんはいそげ)

(zenhaisoge)

良いと思ったらためらうことなく、大急ぎでやれと言うこと。

ကောင်းတာဆိုမြန်မြန်လုပ်

Think good do quick

This idiom means and use in both Myanmar and Japanese language that what is worth doing is, worth doing promptly.

4. 弱り目に祟り目 (よわりめにたたりめ)

(yowarimentatarime)

困っているときに、さらに困ったことや災難が重なって起こることのたとえ。

ဘူးလေးရာဖရုံဆင့်

Faced with the difficulties front and back

This idiom means and use in both Myanmar and Japanese language that misfortunes never come singly.

5. 気で気を痛む (きできをいたむ)

(kidekiwoitamu)

必要のない心配をして、あれこれ自分ひとり苦しむこと。

ဥပါဒ်ဒဏ်ကြောင့် ဥပါဒ်ရောက်

Tortured by sense of worry

This idiom means and use in both Myanmar and Japanese language that sometimes people worry about small matter, it is no need to worry and it may suffer some bad health.

6. 危機一髪 (ききいっぱつ)

(kikiippatsu)

もう少しで危険な状態になるところであること。

အန္တရာယ်လက်တစ်ကမ်း။ လက်မတင်လေး

On the brink of

This idiom means and use in both Myanmar and Japanese language that sometimes people fortunately escape from some crisis (risk) about the current situation.

In this paper, specific Four-Character Idioms to express the meanings are presented in various sectors, so that learners can easily learn and use for writing skills and speaking skills, increase the knowledge, upgrade the language skills.

Conclusion

This research work intended to learners of Myanmar language and Japanese language. It is hoped that this paper will be of some help to translation subject in both languages for enrichment of vocabulary and fluency in speaking. Learners will also create high standard of literature in both languages.

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