

Construction of the Environment for Extensive Reading of German Texts using Web

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This paper reports the HTML texts with reading support information for extensive reading of German texts and the system for preparing those documents. Extensive reading is one of effective strategies for learning foreign languages. However, it is difficult for Japanese university students to practice it in such second languages as German, French and so on, because they don't have sufficient knowledge of their basic lexicons and grammar like in English. Besides, there are not so many materials like “graded readers” for them. Then, in German language classes we use HTML texts with reading support information for the expressions that may be difficult to understand. This reading support information is not just an entry in a German-Japanese dictionary. If this is too redundant and informative, showing phonetic information or all the meanings of an ambiguous word although the word's meaning in a sentence is necessarily fixed to just one from the context, learner can't concentrate on understanding. This information should be a simple expression, so learners can go on reading. In making these texts, there are some problems as follows: teachers should be required to be well aware of HTML, and the load of the work of giving such information can be heavy. So we construct a system for preparing those documents. The system is built on the Internet as a Web server, and teachers can operate it via a Web browser. In order to lessen the load of the work, the system applies a German morphological analysis to an input document, and shows the candidates of the information from the internal German-Japanese dictionary in the system. Furthermore, checking information given by teachers is used to improve the dictionary dynamically.

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