Digital Literacy of Japanese Students: A Comparison Study Using the European Digital Framework

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Abstract

More than ever, digital literacy is a key skill that students need to master in order to become competent global citizens. Due to the prevalence of English on the internet, it is vital that teachers of English as a Foreign Language (EFL) instruct students in correct usage and understanding of how to navigate the digital space. This presentation will show the results of a comparison study between different cohorts of students and their abilities with mastering the online space in English. The first comparison group, comprising of 3 different classes, undertook a 14-week study aiming to improve their digital literacy skills, and the other group, comprising of multiple classes, had no direct teaching of the skills. Their digital literacy ability was tested using a simplified version of the standardised European Framework for Digital Literacy, and the differences between the two groups are discussed.

Keywords: internet; digital competency; skill needs; online spaces; critical thinking