



SCHOOL OF MODERN LANGUAGES  
NEWCASTLE UNIVERSITY  
**JAPANESE@NEWCASTLE**

EDITED BY HARUMI CAVANAGH

SUMMER 2019

## Japanese Speech Contest for University Students

Morgan Cliff , BA Modern Languages



On 2nd March I participated in the finals for the individual presentation category in The 14th Japanese Speech Contest for University Students held in King's College London. The

topic I chose for my presentation was my county, Yorkshire.

Each finalist presented in front of a hall of people, including sponsors of the event. In the end, I placed as a runner up out of the five finalists who were selected. The contest was a great opportunity to improve my spoken Japanese and build my confidence in speaking in front of people. However, what was even better was that I got to meet lots of other students studying Japanese from other universities and hear their presentations. I even had the opportunity to hear speeches by students participating in the more advanced speech category. Listening to these speeches really motivated me to continue trying hard studying Japanese so that I could one day be as good as those students. I hope to apply for the speech category when I come back from my year abroad and would really

recommend this contest to other Japanese students.



# Japanese: Worth every second

Michael Bonney , BA (Hons) Modern Languages, Translation & Interpreting (French / Japanese)



.Whew, the end of second year has arrived! It feels almost nostalgic to look back over this year; it has gone by so fast. I have to admit, this year was a hard one, but I am immensely proud at the progress we have all made! I suppose I don't fit the traditional Japanese student vibe - my interest has always been in the linguistics and grammar of a language rather than the culture – but I have felt right at home in the Japanese department! Of course, I owe this to the incredible Japanese tutors who are always there to help and truly want you to succeed. Despite the countless times I've been confused by Japanese grammar, my tutors have always been just an email away!



Learning Japanese at Newcastle University has introduced me to an incredible culture laced with respect, politeness and altruism, and the innate understanding I have developed for it by learning a language so intertwined with its culture is unparalleled. I am incredibly proud to be studying Japanese, even if it is tricky at times (as proved by the blue tack marks still left on my walls from posters of conjugation rules!)



I started this year quite nervous about speaking Japanese out loud, and pushed myself onto the committee for the Anglo-Japanese Society to take part in Oshaberikai (weekly conversation meetings) to improve – and that I did! I have a newfound confidence in using the language and have made true friends from all different parts of Japan. This is one of the best things about Newcastle University, you always have the opportunity to improve! This year has been a cultural eye-opener from start to finish, and I cannot wait to find out what's ahead on my



Year Abroad in Kyushu!



# Title: My New Life in Kochi, Japan!

Rachael Page, Combined Honours BA in Japanese and Music  
Graduated: 2014



If you had told me when I was doing my A Levels that I would be living in Japan in 10 years, I wouldn't have believed you. I applied to study music at university, and took a gap year in Japan for six months as an opportunity

to volunteer at a hospital and learn more about other cultures in the world. I had no Japanese skills, but since they weren't required I didn't think I'd need them. As soon as I arrived I was thrown in at the deep end, working behind the pharmacy counter handing out medicine after being given a few phrases to use with the patients. I pushed myself to study in my spare time and try out the Japanese I had used with my colleagues as much as possible. When someone actually understood my Japanese, it was the best feeling in the world.



Now I have been living with my husband for three months in Umaji village, a tiny farming village in Kochi prefecture, which is on the smallest of Japan's main islands. My main roles are teaching English to the locals, creating international events and translating the tourist information. Every day is an exciting challenge and although I am 40 minutes from the nearest supermarket, the scenery is breathtaking and the people are warm and welcoming. I have the option to continue on the JET program for 3-5 years, and after that many people find jobs in Japan and choose to keep living here.



Eager to learn more, when I started my first year at Newcastle University, I switched my degree to combined honours, which meant that I would be going back to study in Japan for one year. After I graduated I did several different jobs, and then a master's degree in Japanese translation, until finally deciding to apply to the JET program as a CIR (coordinator of international relations). Only about ten people are selected from the UK every year to be a CIR, and I was very lucky to be one of them.



# Anglo-Japanese Society's Yearly Round-up

Rebekah Hulme, BA Modern Languages (French and Japanese)  
Graduated: 2019



.It's been another great year for Anglo-Japanese Society; with a total of 75 members this year we have been able to organise and arrange lots of different activities!



This year we aimed to try out new events, and had a great time making hand-roll sushi, raising money for Japan Aid with an Easter Quiz, and organising calligraphy workshops as part of the Students' Union International Festival of Arts and Culture. It's been great to share Japanese culture across the campus and get lots of people involved in our society events!



As well as our one-off events, we have of course continued the AJS tradition of meeting every Monday for a chat and a drink at our weekly 'Oshaberkai' meetings in the pub! This has been a lovely way for our members to get to know each other, and of course to practise their language skills!

This year we also were lucky enough to partner up with the Tyneside Cinema to of-

fer our members cheap tickets for the Japan Foundation's touring film programme, which was a great opportunity to soak up some Japanese culture!

We also had a great turn out at our annual 'big' events, the Halloween Costume Party and the formal Winter Ball, which we held with Durham's Anglo-Japanese Society. We're looking forward to holding our Summer Boat Party with them after the busy exam season is over as well!

All that is left is for me to say a big thank you to everyone who has helped organise the events this year, and to all the students in our society who have taken part in Anglo-Japanese Society events! I hope you've enjoyed AJS as much as I have!



# My Year In Kyoto

Jana Klasova, BA Japanese Studies

Graduated: 2019

I spent one year at the University of Foreign Studies in Kyoto, mainly taking language-focused classes (with some culture and literature thrown in for good measure). I was lucky. All my classes were conducted in Japanese, so I simply had to try hard.

By the time I left for Kyoto in September 2017, I've been studying Japanese at Newcastle University for 2 years. As someone who values learning over studying, I was ready to take my language learning to another level. And although extremely grateful for the opportunity to go on a year abroad, leaving my comfort zone and travelling to the other side of the world was a bit scary and overwhelming.

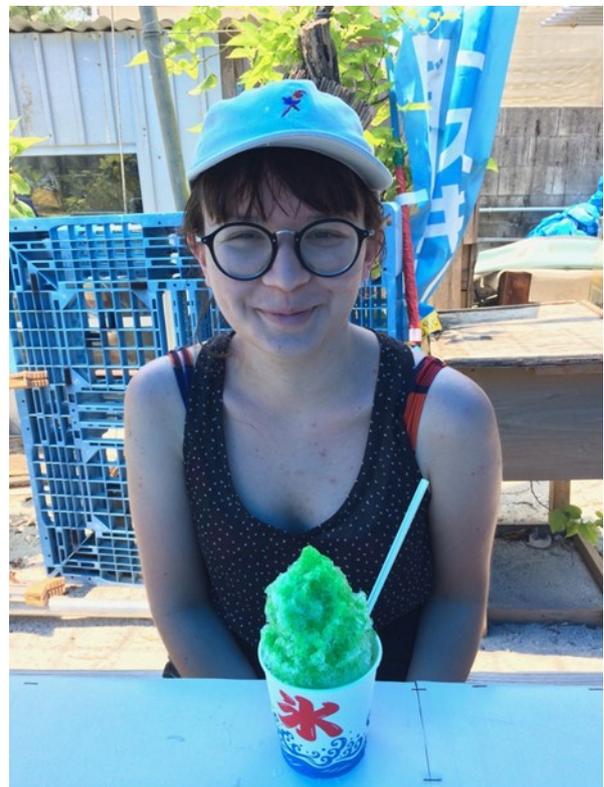
When studying a language, you constantly keep hearing that there's no better way to truly learn a language than to immerse yourself in the language and culture completely. It might be a bit of a cliché, but I have to agree with this one.

When I left the safe harbor of Europe I've known for my whole life, my Japanese was awkward and wobbly, I was unsure and a bit lost. Being on my own also meant that I had to rely on the skillset I've developed previously, trying to make the best of it.

Initially, it was difficult and my mind kept wandering home. But gradually, some-

thing changed in me. I started being more articulate, more willing to make mistakes and learn from them.

With opening up I also started having a lot more fun, making friends and just living a normal life. My language classes were still extremely helpful, but I have to admit that most of my language learning took place out in the world. I changed my perspective, started seeing those little struggles that go hand-in-hand with learning a language as opportunities rather than obstacles, and that really did change everything.



「科学技術と人間」

世界征服ガイド

・ 科学者:

今日届いたのは手紙ではない、メールです

週末子供達がしているのは鬼ごっこではない、ビデオゲームです

そこに座って喋っている少女は人間ではない、ロボットです

ナイジェ

宇宙の隅で浮かんでいるのは惑星ではない、サテライトです

それを造った人は他の誰でもない、科学者です

トリニダ

青空に飛んでいるのは鳥ではない、ミサイルです

夜空を照らしているのは花火ではない、キノコ雲です

彼の胸に差し込むのはキューピットの矢ではない、冷たい弾丸です

インド

彼女が細い指で握っているのは、花束ではない、熱い拳銃です

それを造った人は他の誰でもない、科学者です

人を助ける方はヒーローと言う

世の中の素晴らしさを滅びる人に悪党の名を付けられると

科学者はどちらでしょうか

その答えは誰も分からないです

私達はただ笑いながら、観ている

科学者がこの世界を征服するまでに

ウガンダ

イギリス

日本

世界征服ガイド

今日届いたのは手紙ではない、メールです  
週末子供達がしているのは鬼ごっこではない、ビデオゲームです  
そこに座って喋っている少女は人間ではない、ロボットです  
宇宙の片隅で浮かんでいるのは惑星ではない、サテライトです  
それを造った人は他の誰でもない、科学者です

青空に飛んでいるのは鳥ではない、ミサイルです  
夜空を照らしているのは花火ではない、キノコ雲です  
男の人の熱い胸に差し込むのはキューピットの矢ではない、冷たい弾丸です  
女の人の冷たい指が握っているのは花束ではない、熱い拳銃です  
それを造った人は他の誰でもない、科学者です

人を助ける者はヒーローという  
世の中の素晴らしさを滅ぼす人に悪党の名を付ける  
科学者はどちらでしょうか、その答えは誰にもわからないです  
私達はただ笑いながら、観ている  
科学者がこの世界を征服するまでに



This note is from April's homework.

# About my Japan club at St Marks CE school in Kendal



Sakiko Robson, Volunteer for Sakura Network

I have introduced some Japanese language and culture at St Marks CE school in Natland, Kendal since early January 2019. I have taught Japanese Kendama, Fukuwarai and counting numbers, singing songs to reception children and taught them how to make Koinobori by Origami to year 2 and 3 which was perfect as it was late April – May time, I was delighted to introduce Japanese seasonal events to the school. The children were very quick to learn the Koinobori song and by making Koinobori with them using Origami has improved their dexterity skills and concentration; their attention to detail has also improved and has also giving them a lot of confidence. The children performed their songs and their artwork at school assembly on Friday morning, these artworks were on display at parents night at the end of the term.

I taught children how to make Sushi at the end of the summer term and children enjoyed it a lot. Some of them expressed joy and shared how much they loved our Sushi more than the ones sold at the supermarket!



It is always lovely to hear from the children “When are we having Japan club again?” I look forward to introducing a lot more Japanese culture in the future. I deeply appreciate what a wonderful support Sakura Network is.



I carried on making a little more complex Origami work. We made boxes and even introduced how to do “Chigiri-e”, tearing paper by using only hands to create an art picture using newspaper; which was a great way to teach them how not to waste things (and also how to tidy up after the mess!

which is also Japanese culture) this came from Noriko Matusbara who is a famous artist and teaching her Japanese art work with support from Sakura Network.



# Graduate Meal Out Photos

## June 2019



### Past Newsletters:

<https://www.ncl.ac.uk/sml/news-events/newsletters/>

### Contact us

**For information about admissions  
please contact Lesley Sherrin**

Tel: 0191 208 5082, e-mail: [sml@ncl.ac.uk](mailto:sml@ncl.ac.uk)  
or visit <http://www.ncl.ac.uk/sml/research/subjects/eastasian/>

