

Japanese Studies in Bulgaria

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表1 ソフィア大学古典新言語学部における外国語学習者数 (在1990—1991年)

学 科	一年生	二年生	三年生	四年生	五年生	合 計
英語学科	108	154	170	94	86	612
ドイツ語学科	76	59	49	51	42	277
フランス語学科	61	51	62	63	43	280
古典ギリシャ語学科	20	8	5	9	3	45
アラビア語学科	15	18	11	10	10	64
スペイン語学科	15	14	17	21	18	85
日本語学科	9	0	0	0	0	9
ハンガリー語学科	8	6	10	6	5	35
トルコ語学科	7	10	9	6	8	40
インド語学科	7	7	3	4	10	31
イタリア語学科	7	6	11	9	9	42
ルーマニア語学科	6	4	3	4	3	20

古典新言語学部全体に占める日本学科学生の割合:0.6%(学部総計:1540名)

表2 ソフィア大学古典新言語学部における外国語学習者数 (在1992—1993年)

学 科	一年生		二年生		三年生		四年生		五年生		合 計
	無料	有料	無料	有料	無料	有料	無料	有料	無料	有料	
英語学科	97	1	102	3	121	0	144	0	107	0	575
ドイツ語学科	40	1	71	4	87	2	57	0	32	0	294
ギリシャ語学科	10	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	11
アラビア語学科	8	5	7	6	18	0	12	0	5	0	61
日本語学科	8	3	0	0	9	0	0	0	0	0	20
中国語学科	9	5	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	14
古典ギリシャ語学科	7	0	12	0	10	0	5	0	7	0	41
トルコ語学科	4	2	9	2	4	0	8	0	6	0	35
インド語学科	5	1	0	0	7	0	4	0	4	0	21
ルーマニア語学科	2	0	0	0	4	0	0	0	3	0	9
ハンガリー語学科	0	0	7	1	6	0	6	0	5	0	25

古典新言語学部全体に占める日本学科学生の割合:1.8%

(学部総計:無料1069名、有料37名、合計1106名)

表3 ソフィア大学古典新言語学部における外国語学習者数 (在1999—2000年)

学 科	一年生		二年生		三年生		四年生		五年生		合 計
	無料	有料	無料	有料	無料	有料	無料	有料	無料	有料	
英語学科	101	1	97	7	78	18	76	12	86	13	489
ドイツ語学科	75	5	51	12	66	13	66	6	39	3	336
ギリシャ語学科	26	3	22	7	13	14	13	5	9	8	120
アラビア語学科	27	0	13	10	13	8	8	8	7	6	100
ベルシア語学科	12	1	4	3	8	2	5	3	0	0	38
日本語学科	0	0	12	9	17	7	10	0	7	1	63
中国語学科	14	1	8	5	10	4	9	3	16	0	70
韓国語学科	9	0	13	2	11	4	7	0	0	0	46
古典ギリシャ語学科	9	0	6	0	12	0	8	0	5	0	42
トルコ語学科	23	5	11	11	17	4	8	3	10	3	95
インド語学科	12	0	9	5	7	4	4	2	7	1	51
ルーマニア語学科	13	0	12	5	5	0	6	0	3	1	58
ハンガリー語学科	16	1	10	5	10	3	8	2	3	0	58

古典新言語学部全体に占める日本学科学生の割合:4.03%(学部総計1563)

表4 東洋言語文化研究センターの講師数

学 科	常勤講師	非常勤講師	合計	学生数	講師一人当たり学生数
トルコ語学科	11	10	21	95	4.53
アラビア語学科	12	12	24	100	4.16
インド語学科	6	5 その内—一人のインド人	11	51	4.63
日本語学科	5	8 その内—三人の日本人	13	63	4.85
中国語学科	5	8 その内—三人の中国人	10	70	7.00
韓国語学科	4 その内—一人の韓国人	7 その内—一人の韓国人	11	46	4.18
ベルシア語学科	4 その内—一人のイラン人	0	4	38	9.5

In other countries such as Russia, Germany, France, there are enough institutions engaged in Japanese Studies. But taking into consideration the geopolitical location of Bulgaria, for a long time the government did not consider it important to encourage the development of Japanese studies. And although there was the institute of Balkan Studies in Sofia, no institute of Japanese Studies existed. At the same time Japan also did not express any interest to encourage Japanese studies in Bulgaria.

Until the 1970s research on Japan was carried out in some institutions, such as, Bulgarian Academy of Sciences, Institute of Social Sciences and others, but the scholars from these institutions were not specialists on Japan. They worked mainly using research of Russian academics. Probably the first step for setting up the Japanese Studies in Bulgaria was to dispatch Bulgarian students to Russian universities at the end of 60s and to establish Japanese language courses. Japanese language courses were established for the first time in 1966 in the Centre for Science & Technical Information. The first teacher was 金子暢良. I personally was not acquainted with him and don't know how and for what purpose he came to Bulgaria, but according to the opinion of the students, who attended his courses, Mr. 金子 was a rather good teacher. Many of the students, graduated from these courses worked for a long time as translators of scientific papers in the fields of chemistry, agriculture, electronic engineering and others. Apparently, Mr. 金子 loved Bulgaria and at the end of 60s he asked the Bulgarian authorities to give him Bulgarian citizenship. There was a great deal of talk about this in Bulgarian Academic circles. Even it was said that Mr. 金子 probably was a Japanese spy. It seemed strange to Bulgarians that somebody wanted to immigrate to Bulgaria. But I can say that the living standard from the end of 60s till mid-80s was quite high in Bulgaria, higher than in Japan at that time. May be it was the reason of his request. Anyway, Mr. 金子's request was rejected. That means that to receive Bulgarian citizenship was as difficult as to receive Japanese. Finally Mr. 金子 returned to 九州. Now he is a professor at 九州大学, Faculty of Languages and Cultural Studies. According to one student who stayed for a year in 九州, Mr. 金子 still likes Bulgaria and regrets that he could not stay there forever. It would be interesting to say, that the students graduated from the courses of Mr. 金子—in most cases they were experts in the different fields of sciences—could translate very accurately the scientific

papers for the purpose of their own research work. But I was surprised that they did not know how to pronounce Japanese words, how to read characters—they knew only the meaning.

Since 1970 many Bulgarian students studied in Japan on the 文部省's students exchange scholarship program. For a long time the Bulgarian Government preferred to give scholarships to the students studying natural science and engineering, rather than to those studying philology.

Between 1970 and 1990 approximately 90% of Bulgarian students in Japan were studying electronic engineering, economics and medicine. Now, not Bulgarian government but 文部省 itself make the selection, but the principle of the distribution of scholarships is the same. Out of ten scholarships offered each year, eight are granted to students from engineering speciality and only two to students from Japanese Studies Department. It seems to be a right policy.

From 1973 Japanese studies in Bulgaria were concentrated in two institutions—Sofia State University and Bulgarian Academy of Sciences. The main focus made by Bulgarian Academy of Sciences is in political and economical studies. I would like to say some words about the specialists working in Bulgarian Academy of Sciences. Most of them graduated from Moscow State University and then continued their post-graduated education there. Well-known scholar Prof. I.Latyshev supervised many of them. That means their research themes were connected with the topics popular in the USSR, such as relations between China and Japan, relations between Russia and Japan and so on. Having returned to Bulgaria most of the specialists continued the same researches, but I think, those themes were not very important for Bulgaria. Only specialists in economy did research important for Bulgaria itself. For example, management of small and medium scale enterprises, labour-manager relations and so on. Recently in the so-called Quality Assessment Centre several workshops are carried out in co-operation with JICA. And many of Bulgarian managers studied in Japan, in JICA headquarters in Tokyo.

As for Sofia University, Japanese studies date back to 1968. In this year Mr. **Nacho Papazov**, who was an ambassador in Japan at that time, invited Ms 下瀬川 慶子 to teach Japanese language at Sofia State University.

So, in 1968 Miss 下瀬川 began to teach Japanese Language at the Department of Oriental studies. In those days there was only one speciality

at the Department—Turkish Studies. Another languages—Arabic, Persian, Armenian, Chinese were taught as elective units. There were also the public open Night Courses, where the same languages were taught. The number of students was limited to 24. Which was the amount of booths in the language laboratory at that time.

In 1973 some graduate students of Leningrad University, Department of Japanese Studies, had been appointed as a part-time lecturers and number of students at the Japanese Language Course increased. The next year (1974) by the initiative of the Vice-Director of the institute of Balkan Studies, who was acting as a head of Department of Oriental Studies simultaneously, the courses of Japanese literature, history and introduction to Japanese studies were arranged, and the night courses became more academic. For a long time these night open public courses aimed to increase the affinity of Bulgarian people with Japan, to enliven interest to Japan, while introducing Japanese culture to broader audiences. The activity of Sofia University is devoted to two main problems. First: Teaching process, writing teaching materials and research on methods of teaching Japanese language as foreign language to Bulgarian students. Second: Translations. In 70-80s the translation of some books on Japanese history, literature, including classical literature, classical poetry, 俳句, and modern prose were published. For example, 枕の草子、問わず語り、俳句、川端康成、有島武郎、芥川龍之介、谷崎潤一郎、and also SF by 小松左京、森村誠一. It would be interesting to say that all these books were widely read and always sold at once. At that time the number of specialists in Japanese was very few and I think that the main task of the Sofia University was to prepare a new generation of specialists.

So in 1990 the Japanese language chair was established. In the beginning students entered Japanese chair every second year, but since 1993—every year.

Up to 1991 higher education in Bulgaria was free of charge. But recently the economic situation became worse and now higher education is free of charge only partially, and even in state universities some students pay for their education and tax is rather high. But even in this situation, the number of students in Japanese Studies Department is increasing constantly. So, we can say that the interest for Japan as a country and also for Japanese studies is rather wide. In 1992 two new departments were established in

Sofia University. That's Chinese and Korean Departments. Both departments included in curriculum as second eastern language Japanese. The students of the Chinese Studies Department and Korean Studies Department expressed high interest in Japanese language, Japanese history and culture. But as lecturers at the Japanese Studies Department were very few they could not provide the whole scale of Japanese language teaching to students of Chinese and Korean Departments.

Ten years ago Sofia University was the only institution where Japanese language was studied systematically. From the beginning of 90s the economic situation in Bulgaria became very dramatic and at the same time a real boom of learning of foreign languages began. That's because in the present difficult economic situation many young people want to emigrate from Bulgaria. In 1990 East European iron curtain was risen. During next two years a lot of Bulgarians immigrated to USA, Canada, Taiwan and West European countries. But in two or three years those countries were frightened by the huge number of immigrants. And only really high specialists could obtain resident status in those countries. So some years ago a rumour began to circulate in Bulgaria that emigrants to USA and Canada with Japanese language qualification, rank second after computer programmers in their opportunity to obtain the Green Card and have the resident status. This rumour spurred up an interest in study of Japanese language.

However, the main reason behind the establishment of Japanese language courses or including it into the curriculum of other philological disciplines in major Bulgarian universities was the interest exhibited by the Japanese themselves, namely by JICA and JOCV. It is a well-known fact that the Japanese government and Japanese public organisations put effort into spreading the knowledge about Japan and into teaching the Japanese language all round the world. In 1993 an agreement on co-operation on the governmental level was signed with JICA and JOCV. In the same year the first group of Japanese volunteers came to Bulgaria. Next year under the request of JOCV co-ordinator the Japanese language became to be taught in main universities of Bulgaria and in some grammar schools.

In 1992 the Japanese language became to be taught at one of Sofia grammar schools. Pupils at that school begin to learn Japanese Language from the eighth form. So they are approximately 14 years old. At first it was no more than experiment, but as both parents (especially mothers) and chil-

dren demonstrated great interest to Japanese language studies, the teaching became systematically. And the department of Japanese Studies willy-nilly became a patron of the school and was forced to provide teachers. Along side with lecturers from department of Japanese Studies there are native Japanese teachers from JOCV. Children at that school unexpectedly speak really good Japanese. And when speech contests are held in Bulgaria the winners are always children from this school. Every year about 20 pupils enter the Japanese language class. Its pity that only a few of them can continue to study Japanese language at Sofia University at the department of Japanese Studies. In order to enter the University students have to pass entrance examination. The test is foreign language. The foreign language can be either one of western languages such as English, French, German, Spanish and Italian or Russian. Some years ago there was a great discussion about Russian language as entrance examination, along with western languages. And those who were in pro-Russian position in Ministry of Education won. So till now students can pass test in Russian.

The problem of pupils of Japanese language class is that they are good in Japanese but not in other languages. So often they can't pass entrance examination. Japanese language is not included in the list of foreign languages. Some years ago Secretary from Japanese embassy asked me why we could not decide this problem and include Japanese language into the list. There are two main reasons. First is that the number of those who would like to pass Japanese test is very few. On the other hand, if Japanese language will be included into the list, other eastern languages like Turkish also should be included. And one of the urgent ethnical problems which is not solved until now, is the relationship between Bulgarian majority (Christians) and Turkish minority (Muslims) Probably because of that University Authorities don't want to include either Japanese or other eastern languages into the list of entrance examination.

Veliko Tarnovo University organised Japanese Language Courses at the Department of Applied Linguistics in 1996. The lecturers from our department at Sofia University and Japanese volunteers also teach there. This is also very promising institution for development of Japanese Studies in Bulgaria.

After the establishment of Japanese Studies Department in 1990, the public open night courses were not abolished. Every year the number of

students there increase. Some years more than 100 students enter these courses. The lecturers are volunteers from JOCV and from our department. Most of the students of these courses are university undergraduate and postgraduate students from other departments. Such as Medical Studies, Engineering Studies, Historical Studies and Archaeological Department. 80% of 文部省 grants were received by these students. And if we talk about this year, 90% was given to these students. I think that this is right policy. Being very small country, Bulgaria cannot provide enough work places for specialists in Japanese Studies.

Now I would like to say some words about the regular support of the Japanese authorities such as The Japan Foundation, The 大阪万博基金, The 笹川平和基金, The Japanese Ministry of Education and Japan Embassy in Sofia. Because of this support all institutions in Bulgaria engaged in Japanese studies have very good facilities, language laboratories, and libraries which contain several thousand volumes. Of great importance also is dispatching of native Japanese lecturers provided by The Japan Foundation and JOCV. In most cases Bulgarian and Japanese lecturers work together and such work gives very good results.

At the end I would like to say that the situation in Japanese Studies in Bulgaria depends heavily on the economic situation in the country. I'm still optimistic and believe that as soon as economic situation in Bulgaria will become stable, the process of emigration will stop and our promising students who are enrolled in post-graduate programs in Sofia University and Japanese Universities will begin the academic activities together with the elder generation. Moreover, there are a lot of exciting scientific projects waiting to be developed in future. For example comparative research on ancient Japanese history and history of Mediterranean countries. I hope that well-known Japanese scholars will join the scientists from Sofia University in this future project.