ABSTRACT

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In learning a language, vocabulary is one of the important elements to be studied. It is because by mastering vocabulary, a communication will be better. One thing you can learn is the vocabulary of color. As a Japanese language learners, the knowledge of color is still limited within the basic colors. Berlin and Kay in Stanlaw (2004: 213) argued that there are a wide variety of colors from a variety of languages and it is found that all languages have between 2 to 11 or 12 basic color terms. They also found out that each country has a rich local color. In terms of meaning, color in Japanese not only have denotative meaning but also connotative meaning. Therefore, it is necessary for Japanese language learners to understand the meaning of colour in Japanese colour vocabularies.

The purpose of this study is to provide information to Japanese language learners about the kinds of colors, formation, and meaning that hidden behind the Japanese colour vocabularies. Colors in Japanese are divided into eight groups of colors. The most used in Japan are red,brown,yellow,green, blue, purple, black, and white.

The research method used in this research is descriptive qualitative method with three steps, which are; collecting data, in this first stage the author finds kind of colours in the data source and also finds different types of vocabulary in kanji dictionary to find the vocabulary's connotative meaning. Then in the data processing stage, the author finds the meaning of colour names in Japanese and reads an explanation of the colour from the book or website. The last is classifying stage based on the findings of the types of colour. The author also finds a variety of theories about the colours and meanings supporting and connecting the data obtained with theoretical support.

Based on the result of the analysis, it is found that there are variety types of colours in Japanese, either from the Japanese native language or Japanese absorption words from English. From the name forming, it is also found out that the names forming is based on three types, which is from the origin of names; plant, animals, things, combination of two colours, time/date/time, chemicals, and natural phenomena. Then based on the brightness and concentration as well as on how to read kanji. From the eighth colours, in purple there is no other meaning but denotation.

Keywords: meaning, formation, color