

## Tadoku (extensive reading+α): Why is it a potent method for language learning?

By Mukai, aka tada-

-Cognitive Neuroscience(認知神経科学) Should be Behind the Language Acquisition.-

Brain Function and Survival: The effectiveness of tadoku is not coincidental; it's based on **the way our brains have evolved** to form **worldviews**, which are essential for survival.

### 1. “The **Power of Stories**(物語の力)” in Language Learning

**Storytelling** as Survival: Humanity's ability to create **shared narratives** has been essential for survival over the last 100,000 years. Tadoku utilizes this inherent power, which is embedded in the brain's evolution.

**Story Components**: The story is a combination of the three: personal narratives, cultural context, and the stories of others, which together shape our **worldview**. This power of storytelling helps us internalize language.

**Memory and Mental Imagery**: The concept of “**afterimage tracing**(残像遡行),” which can also be called “micro-short-term memory,” refers to the brain's ability to retain recently heard language for about 0.5-2 seconds **subconsciously**, allowing us to connect speech with **meaning**.

This ability operates as listening or reading and during natural pauses like when the speaker breathes or between phrases and idiomatic expressions (Pragmatic use/Lexical bundles).

This is why tadoku works: it helps hold **afterimages** in your **subconscious**, creating the **language frame**.

**Multiple Afterimages** Become **Conceptualized**: And this is where the “**Power of Stories**” comes in, supported by the “Ink-Smudging Technique(墨塗り法) 2.0.-with never translating into Japanese-”

**Adults Have Advantages**: While it may seem that children have a natural edge in language learning, adults actually have certain **cognitive** advantages, making tadoku much more effective for them.

### 2. Why Tadoku Should Start with **Picture Books**

-Tadoku's Critical Techniques-

Avoid translating into Japanese. Hold back just before even mentally translating it into Japanese. From concrete pictures and images → to **abstract stories** (a conceptualized **worldview**)

Picture books play an essential role not only in preventing Japanese translation (helping learners absorb English directly), but in introducing the basic **rhythm** of English.

The rhythm: “Ton-chin-kan-donbunbunbun (頓珍漢ドンブンブンブン)” (examples in a separate paper).

### 3. Now All the Questions about tadoku including following ones must have been answered-

Why does grammar become intuitive, and grammar questions become guesswork?

Why are the three tadoku principles and having fun and avoiding Japanese English textbooks so essential?

Why do Japanese English teachers struggle with speaking English?

Side Note: Integrating Tadoku with **English Education Reform**

-Catherine Elphberg's “Teaching Middle School English in COVID-era Japan”-



Tadoku's Spread is a Structural Reform. ← Can this reform be achieved? What methodology should we use?

Japan's English education: one reason for declining productivity in Japan and the “lost decades”: it's a Symbol.

**English Tadoku** facilitates learners in retaining the **Multiple Afterimages** and acquiring the basic **English rhythm** both essential for language Acquisition, which will contribute to **Reforming English Education** in Japan.

The basic English rhythm: “Ton-chin-kan-donbunbunbun (頓珍漢ドンブンブン)”

*Once upon a Home upon a Home* (p.8)

Grandpa lives all alone now.  
His wife passed away three years ago.

Each morning, he opens the hatch in the floor,  
baits his fishing hook, and waits  
until he's caught his breakfast.

Up on the roof he keeps a chicken  
that gives him eggs, and a patch of earth  
where he grows a little wheat.

He buys fruit, vegetables, flowers,  
and whatever else he might need  
from the vendors who paddle by  
every so often, each in his boat.

Experience Japan's Best-Kept Secret: Hiking the Kumano Kodo Trail (from youtube)

The Kumano Kodo is the most famous walking trail in Japan.  
This pilgrim route takes you through the mountains, rivers and cozy Japanese countryside.  
There are different sections you can walk and we decided to start in Nachikatsuura.  
So join us as we explore this lesser known but beautiful side of Japan.  
Tomorrow we are starting and we are so excited.  
We decided to start here.  
I know that a lot of people ends in this city.  
So tomorrow the first thing that what we do is go to the beautiful waterfalls.  
But for now we are going to explore this beautiful town because it is super pretty and we see the ocean, the Pacific ocean.

-eiken-2kyu-2ji-

It can be troublesome for parents with young children to go shopping in crowded places.  
For this reason, more shopping centers have started offering their customers childcare services.  
Some customers with children choose shopping centers that provide these services.  
In this way, they do their shopping more easily. Such services are becoming available even in places such as theaters and hospitals.

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[monmon 英語研究会] テーマ: -Be Assertive- 自己を主張せよ!  
-奥義-Esoterica--

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|---|---|
| 1. 日本語化する直前で寸止めせよ<br>Halt upon the brink of translating into Japanese                             | (真剣白刃取り)<br>(Capture the sword barehanded)                            |
| 2. 舌の定位置(舌先)を意識せよ<br>Direct the mind to the position of the tongue's tip                          | (舌頭に千転せよ)<br>(In the tip of the tongue lies a thousand revolutions)   |
| 3. 相手の発話を繰り返せ<br>Echo the words of your interlocutor  | (優れたものの魂を真似よ)<br>(Imitate the essence of the master's soul)           |
| 4. アイコンタクトし落ち着いて結論を先に述べよ<br>Hold eye contact, and with calm, deliver the conclusion first         | (眼光紙背に徹す)<br>(Pierce the very soul with a steady gaze)                |
| 5. 聞き逃したらすかさず聞け<br>Should words elude you, promptly seek clarity                                  | (唯一の真の英知)<br>(This is the one true wisdom)                            |
| 6. リズムを乱すな、タイミングを逃すな、思いついたら言え<br>Disturb not the rhythm, miss not the moment, speak when inspired | (知恵の拍子より発して勝つ)<br>(The timing of wisdom is the first step to victory) |
| 7. 自らの物語(ストーリー)の力を信じよ<br>Trust in the power of your own narrative                                 | (はじめに言葉ありき)<br>(In the beginning, there was the Word)                 |