

ABSTRACT

Since 1993 to 2022, 94,348 Indonesian interns (研修生) have been sent to Japan through the internship program organized by the Indonesian government, with 13,699 interns participating in 2022. This program aims to master knowledge, work ethic, and practices in Japan. However, interns often face challenges in cultural adaptation and language barriers that affect their performance and social interactions. Cultural gaps and language barriers can lead to misunderstandings, affect productivity, and hinder effective social interactions between interns and their Japanese colleagues. To overcome these barriers, the IPON Live Translation application was developed, designed to facilitate real-time two-way communication between Indonesian interns (研修生) and the Japanese community. This application offers features such as live translation, speech-to-text, text-to-speech, a settings menu to prevent misunderstandings, politeness level settings menu, and Japanese romaji to help interns communicate without having to read hiragana and katakana. With this application, it is expected that Indonesian interns (研修生) can more easily adapt, communicate, and understand the work culture in Japan. This will help them maximize their potential and contributions during the internship program and improve the quality of interactions and cooperation with Japanese colleagues. The author received feedback to make the IPON Live Translation application more useful, and with the feedback implemented, the application was tested again on the respondents who provided feedback and other respondents. The author obtained final results according to the Usefulness testing data, with 89.9% of respondents strongly agreeing that the application is useful in its features.

Keywords: Indonesian Interns (研修生), Live Translation, Speech-to-text, Text-to-speech, Politeness level settings menu, Japanese Romaji, Communication Barriers