



言葉の七夕飾り

Favourite Japanese words and phrases,
Tanabata 2019

Photograph by Benjamin Swale

Capital thinking. Globally minded.

In 2019, besides the traditional wishes captured on tanzaku 短冊 hung on bamboo, the organisers invited students of Japanese from Victoria University of Wellington and exchange students from Meiji Gakuin University to share their favourite Japanese words and phrases with each other on a 'virtual bamboo' on the Language Learning Centre noticeboard...

My favourite Japanese word or phrase is / 私の好きなことばは

(in romaji / ロマジで)

(in kana / かなで)

(in kanji / 漢字で)

(because / だから...)

Here are our favourite Japanese words and phrases in 2019...

#	In rōmaji	In kana	In kanji	meaning	Why?
1	omotenashi	おもてなし	表なし	Literally おもと (side,front)+ なし =ない	そして、誠実なsincere イメージがあるので、面白いと思う。英語で：hospitality,のでー> sincere hospitality.
2	mada mada da ne	まだまだだね	n/a		x x ヨーマの口癖だから笑
3	tomodachi	ともだち	友達	friend	Reminds me of the word tamagotchi
4	daijoubu	だいじょうぶ	大丈夫		understated
5	soo desu	そうです			A good response
6	egao	えがお	笑顔	smile	笑顔が一番だから

Here are our favourite Japanese words and phrases in 2019...

#	In rōmaji	In kana	In kanji	meaning	Why?
7	gengo	げんご	言語	language	どんな国の人でも 用いる複雑な制度。だからです。各人にとっては、大事なことでしょう？
8	otsukaresama	おつかれさま	お疲れ様		It is said after a hard day at work/after something that took effort.
9 + 15	yare yare daze	やれやれだぜ			だから、アニメのJOJOが大好きです。I love it
10	desu	です			It just is
11	suisenjō	すいせんじょう	推薦状	Letter of invitation/reference	この言葉の漢字が面白い

Here are our favourite Japanese words and phrases in 2019...

#	In rōmaji	In kana	In kanji	meaning	Why?
12	shinrinyoku	しんりんよく	森林浴	Forest bathing	Spending time in the forest is so relaxing and rejuvenating. In fact scientists say it can reduce stress levels and blood pressure, strengthen the cardiovascular system, improve immunity, concentration, and help boost your energy, mood, and creativity
13	hesokuri	へそくり	臍繰り	Secret savings or 'stash'	Because we all need to have some money available to us that is hidden even from our nearest & dearest – to spend on something without the need to explain!
14	sasuga OR mondainai	さすが、もんだいない	問題ない		Easy way to sum up a person's character, not an easy equivalent in English, shows understanding of someone/something – similar feeling when said in English, can convey my character + personality similarly

Here are our favourite Japanese words and phrases in 2019...

#	In rōmaji	In kana	In kanji	meaning	Why?
16	jinsei wa purasu mainasu zero	じんせいはいふらすまいなすぜろ	人生はプラスマイナスゼロ。		You may have bad time but you also have good time!
17	Narita rikon	なりたりこん	成田離婚	"Narita divorce"	Because it's humorous – it suggests that sometimes spending the honeymoon together is enough to realize that the marriage is not going to work out – so the couple gets divorced as soon as they land at Narita Airport
18	komorebi	こもれび	木漏れ日	Sunlight filtering through trees	Very poetic
19	tsujigiri	つじぎり	辻斬り	killing a passerby in order to test a new sword	Very samurai-esque

Here are our favourite Japanese words and phrases in 2019...

#	In rōmaji	In kana	In kanji	meaning	Why?
20	shichimenchou	しちめんちょう	七面鳥	turkey	Strange literal meaning, "seven face bird"
21	waku waku suru	わくわくする		to get excited or thrilled	It's exciting
22	Hahaha haha	ははははは	母ははは	My mother is laughing	I made it up, and it's funny!
23	dekichatta kekkon	できちゃったけっこん	できちゃった結婚	Shotgun wedding (oops-we-did-it-marriage, implying an unintended pregnancy)	面白いです. It's interesting
24	warau	わらう	笑う	To laugh	I like to laugh!

Favourite words challenge

The organisers are brainstorming ways to 'recycle' these favourite words in a creative way in 2020 by incorporating them into a student challenge – so watch this space お楽しみに！

My favourite Japanese word or phrase is / 私の好きなことばは ②

mada mada da ne

(in romaji / ロマジで)

まだ まだだね

(in kana / かなで)

まだ

(in kanji / 漢字で)

越前リョーマの口癖だから笑

(because / だから...) 越前

My favourite Japanese word or phrase is / 私の好きなことばは ①

Omotenashi

(in romaji / ロマジで)

おもてなし

(in kana / かなで)

表なし

(in kanji / 漢字で)

Actually おもて (side, front) + なし = なし

(because / だから...)

そして、言葉実(せじつ)さるイメージ
がゆるいので「面白いと思う、英語で: Hospitality
of → same hospitality. ~~言葉~~ ~~実~~ ~~さる~~ ~~イメージ~~ ~~ゆるい~~ ~~ので~~ ~~面白い~~ ~~と思う~~ ~~英語~~ ~~で~~ ~~:~~ ~~Hospitality~~

My favourite Japanese word or phrase is / 私の好きなことばは ④

daijyoubu

(in romaji / ロマジで)

だいじょうぶ

(in kana / かなで)

大丈夫

(in kanji / 漢字で)

understated.

(why? / どうして?)

My favourite Japanese word or phrase is / 私の好きなことばは ③

tomodachi

(in romaji / ロマジで)

ともだち

(in kana / かなで)

友だち

(in kanji / 漢字で)

reminds me of the word tamagotchi

(because / だから...)

My favourite Japanese word or phrase is / 私の好きなことばは ⑥

egao

(in romaji / ロマジで)

えがお

(in kana / かなで)

笑顔

(in kanji / 漢字で)

笑顔が一番だから。

(because / だから...)

My favourite Japanese word or phrase is / 私の好きなことばは ⑤

Soo desu

(in romaji / ロマジで)

そうですね。

(in kana / かなで)

(in kanji / 漢字で)

A good response.

(because / だから...)

My favourite Japanese word or phrase is / 私の好きなことばは ⑧

Otsukaresama ~

(in romaji / ロマジで)

おつかれさま ~

(in kana / かなで)

お疲れ様 ~

(in kanji / 漢字で)

It is said after a hard day at work /
after something that took effort.

(why? / どうして?)

My favourite Japanese word or phrase is / 私の好きなことばは ⑦

gengo

(in romaji / ロマジで)

げんご

(in kana / かなで)

言語

(in kanji / 漢字で)

どんな国でも用いる複雑な制度。だからです。
各人にとっては、
大事なことでしょ?

(because / だから...)

My favourite Japanese word or phrase is / 私の好きなことばは ¹⁰

desu

(in romaji / ローマジで)

です。

(in kana / かなで)

×

(in kanji / 漢字で)

it just is

(why? / どうして?)

My favourite Japanese word or phrase is / 私の好きなことばは ⁹

YARE YARE NAZE

(in romaji / ローマジで)

やれ やれナゼ

(in kana / かなで)

↑

(in kanji / 漢字で)

だから、アニメのJOJOが大女子です。

(because / だから...)

My favourite Japanese word or phrase is / 私の好きなことばは ¹²

shin rin yoku (forest bathing)

(in romaji / ローマジで)

しんりんよく

(in kana / かなで)

森林浴

(in kanji / 漢字で)

Spending time in the forest is so relaxing and rejuvenating. In fact scientists say it can reduce stress levels and blood pressure, strengthen the cardiovascular system, improve immunity, concentration and help boost your energy, mood and creativity.

My favourite Japanese word or phrase is / 私の好きなことばは ¹¹

suisenjo

(in romaji / ローマジで)

すいせんじょう

(in kana / かなで)

推薦状

(in kanji / 漢字で)

この言葉の漢字が面白い

(because / だから...)

好きな
ことば

My favourite Japanese word or phrase is / 私の好きなことばは (14)

Sajuga	OR	mondainai
<small>(in romaji / ローマジ)</small>		<small>(in romaji / ローマジ)</small>
さじや		もたないない
<small>(in kana / かなで)</small>		<small>(in kana / かなで)</small>
		問題ない
		<small>(in kanji / 漢字で)</small>

*Easy way to sum up
a person's character,
not an easy equivalent
Eg, I know understands
of someone's meaning*

*Smiles freely when
I'd h eg, an
causes my character
& personality
similarly*

My favourite Japanese word or phrase is / 私の好きなことばは (13)

Hesokuri (= "secret savings/stash")

へそくり

貯蓄

Because we all need to have some money
available to us that is hidden even from
our nearest & dearest - to spend on
something without the need to explain!

My favourite Japanese word or phrase is / 私の好きなことばは (16)

Jinsei wa purasu mainasu zero

じんせい は ぷらす まいなす ぜろ

人生はプラスマイナスゼロ

You may have bad time but you also have good time!

My favourite Japanese word or phrase is / 私の好きなことばは (15)

yare yare daze

やれやれだぜ

I love it!

My favourite Japanese word or phrase is / 私の好きなことばは ⁽¹⁸⁾

komorebi

(in romaji / ローマジで)

こもれび

(in kana / かなで)

木漏れ日

(in kanji / 漢字で)

very

poetic

(why? / どうして?)

My favourite Japanese word or phrase is / 私の好きなことばは ⁽¹⁷⁾

Narita rikon (= "Narita divorce")

(in romaji / ローマジで)

なりたりこん

(in kana / かなで)

成田離婚

(in kanji / 漢字で)

Because it's humorous - it suggests that sometimes spending the honeymoon together is enough to realize that the marriage is not going to work - so the couple gets divorced as soon as they land at Narita Airport.

My favourite Japanese word or phrase is / 私の好きなことばは ⁽²⁰⁾

Shichimenchou

(in romaji / ローマジで)

しちめんちょう

(in kana / かなで)

七面鳥

(in kanji / 漢字で)

Strange literal meaning

(why? / どうして?)

My favourite Japanese word or phrase is / 私の好きなことばは ⁽¹⁹⁾

tsujigiri

(in romaji / ローマジで)

つぎり

(in kana / かなで)

辻斬り

(in kanji / 漢字で)

Very samurai-esque

(why? / どうして?)

My favourite Japanese word or phrase is / 私の好きなことばは

22

My mother is laughing

(in romaji / ローマジで)

はははははは

(in kana / かなで)

母ははは

(in kanji / 漢字で)

I made it up, and it is funny!! =!! =

(because / だから)

My favourite Japanese word or phrase is / 私の好きなことばは

21

waku waku suru

(in romaji / ローマジで)

わくわくする

(in kana / かなで)

(in kanji / 漢字で)

It's exciting

(why? / どうして?)

My favourite Japanese word or phrase is / 私の好きなことばは

24

Warau

(in romaji / ローマジで)

~~わらう~~ わらう

(in kana / かなで)

笑う

(in kanji / 漢字で)

I like to laugh!

(why? / どうして?)

My favourite Japanese word or phrase is / 私の好きなことばは

23

(in romaji / ローマジで)

(in kana / かなで)

できちゃった結婚

(in kanji / 漢字で)

面白いです

(why? / どうして?)

It's interesting