

My first foreigner language was english, as nowadays it is almost a requirement given how ubiquitous it is, but the important aspect of learning english was that it sparked in me the interest of learning more languages. One of the most interesting aspects of a language that drives me to learn more and more is that it tells a lot about the people that developed such language. It tells a lot because to communicate is a problem that every human being faces, so it is interesting to see how the people tackled this problem, what tradeoffs they made, what were their priorities and what they wanted to convey.

Initially the japanese language was exciting because of how different it was, in fact, it was remarkable how modular it looked, just like putting pieces of lego together, and given how it mixed so well with foreigner words, I would go as far as to say that it is playmobil-compatible too. After studying japanese for a while the bitter taste of the kanjis soon turned into something sweet after I found out the beauty that lies in them. To understand that a square may in fact be a circle made all the difference when learning `日`, that can be interpreted as a sun with a smile, and that is a perfect description of a nice day. Once day was understood eye `目` was straight forward, and it was possible to see ears listening at `聞`. And so at the tradeoff of not having the reading explicit, the marvel of this method of symbols that conveys ideas unraveled right in front of my eyes.

Excited about the writing system soon the classes and homework were not enough to fulfill my daily doses of japanese culture, I needed more, I needed a food for thought. And that was literally what I got by immersing myself at the famous "cuisine of the raw fish", as it was perceived by me initially. Known for its sushi, the japanese cuisine has much more to offer and it goes beyond being just food, the visual presentation is stunning, the ingredients follows the tides of the seasons and the ingenious hashi adds the final touch to set the japanese cuisine apart.

Hooked by the food came the thoughts conveyed in the form of arts pulling the string to force me to breath something new. This new can be seen in the movies such as Kiki's Delivery Service, after all, how could someone be afraid of a witch like her. On the same breath, Studios Ghibli introduced me to a whole new set of gods and spirits. Meanwhile, Akira Kurosawa casts his shadow upon many with the conception of movies in which a team is assembled to perform a mission. And to my delight, in this quest to try to define this exotic culture, I found some really creative works, or would you bet that one day a music would save the world as in "Fish Story" by Yoshihiro Nakamura. What was clear from this experience is that the japanese culture is diversified, it has the full spectrum of silly to thoughtful works in any area of interest and in any art form. Bit by bit each of these works began to lift the veil to show the face of the japanese customs, traditions, celebrations and reasoning.

At this point of the journey to explore the japanese culture, even though I can not yet see the hare in the `月`, it was already enough for an interesting phenomena to take place. By exposing myself to such a different culture there was a clash with my own. This contrast made some screaming aspects of my own culture to emerge, and so I became more aware of myself.