A basic study for the reconstruction of the education of *kanji*: A quantitative analysis of complexity in 1,006 Elementary school *kanji* figures

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Several Asian countries use a writing system based on Chinese characters. In Japanese this writing system is termed *kanji*. Recognizing *kanji* is one of the greatest difficulties in learning for JSL（Japanese as a Second Language）children whose background is from a country that does not use *kanji*. This difficulty stems from the fact that *kanji* is composed of hundreds of different shapes arranged into composite structures. In order to facilitate JSL children's recognition and memorization of *kanji*, we isolated elements from the 1006 *kanji* learned in Japanese elementary school, based on their orthographical familiarity and learnability. We classified the elements into "*kanji*-parts" and "non-*kanji* parts". With knowledge of the most frequent 30 "*kanji*-parts", and all 57 "non-*kanji* parts", JSL children should be able to recognize 476 *kanji*. This amount comprises 47.3 % of the 1,006 elementary school *kanji*.