

Anime expanded my world during the pandemic

Miu Takubo
Ehime University

During the coronavirus pandemic, I tended to feel depressed, but an anime series gave me pleasure. It's *JUJUTSU KAISEN*. *JUJUTSU KAISEN* is a Japanese manga that has been serialized in Weekly Shonen Jump since 2018, and the television anime series was broadcast in 2020 and the movie version, released in 2021, became a big hit. It is very popular not only in Japan, but also overseas. It is a dark fantasy manga that depicts the battle of Jujutsu Sorcerers who use magic to exorcise monsters born from the negative emotions of humans.

In the fall of 2020, shortly after the coronavirus began to influence our lives, I 'met' the *JUJUTSU KAISEN* TV anime series. I was lonely and couldn't go to the university campus. I was taking classes online at home, and I had mountains of homework, I heard that an anime called *JUJUTSU KAISEN* was really popular, so I tried watching it. It was really great from the first episode. I couldn't wait to watch the next episode and kept watching. I wanted to share this enjoyment with someone, so I recommended it to my family (my father, my mother, and my younger brother) and my best friend, who loves anime. Everyone was hooked! I watched it over and over again because not only was the content of the story difficult, but also, I never got tired of it. There are even scenes where I memorized the lines. *JUJUTSU KAISEN* brought fun and hope to my lonely life.

In 2021, I heard big news. It said that the movie version of my favorite *JUJUTSU KAISEN*, "*JUJUTSU KAISEN 0*" will be released. AND my favorite band, King Gnu, sings its theme song. I was really happy to hear that. I thanked the person who proposed entrusting the theme song to King Gnu from the bottom of my heart (although I don't know who it is, of course).

During the winter vacation, I went to see the movie "*JUJUTSU KAISEN 0*" with that best friend who loves anime. We have been close friends since high school, but she goes to another university, so it was a lot of fun to meet her for the first time in a while. I'm happy to have a friend who likes the same things and we can enjoy them together. After we watched the movie, we talked and exchanged impressions of it excitedly.

Even a few months after I watched the movie, my love for *JUJUTSU KAISEN* did not cool down. One day, I had the opportunity to talk about *JUJUTSU KAISEN* with a college friend who knew about this anime. (At this time, I was able to take face-to-face classes at the university.) We were talking about our favorite characters. Actually, "*JUJUTSU KAISEN 0*" is about the time before the currently serialized manga "*JUJUTSU KAISEN*", and the main character is different. Yuji Itadori, the main character of "*JUJUTSU KAISEN*," is cheerful and aggressive, and can easily get along with anyone. On the other hand, Yuta Okkotsu, the main character of "*JUJUTSU KAISEN 0*", is passive and introverted. I said to my friend, "I am attracted to Itadori-kun because he has something that I don't have, and I am also attracted to Okkotsu-kun because I have sympathy for him." And she said, "Do you have a dark personality?" And I said laughing, "Yes, I'm really negative. I'm envious of positive people". And she said, "But if you have a dark personality, you can understand the feelings of those people. So I think it's good." I was very happy and felt relieved because I had a complex regarding my negative personality.

As I've said, *JUJUTSU KAISEN* gave pleasure to my lonely life during the coronavirus pandemic. There is a lot of pleasure besides what I wrote in this essay, but the most enjoyable thing was that *JUJUTSU KAISEN* gave me wonderful experiences with my friends, not only my old friend, but also my new friend. My college life was greatly influenced by coronavirus, but now I think that these memories with my friends are very important and precious for me.



JUJUTSU KAISEN



JUJUTSU KAISEN 0