There are growing number of foreign people who are interested in learning the Japanese language. However, there are not enough teachers and courseware of Japanese education. One of the problems is a wide range of interests: daily conversations, business correspondences, technical documents, etc., which cannot be covered in a single courseware or a class. Making a textbook with a comprehensive set of sample sentences is also time-consuming. Another problem is the number, shapes, and pronunciation of the characters used in the Japanese language, which would be an immediate barrier to start reading/writing Japanese text.

We have been developing a Web Based Japanese Educational System which aims at providing an environment for both courseware builder and courseware users. Fig. 1 shows the overview of the system. In this figure, Japanese-English Text Database is used for providing students example sentences including focused words in a courseware, and for providing teachers example sentences searched by Similar Syntax Search Function.