

# Verb Semantics and Argument Realization in Pre-modern Japanese

1 January 2009 – 30 June 2014

Funded by the  
Arts and Humanities Research Council, UK

## People

### VSARPJ Project members

Bjarke Frellesvig (Oxford)  
Peter Sells (York)  
Mary Dalrymple (Oxford)  
Stephen Wright Horn (Oxford)  
Kerri L Russell (Oxford)  
Daniel Trott (Oxford)  
Zixi You (Oxford)

Janick Wrona

### VSARPJ External project members

Anton Antonov (INALCO / CRLAO, Paris)  
Satoshi Kinsui (Osaka)  
Tomohide Kinuhata (Fukuoka)  
Yasuhiro Kondo (Aoyama Gakuin)  
Professor Masayoshi Shibatani (Rice)  
Akira Watanabe (Tokyo)  
John Whitman (NINJAL / Cornell)  
Yuko Yanagida (Tsukuba)

Until his passing on 25 February 2009, S.-Y. Kuroda, Professor Emeritus and Research Professor of Linguistics at UCSD, was an external member of the research team.

## Project meetings

### 19-21 January 2010

Our first project workshop was held at Oxford. This was the first opportunity for the external members and other invited colleagues to see a small sample of the corpus (Book IV of the *Man'yōshū*), how grammatical and lexical features are marked up, and the searchability of grammatical features.

#### Presentations:

- Bjarke Frellesvig presented "A Project and Corpus Overview"
- Kerri L Russell presented "Corpus presentation: Mark-up of orthography and morphology. The dictionary" and "Demonstration and discussion of display options and searchability of the corpus"
- Stephen Wright Horn presented "Mark-up of Syntax".
- Satoshi Kinsui presented "On *rentai-shūshoku* and *juntaiku*"
- Tomohide Kinuhata presented "A Lecture on *Shōmono*".
- Sebastian Rahtz from Oxford University Computing Services gave a talk introducing the Text Encoding Initiative (TEI).

#### Participants included:

- **VSARPJ project members:** Bjarke Frellesvig, Peter Sells, Stephen Wright Horn, Kerri L Russell, Daniel Trott, Janick Wrona, and Zixi You
- **VSARPJ external project members:** Anton Antonov, Satoshi Kinsui, Tomohide Kinuhata, Masayoshi Shibatani, Akira Watanabe, John Whitman, and Yuko Yanagida
- **Others:** Oana David, Naoko Hosokawa, Yuhki King, Daniel Millichip, Jenny Moore, Muneto Ozaki, Thomas Pellard.

#### 29-30 September 2010

Our second project workshop was held at Oxford before the start of the JK20 Conference. This workshop focused on various methods of searching and extracting data from the corpus and how to best classify arguments. Participants included:

- **VSARPJ project members:** Bjarke Frellesvig, Peter Sells, Stephen Wright Horn, Kerri L Russell, and Zixi You
- **VSARPJ external project members:** Anton Antonov, Mary Dalrymple, Satoshi Kinsui, Tomohide Kinuhata, Masayoshi Shibatani, Akira Watanabe, John Whitman, and Yuko Yanagida
- **Students:** Benjamin Cagan, Scott Hale, Judy Kroo, Wenchao, Li, Katarina Pedersen, and Tohru Seraku, and Linda Lanz.
- **Special guests:** Taro Kageyama, Beth Levin

#### 31 July - 1 August 2011

The first joint Oxford-NINJAL workshop was held at Osaka University from 31 July - 1 August. Presentations were given on both the NINJAL and VSARPJ corpora. Participants included:

- **VSARPJ project members:** Bjarke Frellesvig, Peter Sells, Stephen Wright Horn, and Kerri L Russell
- **VSARPJ external project members:** Anton Antonov, Satoshi Kinsui, Tomohide Kinuhata, Yasuhiro Kondo, Akira Watanabe, John Whitman, and Yuko Yanagida
- **NINJAL project members:** Toshinobu Ogiso, Tetsuya Sunaga, Makiro Tanaka, and Hirofumi Yamamoto
- **Guests:** Wes Jacobsen, Sven Osterkamp, Thomas Pellard, and Alexander Vovin
- **Students:** Miho Iwata, Mariko Fujimoto, Yuta Mori, Ichiha Yamamoto, Mika Sakai, and Hiroshi Kadota

### **30-31 July 2012**

The fourth project meeting was held at NINJAL on 30 July, before the  
通時コーパスプロジェクト・オックスフォード大 VSARPJ プロジェクト  
合同シンポジウム：通時コーパスと日本語史研究  
NINJAL Diachronic Corpus Project – Oxford VSARPJ Project  
Joint Symposium: Corpus Based Studies of Japanese Language History

which took place on 31 July and where several members of the VSARPJ project presented research based on the Oxford Corpus of Old Japanese. Participants included:

- **VSARPJ project members:** Bjarke Frellesvig, Peter Sells, Stephen Wright Horn, Kerri L Russell, and Dan Trott
- **VSARPJ external project members:** Satoshi Kinsui, Tomohide Kinuhata, Masayoshi Shibatani, Akira Watanabe, John Whitman, and Yuko Yanagida
- **NINJAL project members:** Yasuhiro Kondo, Toshinobu Ogiso, Tetsuya Sunaga, Makiro Tanaka
- **Guest:** Shin-Sook Kim

### **18 May 2014**

This meeting.

## **Talks**

Talks can be downloaded from <http://vsarpj.orinst.ox.ac.uk/talks.html>

### **2009**

Early Chan Manuscripts among the Dunhuang Findings: Resources in the Mark-up and Digitation of Historical Texts, University of Oslo, Norway, 28 September - 2 October 2009  
Kerri L Russell "Verbal Semantics and Argument Realization in Pre-modern Japanese: A Corpus Based Study"

National Institute for the Japanese Language Inagural Forum: Future Perspectives on Japanese Linguistics, National Institute for the Japanese Language (国立国語研究所), Tachikawa City, Tokyo, Japan, 10-12 October 2009

Bjarke Frellesvig "Some Perspectives for the Historical Study of Japanese (日本語史研究の展望)"

### **2010**

Oxford Corpora Group meeting, University of Oxford, 4 February 2010  
Kerri L Russell "Verbal Semantics and Argument Realization in Pre-modern Japanese: An Introduction"

Japan Research Centre Seminar Programme, SOAS, 17 March 2010

Bjarke Frellesvig, Stephen Wright Horn, Kerri L Russell, and Peter Sells "Introducing the project 'Verb Semantics and Argument Realization in Pre-Modern Japanese'"

Japanese Times Now Past — International Conference on Premodern Japan  
Ruhr-Universität Bochum, Germany, 11-12 June 2010

Kerri L Russell "Argument structure in Old Japanese: A corpus based study"

XXIIIe Journées de linguistique de l'Asie Orientale, CLRAO, Paris, France, 1-2 July 2010

Stephen Wright Horn, Kerri L Russell, and Bjarke Frellesvig "Verb semantics & argument realization in premodern Japanese: A preliminary study of verbal compounds"

West Oxford Academy, West Oxford Community Association, 16 November, 2010

Kerri L Russell "Pre-Modern Japanese Syntax: A Corpus Based Study"

## **2011**

National Institute for the Humanities (NIHU) Scholarship, Japan 2010/11: Research Presentation, National Institute for Japanese Language and Linguistics (国立国語研究所), Tachikawa City, Tokyo, Japan, 20 January 2011

Stephen Wright Horn "上代日本語のコーパスにおける意味役割の付与 (Assigning Semantic Roles in a Corpus of Old Japanese)"

Hiroshima University, Department of Education: Special Lecture, Hiroshima University (広島大学), Higashi Hiroshima, Japan, 25 January 2011

Stephen Wright Horn "万葉集のコーパスから見たいもの (Queries for a Corpus of the Man'yōshū)"

第45回 NINJAL (国語研) サロン (45th NINJAL Salon), National Institute for Japanese Language and Linguistics (国立国語研究所), Tachikawa City, Tokyo, Japan, 10 May 2011

Kerri L Russell "「通時コーパスで使用する辞書の構築について」 (Constructing a dictionary for use with a diachronic corpus)"

Hiroshima University: Special Lecture, Hiroshima University, Hiroshima, Japan, 18 May 2011

Kerri L Russell "「通時辞書の構築について」 (Constructing a diachronic dictionary)"

20th International Conference on Historical Linguistics (ICHLXX), National Museum of Ethnology, Osaka, Japan, 25-30 July 2011

Bjarke Frellesvig, Plenary Talk, "Corpus Based Studies in Japanese Historical Syntax: On the verb *suru* 'do' in Old Japanese"

Bjarke Frellesvig, Stephen Wright Horn, and Kerri L Russell "Null Arguments in Pre-modern Japanese"

The 13th International Conference of EAJS, Tallinn University, Tallinn, Estonia, 24-27 August 2011

Stephen Wright Horn and Kerri L Russell "Semantic roles and case marking in Old Japanese"

Zixi You "Manifestations of split intransitivity in Old Japanese: A corpus-based study"

BAJS Workshop - Japanese Language and Japanese Studies, Nissan Institute, St. Antony's College, Oxford, 8 September 2011

Bjarke Frellesvig, Stephen Wright Horn, Kerri L Russell, and Zixi You "Panel: Corpus based studies of Japanese grammar"

DiaSynCorp Workshop, Reykjavik, Iceland, 5-6 November 2011

Bjarke Frellesvig "Introduction of the research project 'Verb semantics and argument realization in pre-modern Japanese' and the Oxford Corpus of Old Japanese"

Oriental Institute Faculty Research Presentations, Oriental Institute, 17 November 2011

Stephen Wright Horn and Kerri L Russell "AHRC: 'Verb semantics and argument realization in pre-modern Japanese' and the Oxford Corpus of Old Japanese"

General Linguistics Seminar, University of Oxford, 21 November 2011

Bjarke Frellesvig "The verb 'to do' (*suru*) in Old Japanese: A corpus based study"

AHRC Showcase Event: International Placement Scheme, University College London, 15 December 2011

Stephen Wright Horn "NIHU Scholarship at NINJAL 2010-2011", NIHU/AHRC Award Holder presentation

## **2012**

Invited Lecture: University of York, University of York, 1 February 2012

Bjarke Frellesvig "The verb 'to do' (*suru*) in Old Japanese: A corpus based study"

8th Workshop on Altaic Formal Linguistics, Stuttgart, Germany, 18-20 May 2012

Bjarke Frellesvig, Stephen W Horn, Kerri L Russell, and Peter Sells "Provisional and Conditional Clauses in Old Japanese"

NINJAL Colloquium, National Institute for Japanese Language and Linguistics, 29 May 2012

Bjarke Frellesvig "上代日本語の「スル」について : コーパスによる研究 [On the verb *suru* 'do' in Old Japanese: A corpus based study]"

Invited Lecture: Osaka University, Osaka University, 2 July 2012

Bjarke Frellesvig "The verb *suru* 'to do' in Old Japanese"

通時コーパスプロジェクト・オックスフォード大 VSARPJ プロジェクト合同シンポジウム (NINJAL Diachronic Corpus Project – Oxford VSARPJ Project Joint Symposium Corpus Based Studies of Japanese Language History), National Institute for Japanese Language and Linguistics, 30-31 July 2012

Bjarke Frellesvig "オックスフォード上代日本語コーパスについて (The Oxford Corpus of Old Japanese)"

Stephen Wright Horn "On accusative case marking in Old Japanese (上代日本語の対格表示について)"

Kerri L Russell "Demonstration of the Oxford corpus of Old Japanese (オックスフォード上代日本語コーパスのデモンストレーション)"

Kerri L Russell "Noun incorporation in Old Japanese (上代日本語における名詞抱合について)"

Peter Sells "On null pronouns in Old Japanese (上代日本語のゼロ代名詞)"  
Daniel Trott "On tense and aspect in Old Japanese (上代日本語のテンスとアスペクト)"

NINJAL International Symposium on Valency Classes and Alternations in Japanese,  
National Institute for Japanese Language and Linguistics, 4-5 August 2012  
Bjarke Frellesvig and John Whitman "The historical source of the bigrade (*nidan*)  
transitivity alternations in Japanese (二段活用に現れる自・他交替  
の通時起源について)"

AHRC International Placement Scheme Showcase, University of Westminster, London, 16  
November 2012

Kerri L Russell "Lexical Representation of Argument Realization Patterns in Pre-  
modern Japanese: An IPS Research Project"

### **2013**

East Asian Linguistics Seminar, University of Oxford, 15 January 2013  
Stephen Wright Horn and Kerri L Russell "Null Pronouns in Old Japanese: A study of  
Concessive, Conditional, and Provisional clauses"

琉球諸語と古代日本語に関する比較言語学的研究/Workshop on Old Japanese and  
Ryukyuan Languages, Kyoto University, 19-20 February 2013

Kerri L Russell "Motion verbs in Eastern Old Japanese: A corpus based study"

HiCor Workshop, University of Oxford, 1 March 2013  
Bjarke Frellesvig, Stephen Wright Horn, and Kerri L Russell "The Oxford Corpus of  
Old Japanese"

HiCor Meeting, University of Oxford, 15 May 2013  
Kerri L Russell "The Oxford Corpus of Old Japanese"

「通時コーパスの設計」研究発表会 (Research seminar: Design of diachronic corpora),  
National Institute for Japanese Language and Linguistics, 28 July 2013  
Bjarke Frellesvig, Stephen Wright Horn, Yuko Yanagida "The Oxford Corpus of Old  
Japanese and differential object marking in Old Japanese"

ICHL21: International Conference on Historical Linguistics, University of Oslo, 5-9 August  
2013  
Bjarke Frellesvig, Stephen Wright Horn, Yuko Yanagida "Differential object marking  
in Old Japanese: A corpus based study"  
Kerri L Russell and Peter Sells "The syntax of mood constructions in Old Japanese: A  
corpus based study"  
Zixi You "Syntax and semantic of split intransitivity in Japanese: A comparative  
study of Old Japanese and Modern Japanese"

Kobe University Brussels Workshop, Kobe University Brussels European Centre, 7  
November 2013  
Bjarke Frellesvig "The Oxford Corpus of Old Japanese"

日本語およびアジア諸言語における複合動詞・複雑動詞の謎 / Mysteries of Verb-Verb Complexes in Asian Languages, National Institute for Japanese Language and Linguistics, 14-15 December 2013

Bjarke Frellesvig "Mysteries of Verb Verb complexes in Old Japanese"

Kobe University, 16 December 2013

Bjarke Frellesvig "The Oxford Corpus of Old Japanese"

## **2014**

Oriental Institute Methodology Seminar, Oriental Institute, 21 February 2014

Kerri L Russell "Digital Humanities in Oriental Studies"

International Symposium on Polysynthesis in the World's Languages 国際シンポジウム  
「世界の言語における複統合性」, National Institute for Japanese Language and Linguistics, 20-21, 2014

Kerri L Russell, John Whitman, and Yuko Yanagida "Was Old Japanese a polysynthetic language?"

East Asian Linguistics Seminar, University of Oxford, 4 March 2014

Kerri L Russell and Peter Sells "The syntax of mood constructions in Old Japanese: A corpus based study"

East Asian Lunch Seminar, Institute for Oriental and Cultural Studies

University of Oslo, 5 March 2014

Bjarke Frellesvig "Why Romanize Japanese? Introducing the Oxford Corpus of Old Japanese"

The Diachronic Typology of Differential Argument Marking

Universität Konstanz, 5-6 April 2014

Bjarke Frellesvig, Stephen W. Horn, Yuko Yanagida "Differential Object Marking in Old Japanese"

## **Project publications**

Frellesvig, Bjarke, Stephen W. Horn, Kerri L. Russell, and Peter Sells. 2011-Present. *The Oxford Corpus of Old Japanese*.

### **Forthcoming**

Frellesvig, Bjarke, Stephen Wright Horn, Yuko Yanagida. "Differential object marking in Old Japanese: A corpus based study. Proceedings from the International Conference on Historical Linguistics 21. John Benjamins.

Frellesvig, Bjarke and John Whitman. "The Historical Source of the Bigrade Transitivity Alternations in Japanese". In *Transitivity and Valency Alternations: Studies on Japanese and Beyond*, edited by Taro Kageyama and Wesley Jacobsen. De Gruyter Mouton.

Frellesvig, Bjarke. Forthcoming. "Why romanize a corpus of (Old) Japanese?" in 「コーパスと日本語史研究」 Corpus-Based Historical Studies in Japanese. ひつじ書房 Hituzi Syobo Publishing, Tokyo.

Horn, Stephen Wright and Kerri L Russell. "The Oxford Corpus of Old Japanese." in 「コーパスと日本語史研究」 Corpus-Based Historical Studies in Japanese. ひつじ書房 Hituzi Syobo Publishing, Tokyo.

金水 敏（印刷中）「古代日本語の主格・対格の語順について」『外池滋生教授退職記念論文集』開拓社.

Russell, Kerri L. Forthcoming. 上代東国語の移動動詞について — コーパスによる研究 —. In Takubo, Yukinori, John Whitman, Hirako Tatsuya, ed. 『琉球諸語と古代日本語』. くろしお出版.

Russell, Kerri L. and Peter Sells. Forthcoming. "The syntax of mood constructions in Old Japanese: A corpus based study." Proceedings from the International Conference on Historical Linguistics 21. John Benjamins.

## **2014**

Horn, Stephen Wright. 2014. "Projections of Subordinate Clauses in Old Japanese: Corpus-based Groundwork on Inflectional Types." 『国立国語研究所論集 (NINJAL Research Papers) 7』.

## **2013**

Frellesvig, Bjarke. 2013. "Remarks on the verb *suru* in Old Japanese – A corpus based study. 上代日本語の「スル」について -- コーパスによる研究". *NINJAL Project Review* Vol.3 No. 3, pp. 152-77.

Frellesvig, Bjarke, Stephen W. Horn, Kerri L. Russell, and Peter Sells. 2013. "Provisional and Conditional Clauses in Old Japanese." In Özge, Umut, ed. Proceedings of the 8th Workshop on Altaic Formal Linguistics. *MIT Working Papers in Linguistics*, 67, 65-78.

Horn, Stephen W. and Kerri L. Russell. 2013. "Null Arguments in Pre-modern Japanese." *Acta Linguistica Hafniensia*, 45.1.

## **2012**

Russell, Kerri L. and Stephen Wright Horn. 2012. "Verb semantics and argument realization in pre-modern Japanese: A corpus based study." *Chung-Hwa Buddhist Journal*, 25, 129-148.



2012. 通時コーパスと日本語史研究 Corpus based studies of Japanese language history.  
Tokyo: NINJAL.

- Bjarke Frellesvig: "オックスフォード上代日本語コーパスについて (The Oxford Corpus of Old Japanese)", pp. 11-14.
- Stephen Wright Horn: "On accusative case marking in Old Japanese (上代日本語の対格表示について)", pp. 23-26.
- Kerri L. Russell: "Noun incorporation in Old Japanese (上代日本語における名詞抱合について)", pp. 51-52.
- Peter Sells: "On null pronouns in Old Japanese (上代日本語のゼロ代名詞)", pp. 63-65.
- Daniel Trott: "On tense and aspect in Old Japanese (上代日本語のテンスとアスペクト)", pp. 31-32.

## **2010**

Frellesvig, Bjarke, Stephen W Horn, Kerri L Russell, and Peter Sells. 2010. "Verb semantics and argument realization in pre-modern Japanese: A preliminary study of compound verbs in Old Japanese." *Gengo Kenkyū*, 138, 25-65.

## **2009**

Frellesvig, Bjarke and Janick Wrona. 2009. "The Old Japanese case system: The function of *wo*". Japanese/Korean Linguistics 17, pp. 565-79. Stanford: CSLI Publications.

## Participation/collaboration

- NINJAL
- NINJAL Diachronic Corpus project
- Study of the History of the Japanese Language Using Statistics and Machine-Learning
- The Japanese Lexicon: A Rendaku Encyclopedia
- A Diachronic Contrastive Study of Japanese Interrogatives
- *Senmyō* Project (Tsukuba)
- HiCor Network (Oxford)

## Dissertations based on the OCOJ

### DPhil

Trott, Daniel. *Tense and Aspect in Old Japanese*. Completed 2014.

You, Zixi. *Split Intransitivity in Old Japanese*. Submitted 2013.

Mann, Laurence. *New Directions in Englishiki Norito Studies* (working title). In progress.

### MA

Kitahara, Chiho. *Complex Predicates in Historical Japanese - Analysis of Motion Verbs come/go in Old Japanese*. Completed 2011. (SOAS)

Mæhlum, Petter. *Plant names in Old Japanese*. In progress, University of Oslo.

### BA

Millichip, Daniel. *Senmyō: A translation and commentary*. Completed 2012.

# Planned activities between now and the end of June

27 June 2014

## The Oxford Corpus of Old Japanese and Digital Humanities in Oxford

We are planning a digital humanities event to both mark the end of our AHRC project (VSARPJ) and the subsequent development of a major digital humanities resource, the Oxford Corpus of Old Japanese (OCOJ).

This event will be an opportunity to showcase the OCOJ and to present other Digital Humanities projects based in Oxford.

9:30-10 Registration

10:00-11:00 The OCOJ: An Introduction

11:00-12:30 Research projects based on the OCOJ

- Zixi You
- Dan Trott
- Bjarke Frellesvig, Stephen Wright Horn, & Yuko Yanagida
- Kerri Russell & Peter Sells

12:30-1:30 lunch

1:30-2:00 Martin Wynne 'CLARIN: connecting corpora and tools'

2:00-2:30 Martin Maiden and/or Chiara Cappellaro

2:30-3:00 TBC

Tea Break

3:30-4:00 Richard Ashdowne '100 years in the making: digitizing the DMLBS'

4:00-4:30 Jacob Dahl 'TBC'

4:30-5:00 round-table discussion

5:00-6:00 Drinks reception

13 June 2014

## **Old Japanese in Action**

*Old Japanese in Action* is a half-day event which in an interactive and engaging way will introduce school children from Oxford Spires Academy to some of the literature and history from 8<sup>th</sup> century Japan and which will include the children enacting and performing some of these texts under the guidance of staff from the Creation Theatre company.

The aim of this event is to introduce English schoolchildren, aged between 13 and 15, who have an interest in literature and drama, to some of the oldest Japanese literature, history and culture, from the 8<sup>th</sup> century AD, the Nara period (奈良時代).

Our aim is to introduce students to a different and interesting culture through interactive work with these important Japanese texts, and also to share some of the specialized research work we do at the University of Oxford within Japanese studies. The texts we will use for this event will include epic poetry and folk tales in poetic form and historical texts from the *Man'yōshū* (万葉集), *Senmyō* (続日本紀宣命), and the *Kojiki kayo* (古事記歌謡). We will be working through translations of the texts into English.

The event will begin with a lecture about ancient Japan and ancient Japanese language, as well as the texts and literature we will be using.

This will be followed by a sample performance of a short text from Old Japan, created for this occasion by the Creation Theatre company.

After that, the students will break out in groups and create their own theatre performance of an Old Japanese text, under the direction of the Creation Theatre Team. In order to do so the children will have to think about the form and content of the texts they are working with, in a creative way, and to engage deeply with the texts. It is surely the first time for all of them to read or know about Old Japanese poetry and literature.

Finally, each group will perform their selected text for everybody attending in the school. In this way, *Old Japanese in Action* will teach the school children about the literature, history and culture of early Japan and it will also bring to life for them some of the literature from that time, in an interesting way which we believe is a new approach to introducing Japanese culture to children outside of Japan.

*Old Japanese in Action* will take place on 13 June 2014, at the Oxford Spires Academy in Oxford.