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On Modern Standard Japanese within the history of the Japanese language

Abstract

In this talk I will first give a short, condensed and very general overview over the history of the Japanese language and the major changes that have taken place in the language during its attested history. On that background I will discuss the place of 'Modern Standard Japanese' within the overall history of the language. I will present and discuss some texts and grammars produced by Jesuit missionaries in Japan around 1600. This material is important for understanding the provenance and formation of Modern Japanese.