On Modern Standard Japanese within the history of the Japanese language

Bjarke Frellesvig

East Asian Linguistics Seminar 7 February 2012

A condensed overview over the history of the Japanese language.

The position of Modern Standard Japanese within the overall history of the language.

Overview over the history of the Japanese language

(Bjarke Frellesvig, *A history of the Japanese language*, Cambridge University Press, 2010)

The linguistic periods of Japanese

Old Japanese (OJ)

700 - 800

Nara

Early Middle Japanese (EMJ)

800 - 1200

Heian

Late Middle Japanese (LMJ)

1200 - 1600

Kamakura, Muromachi

Modern Japanese (NJ)

1600 -

Edo/Tokugawa onwards

Old Japanese (OJ) 700 - 800

- Limited sources, but enough to get a relatively good idea of the language at the time;
- most sources reflect the language of the centre of political power, Nara, in the Kansai region, but some reflect some varieties spoken in Eastern Japan, usually collectively referred to under one as Eastern Old Japanese (**EOJ**)
- all sources were written in Chinese characters, used logographically or phonographically, so interpretation is not always simple;
- majority of sources are poetry.



Old Japanese texts

- Kojiki kayō
- Nihon shoki kayō
- Fudoki kayō
- Bussokuseki-ka
- ► Man'yōshū
- Shoku nihongi kayō
- Shoku nihongi Senmyō
- Engishiki Norito

古事記歌語 712 日本書紀歌語 720 風土記歌語 730s 仏足石歌 after 753

万葉集 after 759

続日本紀歌謡 797

宣命 697-791 祝詞 (compiled 927)

Old Japanese

接 畏 天皇 大御髪 乎 KAKEMAKU MO KASIKWOKI SUMYERA GA OPOMI-KAMI wo speaking.of even awesome imperial.highness GEN HON-hair ACC

盗 給 波利弖 NUSUMI-TAMAparite steal-HUM

岐多奈伎 佐保川 乃 尔 入弓 髑髏 NO **IREte** kitanaki sapoGAPA PITOGASIRA ni dirty Saogawa **GEN** skull DAT put.into

大宮 内 尔 持 参入 来 弖

OPOMIYA NO UTI ni MOTI-MAWIRI-KIte

palace GEN inside DAT hold-enter.HUM-come.GER

厭魅 為流 己止 三度 世利

MAZIWAZA S-Eru koto MI-TABI s-eri spell/curse do-STAT NMLZ three-times do-STAT

'They [the evil conspirators] stole hair of the unspeakably awesome imperial highness [Empress Shōtoku (*r.* 764-770) who was the ruling empress at the time], put it inside a skull from the Saogawa River, took it inside the palace, and cast spells three times' (from *Senmyō* 43, dating from 769)

Old Japanese

賢良乎為跡酒不飲SAKASIra wo SU to SAKE NOMA-NU aké drink-NEG

人 乎 熟 見者 猿 二鴨 似
PITO wo YOKU MIREBA SARU ni kamo NI-MU
person ACC well look.PROV monkey DAT FP resembleCONJ

'Looking closely at someone who doesn't drink in order to appear wise, they look like a monkey or something' (MYS 3.344)

Old Japanese

許呂佐務 苔 須羅句 場 志羅珥 比賣那素寐 殊 korosa-mu to suraku wo sira-ni pimye-n-aswobi su kill-CONJ TO do.NMNL ACC know- girl-'s-play do NEG

'not knowing that somebody intends to kill you, you are flirting with girls' (NSK 18)

Early Middle Japanese (EMJ) 800 - 1200

The political capital moves to Kyoto (also in Kansai), which remained the seat of political power until the beginning of the early modern period.



Early Middle Japanese (EMJ) 800 - 1200

- Large body of prose texts from 900 1100, to a large extent reflecting the contemporary spoken language of the upper classes of the capital, written in the *kana* script which evolved at the beginning of the period;
- the written language starts fossilizing from around 1100, giving rise to the *Classical Japanese* written language which served as the basis for most writing in Japanese until the beginning of the 20th century.

Early Middle Japanese Some texts

- Kokin wakashū preface
- Ise monogatari
- Tosa nikki
- Taketori monogatari
- Kagerō nikki
- Ochikubo monogatari
- Makura no sōshi
- Genji monogatari
- Sarashina nikki
- Konjaku monogatari-shū

古今和歌集仮名序 914 伊勢物語 early 10th c. 土佐日記 935 竹取物語 mid 10th c. 蜻蛉日記 2nd half 10th c. 蒋窪物語 late 10th c. 桃草子 c. 1000 源氏物語 1001-1010 更級日記 1059-1060 今昔物語集 1120

Late Middle Japanese (LMJ) 1200 - 1600

• Contemporary spoken language mainly reflected indirectly in most sources, especially in the first half of the period.

Late Middle Japanese A few texts

- ▶ Hôjôki
- Heike Monogatari
- Izayoi Nikki
- Tsurezuregusa

方丈記 (1212; Kamo no chômei)

平家物語 (c. 1220)

十六夜日記 (c. 1280; Abutsu)

徒然草 (c. 1330; Yoshida Kenkô)

Late Middle Japanese (LMJ) 1200 - 1600

Valuable sources in Latin alphabet writing produced by Christian missionaries from the very end of the period (spanning the beginning of Modern Japanese), reflecting the contemporary spoken language.

Late Middle Japanese

- ▶ *Shômono* 抄物 (mid-15th to mid-16th century)
- ▶ *Kyôgen* 狂言 (written down from early 17th century)
- Arte da Lingoa Japonesa (D. da Silva; 1551)
- Grammatica da Lingoa Japonesa (J. Fernandes; 1564)
- ▶ Feiqe Monogatari; Esopuno Fabvlas (1591-3).
- Dictionarium Latino Lusitanicum ac Japonicam (1595).
- Vocabulario da lingoa de Iapom (J. Rodrigues; 1603-4)
- ▶ *Arte da lingoa de Iapam* (J. Rodrigues; 1608)
- ▶ *Arte Breve da lingoa Iapoa* (J. Rodrigues; 1620)
- ▶ *Ars grammaticae linguae Iaponiae* (1632; Collado)

Arte

ARTE DA LINGOA DEIA PAM COMPOSTAPELLO

Padre Ioa) Rodriguez, Portugues da Copa-nhia de IESV diuidida em tres LIVROS.

B##3



COM LICENÇA DO ORDI-NARIO, E SVPERIORES EM

Nangasaqui no Collegio de Iapão da Companhia de 1 E S V

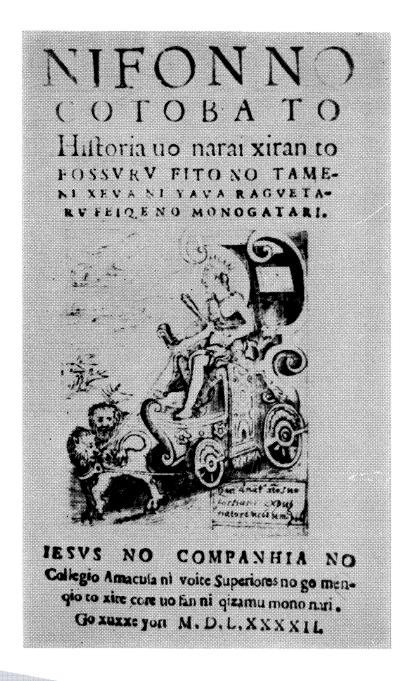
Anno. 1604.

長崎版ロドリゲス日本大文典 扉

Vocabulario



Feiqe



Main changes to affect Japanese 1

Internal ('evolutive') change

Sound changes (late OJ through EMJ)

segmental changes and introduction of quantity sensitivity disyllabic OJ *kwo.pwi* 'love' > EMJ *kwo.pi* > *ko.pi* > *ko.wi* > mono-syllabic *koi*

Morpho-syntactic changes (mainly LMJ)

extensive changes to verbal morphological categories, nominalization, focus constructions

Inflected verb forms, NJ

	'drink'	'eat'
Finite		
Nonpast; -ru	поти	taberu
Nonpast volitional; -yoo	nomoo	tabeyoo
Past; -(I)ta	nonda	tabeta
Imperative; -e/-ro	nome	tabero
Nonfinite		
Coordinate		
Infinitive; -i/Ø	nomi	tabe
Subordinate		
Gerund; -(I)te	nonde	tabete
Alternative; -(I)tari	nondari	tabetari
Provisional; -reba	nomeba	tabereba
Conditional; -(I)tara	nondara	tabetara

Inflected verb forms, OJ

	'write'	'open'
Finite		_
Conclusive	kaku	aku
Adnominal	kaku	akuru
Exclamatory	kake	akure
Imperative	kakye	ake(yo)
Neg. conject.	kakazi	akezi
Optative	kakana	akena
Prohibitive	na kaki so	na ake so
Non-finite		
Infinitive	kaki	ake
Gerund	kakite	akete
Continuative	kakitutu	aketutu
Conditional	kakaba	akeba
Provisional	kakeba	akureba
Concessive	kakedo	akuredo
Nominalized	kakaku	akuraku

Auxiliaries in OJ

Honorific	kakas-	-
Vaina		
Voice		
Causative	kakasime-	akesime-
Passive	kakaye-	-
Passive	kakare-	-
Aspect/Negation		
Perfective	kakite-	akete-
Perfective	(sakin-)	(token-)
Stative	kakyer-	-
[Stative]	[kakitar-]	[aketar-]
Negative	kakan-	aken-
Negative	kakazu	akezu
Tense/Mood		
Modal Past	kakikyer-	akekyer-
Simple Past	kakiki	akeki
Conjectural	kakam-	akem-
Subjunctive	kakamasi	akemasi

Main changes to affect Japanese 2

Contact-induced ('adaptive') change

Sinification (pre-OJ through EMJ; contact with Chinese) loanwords (e.g. $ky\bar{o}$ 'sutra', netsu 'fever', nikki 'diary'); phonological and some grammatical influence

Westernization (from mid-16th, but especially 20th century; contact with European languages) loanwords (e.g. pan 'bread', hōku 'fork'); phonological and some grammatical influence

The position of Modern Japanese within the overall history of the language

Modern Japanese (NJ) 1600 -

- The capital moves to Edo, present-day Tokyo, at the beginning of the period;
- a variety of sources, but to a large extent only indirect reflection of the contemporary spoken language well into the period.



Sweeping language reforms took place at the end of the 19th century and beginning of the 20th century as part of the national modernization project.

They combined **vernacularization** (言文一致) of the written language with efforts to define a national **Standard Japanese** (標準語).

The result was the establishment and codification of a (written) norm

Modern Standard Japanese

Modern Standard Japanese

Two publications by the

国語調查委員会 (National Language Research Council) chief editor: 大槻文彦 (Ōtsuki Fumihiko; 1847-1928)

- 口語法 ('Grammar of the Vernacular', 1916)
- 口語法別記 ('Grammar of the Vernacular, Supplement', 1917)



國語調查委員會編纂

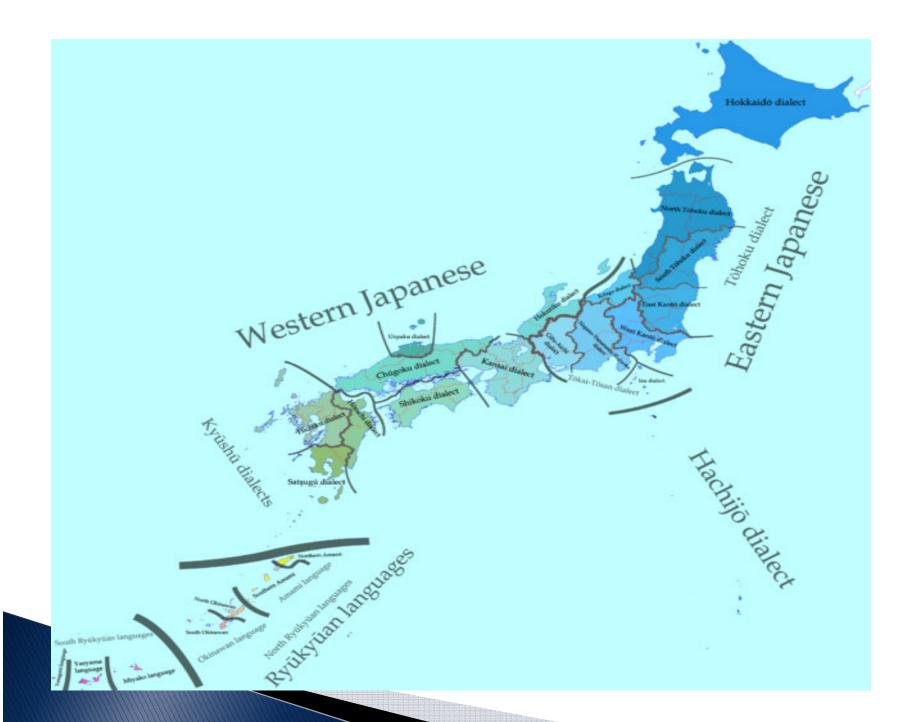
語法別記

全

大王 内交

Modern Standard Japanese

was based on the language of the educated classes of Tokyo.



Question

Was there a *significant break in tradition* between the language reflected in the pre-modern, Kansai-based sources and the current common/standard language?

Kyoto versus Kanto ('Quantô') features mentioned by Rodrigues 1

	Kyoto	Kanto
/se/ =>	[ʃe]	[se]
Allative particle	e	sa
Negative auxiliary	-nu kawanu	-nai kawanai

Kyoto versus Kanto features mentioned by Rodrigues 2; *onbin* forms

	Kyoto	Kanto
Intentional	-əəzuru	-anzuru
	kaəəzuru	kawanzuru
	[ka ^w ɔ:zuru]	
Onbin of	-U	-Q
-w base verbs	kəəta	katta
	(NJ koota)	
Adjectival	-U	-ku
infinitive	takəə	takaku
	(NJ takoo)	

Example of a (very) Late Middle
Japanese text:
one of the stories from
Esopo no Fabulas
1593

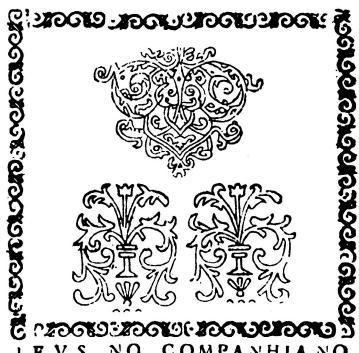
The Japanese language in the

Esopo no Fabulas

was the language of Kyoto

ESOPONO FABVLAS.

Latinuo vaxite Nippon no cuchito nasu mono nari.



1 E V S NO COMPANHIA NO
Collegio Amaculani voite Superiores no gomenqiotoxite coreuo fanni qizamu mono nari.
Goxuxxe yori M. D.L. XXXXIII.

Vôcameto, couo motta vonnano coto.

Vôcame yppiqi arufi yemonoga nŏte vyeni voyô de, cococaxicouo caqemeguri, aru yamazatono xizzuga iuorino noqibani yorisôte qiqeba, chijsai cono naquuo sucasu tote, sono faua camayete nacaba, vô cameni yarozuto yuniyotte, vocameua coreuo qiqi, macotocato vomôte, appare coreua yoi xiauaxecanato machicaqete yreba, fimo yŏyŏ cureyuita. Saredomo couoba cureide, amassaye fauano yùyòua:

vonnano coto. Vôcameto, couo motta voyô vyeni nŏte yemonoga arufi yppiqi Vôcame yamazatono caqemeguri, aru cococaxicouo de, chijsai coqiqeba, noqibani yorisôte xizzuga iuorino no naquuo sucasu tote, sono faua camayete nacaba, vô qivôcameua coreuo yuniyotte, yarŏzuto cameni xiauacoreua yoi appare vomôte, macotocato qi,

yreba,

Ookame to, ko o motta onna no koto.

Ookame ippiki aru fi emono ga noote u'e ni oyoo de, koko-kasiko o kake-meguri, aru yamazato no sidu ga i'ori no nokiba ni yori-soote kikeba, tiisai ko no naku o sukasu tote, sono fawa "kama'ete nakaba, oo kame ni yaroozu" to yuu ni yotte, ookame kore o ki ki, makoto ka to omoote, "appare kore wa yoi siawa se ka na" to mati-kakete ireba, fi mo yooyoo kure-yuita.

machicaqete

xecanato

cureyuita.

yŏyŏ

fimo

Vôcameto, couo motta vonnano coto. Ookame to, ko o motta onna no koto

Ookame ippiki aru fi emono ga noote u'e ni oyoode, koko-kasiko o kake-meguri, aru yamazato no sidu ga i'ori no nokiba ni yori-soote kikeba, tiisai ko no naku o sukasu tote, sono fawa "kama'ete nakaba, ookame ni yaroozu" to yuu ni yotte, ookame kore o kiki, makoto ka to omoote, "appare kore wa yoi siawase ka na" to mati-kakete ireba, fi mo yooyoo kure-yuita.

Saredomo, ko oba kureide, amassa'e fawa no yuu yoo wa: "ara itoosi no mono ya! ki-dukai suru na: tatoi ookame ga kitari tomo, soitume oba uti-koroite kawa o faide nokyoo zo" to yuu ni yotte, ookame omoo yoo wa: 'saritotewa ikkoo-ryoozet-na mono zya: fazime wa kuryoo to yuuta ga, ima wa mata fiki-ka'ete mi o korosoo wa yare, kawa o fagoo wa nado to yuu ka' to yuute, sugosugo-to tati-satta.

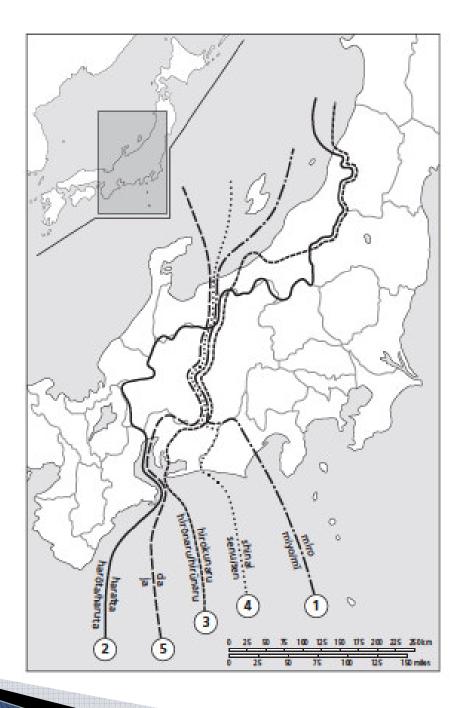
Sita-gokoro

Fito wa tabun kokoro to, kotoba wa ninu mono de, yayamosureba, yakusoku o fenzi, omowanu koto o mo yuu mono zya.

Influences from eastern Japanese on the Standard Language

Influences from eastern Japanese on the Standard Language

- a. Differences in (fairly) recent innovations
- onbin forms
- negative auxiliary
- copula
- b. Differences of long standing
- prosody/"accent"
- imperative



Onbin forms

Basic stem	Onbin-stem	Gerund
	Western Eastern	Western Eastern
a.		
kaw- 'buy'	koV- kaQ-	kōte katte
yob- 'call'	yoV- yoN-	yōde yonde
yom- 'read'	yoV- yoN-	yōde yonde
das- 'put out'	daI- dashi-	daite dashite
b.		
mot- 'hold'	moQ-	motte
tor- 'take'	toQ-	totte
kak- 'write'	kaI-	kaite
kog- 'row'	koI-	koide
shin- 'die'	shiN-	shinde

Negative auxiliary

Kyoto Kanto/cNJ

-(a)n [yoma**n**]

-(a)hen [yoma**hen**]

-(a)nai [yoma**nai**]

both Kansai -(a)hen and Kanto -(a)nai seem to be fairly recent innovations

[yomahen < yomi wa sen] [yomanai ??< *yomi wa nai]

Copula

Kyoto cNJ

zya da

both are fairly recent reductions from *de aru* (further < *ni-te ari*)

The Imperative for vowel base verbs

OJ

Kyoto cNJ

EOJ

Standard cNJ

ake- 'open'

ake(yo)

ake:

akero

akero

oki- 'arise'

okwi(yo) oki:

okiro

okiro

Modern Japanese

Question

Was there a *significant break in tradition* between the language reflected in the pre-modern, Kansai-based sources and the current common/standard language?

Modern Japanese

Question

Was there a *significant break in tradition* between the language reflected in the pre-modern, Kansai-based sources and the current common/standard language?

Answer

NO

Modern Standard Japanese

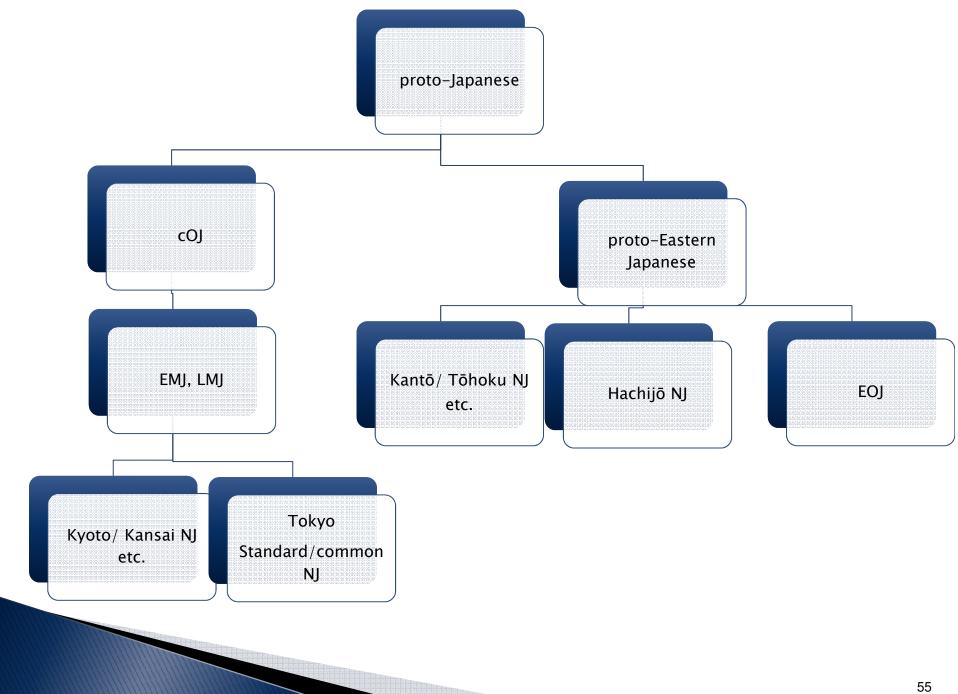
- The influence of particular, long-standing features of 'Eastern Japanese' on the current common/standard language was small, to the extent of being insignificant, although such features surely influenced the lower register 'Edo language' to a somewhat higher extent.
- We see *no significant break in tradition* between the language reflected in pre-modern sources and the current common/standard language. The educated classes of Tokyo appear to have spoken a language which was the continuation of the educated common language used by the upper classes in Kyoto.

Modern Standard Japanese

Conclusion

Current common/standard Japanese is **not** an eastern or Kanto-based variety of Japanese with some *superstratum* influence from Kyoto/Kansai.

On the contrary, current common/standard Japanese is a Kyoto-based variety of Japanese, with some *substratum* influence from Kanto, through Edo Japanese.



オックスフォード大学 日本語研究センター www.orinst.ox.ac.uk/research/jap-ling/

ご清聴ありがとうございました