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DIALECT LEXICOGRAPHY IN JAPAN[1]

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Abstract

Dialect lexicography in Japan is introduced. The first dialectal information appeared in a dictionary in 1559, and the first dialectal dictionary in 1775. The present situation of Japanese dialectal dictionaries is described using five factors: 1. The area that the dictionary covers, 2. Data on which the dictionary was based, 3. Content, 4. Editors and Audience, and 5. Purpose. The dialectal dictionary may be based on previously published dialect dictionaries, original surveys, or the analysis of the dialect corpus. As well as a list of words with definitions, parts of speech, and example sentences, the dialectal dictionary may include linguistic description of a dialect, linguistic maps, dialectal texts, or multimedia files. In addition to academic and educational values, dialectal dictionaries are useful at the time of disaster. The new technologies have helped develop a new wave of multimedia dialectal dictionaries.

Keywords

dialectal dictionary, standard dictionary, Japanese, lexicography, Information and Communications Technology (ICT)

[1] This paper is based on the presentation the author made at the workshop for dialect lexicography at the International Society for Dialectology and Geolinguists 7 held in Vienna in the summer of 2012.

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LA LEXICOGRAFÍA DIALECTAL EN JAPÓN

Resumen

En este artículo se traza una panorámica general sobre la lexicografía dialectal en Japón. La primera información dialectal apareció en un diccionario en 1559, y el primer diccionario dialectal se publicó en 1775. La situación actual de los diccionarios dialectales japoneses se describe mediante cinco factores: 1. El área que abarca el diccionario, 2. Los datos en que se basa el diccionario, 3. El contenido, 4. Los editores y la audiencia, y 5. El propósito. El diccionario dialectal puede basarse en diccionarios dialectales previamente publicados, en encuestas originales, o en el análisis de corpus dialectales. Además de una lista de palabras con definiciones, partes del habla y oraciones de ejemplo, el diccionario dialectal puede incluir la descripción lingüística de un dialecto, mapas lingüísticos, textos dialectales o archivos multimedia. Además de los valores académicos y educativos, los diccionarios dialectales son útiles en momentos de desastre. Las nuevas tecnologías han ayudado a desarrollar una nueva tipología de diccionarios dialectales multimedia.

Palabras clave

dialectal dictionary, standard dictionary, Japanese, lexicography, Tecnologías de la Información y la Comunicación (TIC)

1. Introduction

Dialectology plays a vital role to counter the loss of dialects happening worldwide, and as such the value of dialect lexicography is greater than ever. However, the status of dialect lexicography in each country is not well-known. Thus a workshop was planned for the International Society for Dialectology and Geolinguists (SIDG) 7 held at Vienna in 2012 to think about Dialectlexicography 2.0, a new era of dialectlexicography. Participants were invited to consider five questions on dialect lexicography:

Q1. In your language, when did the first dialectal information appear in dictionaries?,

Q2. Does a dialectal dictionary exist in your language? Or more than one? When were they published?,

Q3. Dialectal dictionaries versus standard dictionaries ,

Q4. Current impact of dialect dictionaries,

and Q5. New technologies applied to dialectal dictionaries.

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This paper details answers to these questions in the case of Japan and introduces dialect lexicography in Japan.

2. History of Dialectal Dictionaries in Japan (Answers to Qs 1 & 2)

2.1 First dialectal information in dictionaries[2]

In Japan, the first dialectal information appeared in dictionaries in 16th and 17th centuries. First, *Iroha-ji* (1559) included some dialectal words. Next, *Nippo jisho,* whose original Portuguese title is *Vocabulario da Lingoa de Iapam,* published in 1603, was edited by Christian missionaries and included 400 dialectal words with reference to standard words used in the capital Kyoto.

2.2 Dialectal dictionaries in Japan[3]

There have been lots of dialectal dictionaries in Japan. The first dialectal dictionary entitled *Butsurui shoko,* in which nearly 4,000 dialectal words throughout Japan were gathered, was published in the Edo era (1775). Also, many dialectal dictionaries which focused on a local dialect were published in the latter half of the Edo era, namely in the 18th and 19th centuries: for instance, *Sendai kotoba Iroha-yose* (1720), *Owari hogen* (1748), *Tsukushi kotoba*, *Sendai hogen*, *Hamaogi*, *Hitachi hogen*, and *Naniwa hogen*. In the Meiji era, the promotion of standard language led to the 1897 survey of dialects throughout Japan. The data was used to make the first linguistic maps and research reports. Also, dialectal grammar notes were made by local governments to be used for standard language education. In the 1930s and later, stimulated by two great dialectologists, Misao Tojo and Kunio Yanagita, dialectological

[2] In order to describe the information in § 2.1 and § 2.2, the author referred to related entries of *Kokugogaku jiten* [Encyclopedia of Japanese Linguistics] (1955) and *Kokugogaku daijiten* [New Encyclopedia of Japanese Linguistics] (1980).
[3] *Ibid*.

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studies prospered and many local dialectal dictionaries were made for prefectures, towns, or particular areas.

3. Differences between Dialectal Dictionaries and Standard Dictionaries (Answers to Q3)

There are differences between dialectal dictionaries and standard dictionaries. First, dialectal dictionaries generally collect words different from standard language. In contrast, standard dictionaries usually do not include dialectal words unless they are well-known to the public all over the country, or unless the dictionary is extensive enough to include various types of vocabulary. For example, *Nihon kokugo daijiten* (NKD) 2nd Version [Japan Language Dictionary] (2000-2002), which has 14 volumes, includes lots of dialectal entries. Third, dialect dictionaries are entirely dedicated to the collection of the dialectal forms in any given area.

In order to detail the status of Japanese dialectal dictionaries, I have considered five factors:

1. The area that the dictionary covers
2. Data on which the dictionary was based
3. Content
4. Editors and Audience
5. Purpose

3.1. The area that the dictionary covers

Basically there are two types. The first type (1-A) covers all Japan and the second type (1-B) covers parts of the country (prefecture, region, or city/town/village).

The examples of type 1-A are as follows:

- TOJO, Misao (ed.) (1951) *Zenkoku hogen jiten* [Dialect Dictionary of All Japan], Tokyo: Tokyodo.

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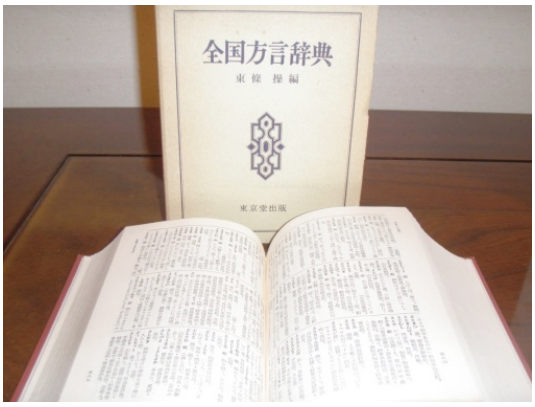
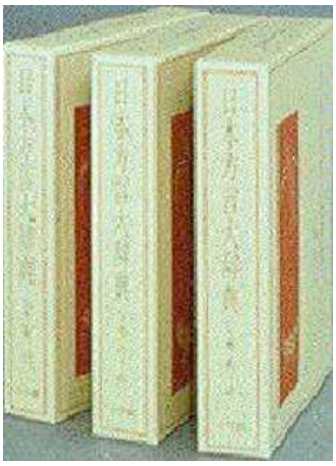


Figure 1. *Zenkoku hogen jiten* [Dialect Dictionary of All Japan]

- TOJO, Misao (ed.) (1954) *Hyojungo-biki bunrui hogen jiten* [Classified Dialect Dictionary with Standard Language Indexes], Tokyo: Tokyodo.
- TOKUGAWA, Munemasa (Supervised) (1989) *Nihon hogen daijiten* [Japanese Dialect Dictionary], 3 Vols, Tokyo: Shogakkan.



It includes description of phonological characteristics of dialects and LAJ based linguistic maps (LAJ: Linguistic Atlas of Japan).

Figure 2. *Nihon hogen daijiten* [Japanese Dialect Dictionary]

- HIRAYAMA, Teruo (ed.) (1992-1994) *Gendai nihongo hogen daijiten* [Contemporary Japanese Dialect Dictionary], 9 Vols, Tokyo: Meiji-Shoin.

It includes description of surveyed dialects and linguistic maps.

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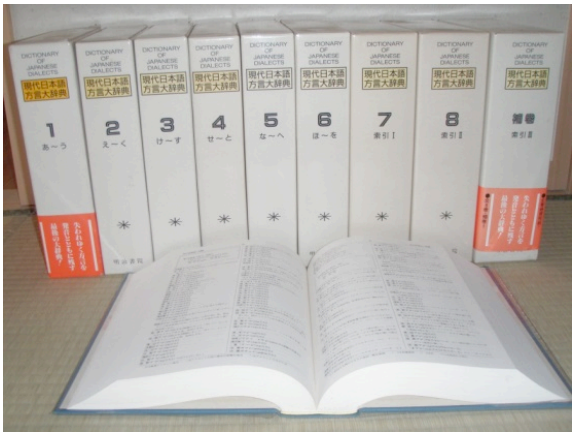

Figure 3. *Gendai nihongo hogen daijiten* [Contemporary Japanese Dialect Dictionary]

There are many Type 1-B dictionaries which cover parts of the country: various sizes from small books to thick hard-covered books. The following dictionaries which focus on a dialect in Okinawa are two examples. It is noteworthy that both titles include “language” not “dialect”.

- Kokuritsu Kokugo Kenkyusho [National Institute for Japanese Language and Linguistics] (1975) *Okinawa-go jiten* [Okinawan Language Dictionary], Tokyo: Okurasho Insatsukyoku.

  It includes a linguistic description of the dialect.

- UCHIMA, Chokujin & NOHARA, Mitsuyoshi (eds.) (2006) *Okinawa-go jiten: Naha hogen o chushin ni* [Okinawan Language Dictionary: Focus on Naha dialect], Tokyo: Kenkyusha.

  It includes a linguistic description of the dialect.

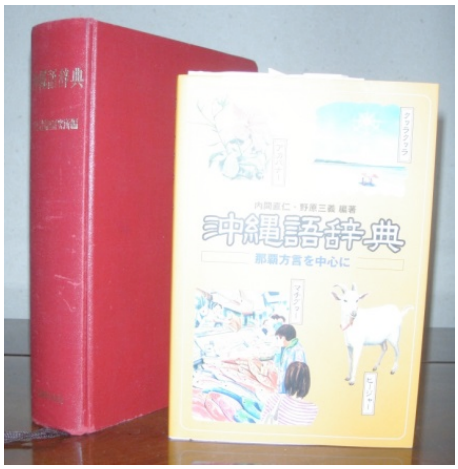

Figure 4. *Okinawa-go jiten* [Okinawan Language Dictionary] and *Okinawa-go jiten: Naha hogen o chushin ni* [Okinawan Language Dictionary: Focus on Naha dialect]

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It might be possible to add a new type of dialect dictionary (type 1-C) that covers sociolects. There is a dialect dictionary that collects words which can be termed as "new dialect" words. These are called "new" as they are used by the younger generation and not considered as standard by regular users. This book collects such words from all over Japan. Thus it is a variety of type 1-A considering the area that the dictionary covers.

- INOUE, Fumio & YARIMIZU, Kenetaka (2002) *Jiten atarashii nihongo* [Dictionary of New Japanese], Tokyo: Toyo Shorin.

Figure 5. *Jiten atarashii nihongo* [Dictionary of New Japanese]

3.2 Data on which the dictionary was based

There are three types according to the data from which the dictionary was compiled.

The first type (2-A) is a dictionary that was based on dialect dictionaries that had been already published. Thus this is a kind of anthology of dialectal entries. The first national dialectal dictionaries were this type.

The two dictionaries shown below were based on approximately 500 local dialectal dictionaries and 350 journals on local history which include articles on dialectal words.

- TOJO, Misao (ed.). (1951) *Zenkoku hogen jiten* [Dialect Dictionary of All Japan], Tokyo: Tokyodo. {Covers all Japan. Cited as type 1-A.}

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- TOJO, Misao (ed.). (1954) *Hyojungo-biki bunrui hogen jiten* [Classified Dialect Dictionary with Standard Language Indexes], Tokyo: Tokyodo. {Covers all Japan. Cited as type 1-A.}

The dictionary below was based on dialectal documents numbering over 1000, published from the Edo era to the present age.

- TOKUGAWA, Munemasa (Supervised) (1989) *Nihon hogen daijiten* [Japanese Dialect Dictionary], 3 Vols, Tokyo: Shogakkan. {Covers all Japan. Cited as type 1-A.}

The second type (2-B) was compiled from the data collected through original surveys. Most local dialect dictionaries, especially from small areas, were edited based on original surveys. On the other hand, some dictionaries that cover all-Japan were edited based on original surveys in different locations using a questionnaire.

- HIRAYAMA, Teruo (ed.) (1992-1994) *Gendai nihongo hogen daijiten* [Contemporary Japanese Dialect Dictionary], 9 Vols, Tokyo: Meiji-Shoin. {Edited based on the thorough surveys at 72 localities covering all Japan. Cited as type 1-A.}
- SANADA, Shinji & TOMOSADA, Kenji (eds.) (2011) *Kenbetsu bari zogon jiten* [All Prefecture Dialect Dictionary of Swearing Expressions], Tokyo: Tokyodo. {Covers 47 prefectures. Type 1-A. Focus on swearing expressions used in each prefecture.}
- Akita Prefectural Board of Education (ed.) (2000) *Akita no kotoba* [Speech in Akita], Akita: Mumyosha Shuppan. {Covers Akita prefecture. Type 1-B.}

The third type (2-C) was edited after the analysis of the written text or dialect corpus, which is also part of the dictionary. For instance, the following dictionary was based on a dialect corpus that is a free translation of *The Two Thousand Sentences of the Japanese Language*, the Japanese version of *Le livre des deux mille phrases*. As well as the dialectal text with indexes, it includes hypertext data files such as kwic, alphabetical word lists of contrasting dialect and standard forms, etc.

- OKAMURA, Takahiro; SAWAKI, Motoei; NAKAJIMA, Yumi; FUKUSHIMA, Chitsuko; and KIKUCHI, Satoru (2009) *Tokunoshima hogen nisenbun jiten kaiteiban* [Tokunoshima Dialect Dictionary of Two Thousand Sentences: Revised edition], Matsumoto: The Association of Tokunoshima Dialect. Book w/ DVD

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Figure 6. *Tokunoshima hogen nisenbun jiten kaiteiban* [Tokunoshima Dialect Dictionary of Two Thousand Sentences: Revised edition]

Another example of this type includes a CD-ROM that contains the whole lexical entries with links to recorded example sentences.

- LONG, Daniel & HASHIMOTO, Naoyuki (eds.) (2005) *Ogasawara kotoba shaberu jiten* [Talking Dictionary of Speech in Ogasawara], Kagoshima: Nampo Shinsha. Book w/ CD-ROM

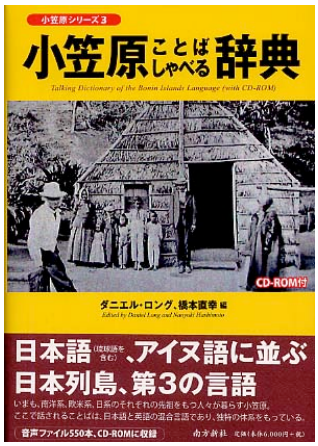

Figure 7. *Ogasawara kotoba shaberu jiten* [Talking Dictionary of Speech in Ogasawara]

3.3 Content

The dialectal dictionary used to include only a list of words with definitions, parts of speech, and/or example sentences. This is the type 3-A. The entries are either

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alphabetically ordered or semantically classified, and they may sometimes focus on a specific field. However, the dialectal dictionaries often include various data such as:

- Type 3-B. linguistic description of a dialect (dialects) such as phonology, grammar, and history.
- Type 3-C. linguistic maps/atlas
- Type 3-D. dialectal text or corpus
- Type 3-E. includes multimedia files such as sounds, movies

A dialect dictionary may include one or more features like these.

3.4 Editors and Audience

The editors and users of dialectal dictionaries are often researchers or scholars; thus dialectal dictionaries are academic works. However, ordinary people also act as editors and audience. For several decades, many people have dedicated their time to documenting and archiving their dialects.

More recently, young people have become an audience for those works. At schools, the national curriculum of Japanese language includes a requirement for "standard language (or common language) and dialects". Also, the study of local society and culture has been introduced as part of cross curricula studies. Dialect dictionaries and dialect atlases are a good resource for children. In addition, dialectal words are becoming popular among young people living in metropolitan areas because they think dialects are "cute". They use popular dialectal words in their speech. According to Kobayashi (2004), this kind of phenomenon is one piece of evidence for dialects becoming used as linguistic "accessories" since the dialectal words are added to the standard language to decorate it.

3.5 Purpose

Dialectal dictionaries are vital for academic reasons and also useful for preserving endangered languages and dialects. Sometimes the dictionary is named as a language

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dictionary not as a dialectal dictionary to demonstrate it is an independent linguistic entity.

- Kokuritsu Kokugo Kenkyusho [National Institute for Japanese Language and Linguistics] (1975) *Okinawa-go jiten* [Okinawan Language Dictionary], Tokyo: Okurasho Insatsukyoku. {Cited as A-1.}
- YAMAURA, Genba. (2000) *Kesen-go daijiten* [Kesen Language Dictionary], 2 Vols., Akita: Mumyosha Shuppan.

Figure 8. *Kesen-go daijiten* [Kesen Language Dictionary]

The dialectal dictionary can be practical, educational and entertaining; thus it offers various types of information such as dialectal forms, word definitions, grammatical explanations and example sentences, sounds and movie clips, and transcribed dialectal conversations. Some have dialectal translations of famous passages such as the beginning of a novel and/or folklore.

4. Current Impact of Dialectal Dictionaries (Answers to Q4)

For researchers, dialectal dictionaries are resources for further investigations. They are useful in the field of dialect lexicography, dialect geography and dialect grammar. For ordinary people, they are a source of inspiration when dialects are losing their status or becoming obsolete or extinct. Local boards of education often set up a team of people who work to edit an official book of local history, which often includes chapters on local dialects. There are dialect study groups at local community centers

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and the members cooperate to produce a dialect dictionary. The people involved often include researchers and/or local dialectologists.

After the disasters caused by March 2011 earthquake and tsunami in Japan, the importance of understanding dialects has been recognized among the people dealing with rescue and medical treatment. Thus dialect dictionaries focusing on people's mental conditions and physical ailments have been quickly prepared and published. The following dictionary edited by Takeda includes onomatopoeia often used to describe mental conditions and physical pain. It is useful in caring for and treating patients in stricken areas where dialects are still used daily. 2,000 copies were printed and sent to medical institutions, care stations, voluntary groups and local libraries in the affected area, and its PDF files can be downloaded from a web page.

• TAKEDA, Koko. (2012) *Tohoku hogen onomatope yorei-shu* [Tohoku dialect onomatopeic usage dictionary], Tokyo: Kokuritsu Kokugo Kenkyusho.

Figure 9. *Tohoku hogen onomatope yorei-shu* [Tohoku dialect onomatopeic usage dictionary].

5. New Technologies Applied to Dialectal Dictionaries (Answers to Q5)

In the era of ICT 2.0, new technologies have been applied to dialectal dictionaries: they include A. Digitalizing, B. Geo-encoding, C. Interactive, and D. Indexing /Searching. The data must be digitalized first. In order to make linguistic maps or locate the point of interest, all data must be geo-encoded. The dictionary should be interactive so that

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the user can access what they want to know. Indexing or searching is necessary to get to the interesting piece(s) of data.

The following dictionaries which have been cited before are new such types of dictionaries with multimedia.

- 2000/2003 *Akita no kotoba* [Speech in Akita], Book & CD-ROM

Figure 10. *Akita no kotoba* [Speech in Akita]

- 2004 *Izumo no kotoba* [Speech in Izumo], CD-ROM
- 2005 *Ogasawara syaberu kotoba jiten* [Talking Dictionary of Speech in Ogasawara], Book w/ CD-ROM
- 2009 *Tokunoshima hogen nisenbun jiten kaiteiban* [Tokunoshima Dialect Dictionary of Two Thousand Sentences: Revised edition], Book w/ DVD

6. Conclusion

Then what is Dialectlexicography 2.0? Five factors have been considered in this paper to describe the status of dialectal dictionaries in Japan: 1. Area that the dictionary covers, 2. Data on which the dictionary was based, 3. Content, 4. Editors and Audience, and 5. Purpose.

See Table 1. This table shows a transition of local dialectal dictionaries with the focus on various contents explained in § 3.3 and new types of media reported in § 5 above. All of these dictionaries include dialectal grammar information as well as lexical entries. Some have been published with a CO-ROM or DVD, so searching for interesting

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entries is possible. Another new trend is that they include dialectal text, linguistic maps, and sounds and movie clips.

The results show the transition that new technologies have made possible towards making dictionaries academically and practically useful. A dictionary can be a database which includes various information including multimedia files. Making use of the Web is another factor to consider. Some dialectal databases have been open to the public on the Web (for example, *Shuri Naha hogen onsei deta besu* [Shuri & Naha Dialect Sound Database]). Obviously, the five factors discussed above should be suitably arranged to make a dialectal dictionary for a new era.

Year	Title	Lexicon	Grammar	Index	Linguistic Maps	Dialectal text	Sounds & Movies	Type of Media
1975	Okinawan Language Dictionary	o	o	o				Book
1977	Amami Dialect Classified Diactionary	o	o	o			pictures	Book
2000	Speech in Akita	o	o	o	o			Book
2003	CD-ROM version of Speech in Akita	o	o	o	o	o	o	CD-ROM
2004	Speech in Izumo	o	o	search		o	o	CD-ROM/ DVD
2005	Talking Dictionary of Speech in Ogasawara	o	o	o			o	Book w/ CD-ROM
2006	Okinawan Language Dictionary: Focus on Naha Dialect	o	o	o		o		Book
2006	Tokunoshima Dialect Dictionary of Two Thusand Sentences	o	o			o		Book
2009	Tokunoshima Dialect Dictionary of Two Thusand Sentences Revised edition	o	o	search list		o	o	Book w/ DVD
2010	Nagano Prefecture Dialect Dictionary	o	o		o	o		Book

Table 1. Japanese Dialectal Dictionaries with Various Contents and Technologies

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Kokugo Gakkai [The Society for the Study of Japanese Language] (ed.) (1980) *Kokugogaku Daijiten* [New Encyclopedia of Japanese Linguistics], Tokyo: Tokyo-do shoten.

URL

Shuri Naha hogen onsei deta besu [Shuri & Naha Dialect Sound Database]

http://ryukyu-lang.lib.u-ryukyu.ac.jp/srnh/abs.html

Tohoku hogen onomatope yorei-shu [Tohoku dialect onomatopoeic usage dictionary]

http://www.ninjal.ac.jp/pages/onomatopoeia.html

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