



EVOLUTION AND ORIGINS OF THE JAPANESE LANGUAGE

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Article history:	Abstract:
Received: 11 th November 2023 Accepted: 11 th December 2023 Published: 18 th January 2024	<p>This article converses about the views and aspects on the evolution and development of the Japanese language.</p> <p>There are probably more disputes about the origin of the Japanese language than about the age-old question of the primacy of the chicken or the egg. Unambiguous conclusion regarding his origins and genetic relatedness to others there are no languages to this day. This is one of the reasons why Japanese belong to the isolated group. This ambiguity has given rise to a large number of competing theories that consider ethnogenesis in different aspects language.</p> <p>The Japanese language, with its rich history and unique linguistic features, has undergone an exciting evolution and development over the centuries. From its origins in ancient Japan to its modern forms, the Japanese language reflects the dynamic cultural and social changes that have shaped the nation. In this article, we will delve into the journey of the Japanese language, exploring its origins, influences, and important milestones that contributed to its modern complexity.</p>

Keywords: Origins, Japanese language, evolution, Manchurian, dialects, hypothesis, Buddhism, Europeanization, syllabary, language isolation, ideography, Puyo tribes, Heian-kyo, Tohoku-ben, Ainu, Jomonese

INTRODUCTION

For over 100 years, hypotheses on the origins of the Japanese language have ranged from Japanese being a member of the Indo-European language family to being a language isolate. Despite attempts from varying disciplines such as linguistics, archeology, anthropology, and biology, Japanese remains the only major world language without a known linguistic origin. The history of the Japanese people, or rather the peoples of Japan, too has been hypothesized without a universally accepted conclusion. Since the 50s of the 19th century, the development of Western culture began in Japan. The situation was quite difficult. On the one hand, it was necessary to modernize the country, to learn from peoples who had gone far ahead in many branches of knowledge. On the other hand, for a people accustomed to isolation and isolation, it was especially important to preserve their identity. Dissolution into a foreign culture had to be prevented by the introduction of compensating factors. There were primarily two of them. They suited the identity better than the more refined but international Buddhism. Firstly, this is the national religion - Shintoism - the role of which sharply increased precisely in the era of Europeanization; Shintoism became the state religion. Shintoism, which retained living connections with mythology, seems to an outside observer to be a very archaic religion, but it was more suitable for national identity than the more refined, but international Buddhism. Secondly, it was the Japanese language, which, along with belonging to

Shintoism, was considered an integral national property. At the very beginning of the process of Europeanization, there were proposals to abandon the Japanese language and switch to one of the European ones, but they, of course, were unrealistic. The Japanese language has its own written language, which combines both syllabary and ideography, a writing principle in which the unit of graphic designation is the word.

THE MAIN FINDINGS AND RESULTS

The history of the emergence of the Japanese language is the subject of intense scientific debate. Adherents of the most popular theory about Altai origin believe that its formation began after the conquest of the Japanese islands by the Puyo tribes. However, it is almost impossible to trace the historical stages of the emergence of the Japanese as a nation due to the complete lack of writing before the use of Chinese characters. Here are the main hypotheses:

- The Japanese language should be classified as a group of dead languages, which were once spoken by those living in the territory Korean Peninsula and Manchurian historical cultures.
- Japanese language is related to other Asian languages. By this theories, Japanese from other East Asian languages (e.g. Korean) for unknown reasons separated or was subjected to the colossal influence of these languages, which is why today it is so modified.



1. Dialects of the Japanese language

Since ancient times, Japan has had a large number of dialects. In VI century, the main dialect was Heian-kyo (Kyoto). In the 12th century the main The dialect became the dialect of Kamakura (near modern Tokyo). To that time, military power was established in the state. Since then Tokyo dialect is the main dialect of the Japanese language. Distributed over Japan a dozen dialects. This diversity is explained by the specifics of the mountain terrain, represented by a chain of islands, as well as complete isolation Japan from the outside world, which lasted for many years. Dialects Japanese languages differ from each other mainly in character musical stress, morphology of verbs and adjectives, the use of particles, vocabulary and, in some cases, pronunciation. Some dialects also differ in composition vowels and consonants, although this is not typical distinctive feature.

Despite the standardization efforts, Japan continues to exhibit a wide variety of dialects and regional variations in its language. Different regions and even individual communities have maintained their unique linguistic features and expressions. The Tohoku region, Kansai region, and Okinawa, for example, have distinct dialects with differences in pronunciation, vocabulary, and grammar.

The persistence of regional dialects adds to the linguistic diversity and cultural richness of Japan. While standard Japanese remains the official language used in education, media, and formal settings, regional dialects serve as a symbol of local identity and cultural heritage. The dialect of the inhabitants of Hokkaido, Hokkaido-ben, is similar in many ways to both literary Japanese and Tohoku-ben. Its main differences are the reduced importance of separating words by gender and the abundant use of abbreviations.

2. Language and Modern Technology

In the digital age, modern technology has played a significant role in shaping the Japanese language. The advent of smartphones and social media platforms has led to the development of new forms of communication, such as emojis, emoticons, and internet slang. Additionally, the influence of Japanese and other foreign languages through technology has led to the adoption of loanwords and abbreviations in everyday speech. The emergence of different educational tools and software has motivated the teachers to integrate educational technology into their lessons. Technology has fundamentally changed the way we learn, making it more engaging, but also challenging.

As Japan continues to embrace technological advancements, the language evolves to adapt to new communication trends and global interactions. Learning methods are also getting modern.

3. Preserving Tradition and Embracing Innovation

Today, the Japanese language stands as a testament to Japan's rich cultural heritage, as well as its adaptability to modern challenges and innovations. The coexistence of traditional scripts and modern communication methods showcases Japan's commitment to preserving its linguistic traditions while embracing the opportunities of the digital age. Japanese grammatical structure the language corresponds to Korean, but this hypothesis has not yet been proven, and scientists have to conduct a lot of research to confirm assumption about the existence of a related relationship between these languages. To the number of states in whose territory the Japanese language is spoken, The following countries include: Japan, Korea (South), Australia, Brazil, Guam (USA), Hawaii (USA State), Micronesia, Republic of Palau, Paraguay, Peru, Philippines, Taiwan, United States America.

Systematic linguistic research into the history of the Japanese language began no earlier than the second half of the 17th century. This period was marked by the activities of the Buddhist monk Keityu (1640–1701). He is credited with creating a consistent historical orthography that reflected the phonological system of eighth-century texts.

As the language continues to evolve, it remains an essential aspect of Japan's national identity and cultural expression. Through its unique writing system, complex grammar, and nuanced vocabulary, the Japanese language continues to captivate learners and enthusiasts worldwide.

CONCLUSION

In conclusion, the evolution and development of the Japanese language offer a glimpse into the fascinating history and cultural journey of Japan. From its ancient origins influenced by neighboring cultures to its modern standardization and regional variations, the Japanese language exemplifies the harmonious coexistence of tradition and innovation in Japan's linguistic landscape. Japanese is spoken by 140 million people worldwide, with 125 million having it as their first language, making it the ninth most spoken language in the world. The true origin of the Japanese language is still a big mystery. Differences in dialects, food, and cultures are polarized by the east-west division, with biological differences separating the two as well. Those in eastern Japan have closer similarities with Ainu, Jomonese, and south Asians, whereas those in western Japan have more north Asian traits. Genetics of Japanese dogs and mice have shown a similar trend of those in eastern Japan being more similarly related to south Asian dogs and mice, and those in western Japan being more closely related to north Asian dogs and mice. (Hanihara)



Experts distinguish two main lexical layers in it, correlating with the Austronesian and Altaic languages, and, recently, most researchers come to the conclusion that, most likely, it was the Altaic languages that largely influenced the development and, in fact, are the ancestors of Japanese.

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