

Dialect contact, change and maintenance of Gifu dialect in Hokkaido

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Major Japanese migration Hokkaido started about 150 years ago. Hokkaido Japanese was established as a result of dialect contact, or regional *koiné*. Japanese has its prestigious standard variety, and standardization took place all over the country, including Hokkaido.

Studies on Hokkaido Japanese has rendered its linguistic description (Igarashi 1983, Ono 1982), its regional differences (Inoue 1981), apparent and real time changes (Kokuritsu Kokugo Kenkyūjo 1957; Nambu, Asahi and Aizawa 2016). Their contribution enabled us to understand Hokkaido Japanese to their great extent. However, Hokkaido Japanese is still under-described in consideration of its sociohistorical backgrounds of the migration from different parts of Japan. In this sense, it is necessary to pay a close look at specific communities and to conduct sociolinguistic descriptions. This paper renders such description in Tokoro in Kitami through looking into linguistic analyses of the Gifu district in Tokoro.

Tokoro has two major districts, Tosa and Gifu. Tosa is a former name of Kochi, a prefecture in western Japan of Shikoku. Gifu is a name of prefecture in central Japan. Tokoro residents have been under dialect contact for more than 100 years. The goal of this paper is examine to what extent Gifu dialect features are observed today.

This paper utilizes three sets of data; (a) dialectology survey data in 1979, (b) oral history transcripts in the 1980s, and (c) sociolinguistic interview in the 2010s. As for (a), the author utilize the survey data (Hokkaido Kyōiku Daigaku Asahikawa Bunkō Kokugogaku Zemnāru 1979) together with the semi-structured interview data (in total amount of 19hrs). (b) is a transcripts of the folklore among Gifu residents collected in 1983, and (c) is my semi-structured interview data collected towards one Gifu residents born in 1942 in 2013, 2018 and 2019 (in a total amount of 5 hrs).

This paper analyzes two variables; verb negation and aspectual form. Generally speaking as shown in (1) and (2), in Hokkaido Japanese adopt *-nai* and *-te(i)ru*, whereas Gifu in Tokoro favors *-hen/-n* and *-toru*.

(1) Taro ga tegami o kak-**anai/-ahen/-an**
Taro NOM letter ACC write-NEG
'Taro does not write a letter.'

(2) Ima Taro ga tegami o kai-**teru/-toru**

Now Taro NOM letter ACC write-PROG

‘Now Taro is writing a letter.’

This paper shall look into the actual use of these variables from the data, and conduct quantitative analyses to examine which variants in three variants win out of dialect contact. Analyses show a frequent use of Gifu features in the two variables together with Hokkaido dialect features. Although it is more likely that Hokkaido Japanese features are expected to replace the Gifu features in the future, Gifu dialect features are maintained. This highlights the necessity to conduct more detailed micro-level studies to better understand Hokkaido Japanese.

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