

Quiz 1

Dialect

Dialect

- What is a **dialect**? How is it different from a **language**?

Dialect

- Linguists usually rely on the criterion of ***mutual intelligibility***: if two people understand each other, they are speaking the same language.
 - cf. ***dialect continuum***
- But in reality it depends on political and other factors.
- "A language is a dialect with an army and navy"

Distinction b/w language and dialect

- Pairs of varieties that are very similar, but given different language names
 - Serbian and Croatian / Hindi and Urdu
- Pairs of varieties that are mutually unintelligible, but often regarded as “dialects”
 - Mandarin and Cantonese / Japanese and Ryukyuan

Dialect

- Regional dialects
- Social dialects
 - Social class
 - Ethnicity
 - etc.

Nagoya dialect

- Are you aware of any characteristic of the Nagoya dialect?

Nagoya dialect (not exactly)

- Listen to the traditional dialect.
 - Recorded at the village of Tatsuta (now the city of Aisai, Aichi)
 - The dialogue was recorded in 1958. The old man and woman are talking about their memory of the 1891 Mino-Owari Earthquake.

Dialects

- Differences between dialects are most often noted in vocabulary and in accent, but they differ in grammar, and even in the way people speak

progressive/resultative distinction in western dialects

	Tokyo	Western dialects (e.g. Hiroshima)
<i>Flower is falling (progressive)</i>	花が散ってる <i>Hana-ga chitteru</i>	花が散りよる <i>Hana-ga chiriyoru</i>
<i>Flower has fallen (resultative)</i>	花が散ってる <i>Hana-ga chitteru</i>	花が散っとる <i>Hana-ga chittoru</i>

Difference in intonation

	wh question ("Who came?")	yes/no question ("Did John come?")
Tokyo	Rising	Rising
Fukuoka	Rising	Falling
Matsumoto and Hiroshima	Falling	Rising
Kagoshima	Falling	Falling
(English)	Falling	Rising

Are dialects
disappearing?

- Do you think dialects will disappear?

Attitudes towards dialects in Japan

When dialects were a shame

- In May 1964, a 19-year-old man from Akita Prefecture was arrested in Tokyo from fatal assault. Newspapers reported that his accent was being laughed at.

When dialects were a shame

- A passage from Shiro Hattori (1960), a renowned Japanese linguist
 - 方言が絶滅して去るのが理想であることはいうまでもない [Needless to say, our ideal is that dialects go extinct.]

“Dialect card”

- You have to carry this if you use a dialect in school. When you find someone else uses a dialect, you can pass it to him/her.
- This was not forced by the central government; it was an effort of local people to catch up.

From “dialect complex” to “dialect prestige”

- As almost everyone became able to communicate in Standard Japanese, people came to realize the value of dialects as a symbol of their identity and solidarity.
- Dialects are now actively used as tourist resources.