

## **East-West Opposition with Regard to the Negative Form of Verb in Japan**

Shinsuke Kishie

*Tokushima University*

Razaul Faquire

*University of Dhaka*

Yukako Sakoguchi

*Tokushima University*

Nanami Shiokawa

*Tokushima University*

Yukichi Shimizu

*Miyazaki International College*

Since boundary line between east and west dialects of Japan had been drawn by conducting the nationwide survey by the Committee of Investigation of the Japanese Language in the Meiji period, the situation of distribution of east-west opposition has been elucidated in more detail by means of "Linguistic Atlas of Japan (LAJ)" and "Grammar Atlas of Japanese (GAJ)" compiled by the National Institute of Japanese Language. Having made all of these investigations, a phenomenon of shift (movement) has been found along the east-west boundary line especially with regard to the Negative form of verb, which occurred due to the changes including the formation of common language and other linguistic changes.

Given the above trend of change in the distribution of dialects, we will present the actual situation of language change occurring in the central region of the Japanese archipelago by making comparison of the negative form of verb in real time with that in apparent time in consideration with the geographical distribution. We will present our outcomes on the basis of results derived from the comparison made between the GAJ conducted in the 1970s and "Field Research Project to Analyze the Formation Process of Japanese Dialects (FPJD)" conducted in 2010 or later, as well as the results which we have derived by conducting questionnaire survey by mail on 1,200 senior citizens and the questionnaire survey on over 4000 university students nationwide. The outcomes we have revealed in this study are as follows.

1. The distribution of "~nai (~ne)" does not show changes much as compared to the that of past survey results.
2. The change from "~n" to "~ hen" occurred rapidly in the Western Japan (especially in the Kansai region).
3. The distribution of "~ hen" has extended from Aichi and Gifu to around Shizuoka in the Chubu region.
4. The distribution of "~hen" has expanded in the region on the Pacific Ocean side, whereas it did not spread more and therefore has been persisting with the erstwhile opposition distribution along the side of the Sea of Japan over the past years.