

Workshop 5

Hansards as a dialectal resource

Date: 2017.08.11 (Fri) 9:00-12:00

Organizer: Hitoshi Nikaido

1. Kenjiro Matsuda : *Toward Hansard linguistics.*
2. Keiichi Takamaru : *Demonstration of the Online Local Assembly Minutes.*
3. Kenjiro Matsuda : *On the birth and diffusion of the group language in the National Diet.*
4. Suguru Kawase : *Regional differences in the conjunctives in the minutes of local assemblies.*
5. Hitoshi Nikaido : *Speech style in the Fukuoka Prefectural Assembly.*

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Abstract:

With the advent of online Hansards of national/local assemblies in various parts of the world over recent years, dialectologists now have access to big data of speech that keeps growing every day. The workshop presented here aims to demonstrate the use of Hansards, or minutes of the assemblies of various levels of governmental hierarchy for various dialectological analyses in the Japanese context. By using examples and real demonstration of the database search with different search engines, we will show that Hansards, despite their formal nature, DO show dialectological characteristics and as such, they require further attention and analysis. Considering that an increasing number of Hansards are available on the Internet across countries and languages, and given that the use of any Hansard poses common problems of Hansards, such as copy-editing, style-shifting, search techniques, etc., we may envisage a new research venue, which might be called Hansard dialectology.

The workshop begins with the Minutes of the Diet. Its post-WWII data started in 1947, and it has almost 11 GB of textual data, or more than 500 years' worth of newspaper articles. Although the actual speeches are filtered through copy-editing processes before they are recorded in the Hansard, they still retain much of the characteristics of natural speech of the Diet members, cabinet members, and government bureaucrats. Since the publication of Matsuda (2008), a number of interesting phenomena have been reported: syntactic/lexical changes in progress (Nambu 2007, Sano 2008, Hattori 2012), the birth and spread of the Diet group language (Matsuda 2016), and the use of so-called unnoticeable dialect, where a speaker inadvertently uses a dialectal form believing that it is a standard dialect (Katsuki 2008).

Albeit smaller in size and shorter regarding the history represented, the minutes of local assemblies have more direct relevance to dialectological research (Nikaido et al. 2016). As of 2016, the Hansard record online includes 100% of the prefectural assemblies and 95% of city assemblies. Coupled with the fact that 90% of the members of local assemblies are natives of the local area, they emerge as a daunting mass of dialectological data. In this workshop, Nikaido explores stylistic variation within the minutes of local assemblies in Fukuoka, and locates a peculiar

speech style with a mixture of local dialect and Standard Japanese. This style has a certain syntactic pattern and only appears in committee sessions that are usually smaller in size than the main sessions and are held in casual and intimate settings. Kawase examines the unnoticeable dialect form of a conjunctive *soo sureba* in local assemblies in the Tohoku area, and demonstrates that those forms show clear geographical patterns in the area. Finally, regarding the technological side, Takamaru makes a progress report of the Full-text database of Japanese Local Assemblies, an impressive search engine that simultaneously searches 425 Hansards of local assemblies in the country for a given word/phrase and displays the result on a map. The sentence-final expressions, for example, show very intriguing geographical patterns.

Toward Hansard linguistics

Kenjiro MATSUDA

Kobe Shoin Women's University

With the advent of on-line minutes of national parliaments or local assemblies at various levels, linguists now have an access to tremendous amount of textual records in legislative sessions in various languages/dialects. Oftentimes accompanied by video recordings, these records allow us to look into the change and variations at all levels imaginable -- from phonetics to discourse, from sociolects to areal differences, style-shifts, orthographic variations, etc. The increasing number of online Hansards in the world, the common nature of legislative meetings and languages used there across countries/areas, and similar problems we encounter in their analysis suggest possible research field which we might call Hansard linguistics.

Demonstration of the Online Local Assembly Minutes

Keiichi TAKAMARU

Utsunomiya Kyowa University

This is a progress report of nationwide cross-search system of local assemblies in Japan. Built on a textual data from over 400 assemblies across the nation with WEB-accessible Hansards, it not only enables us to search a word/phrase in all those assemblies at once, giving the matching sentences in seconds, but also it tallies their frequencies by prefecture and show their areal distribution on a map. Through the demonstration, we will show that the system offers a strong heuristic tool for dialectologists.

On the birth and diffusion of the group language in the National Diet

Kenjiro MATSUDA

Kobe Shoin Women's University

Group language is a cover term for slang, jargon, etc. that emerge as the network among group members grows dense (Shibata 1958). In this presentation, I will trace the birth and diffusion of two group languages in the National Diet *terebi-iri* "TV-in" and *okyoo-yomi* "sutra-chanting" and argue that the group languages spread in a party-by-party manner. It is also found that the transmission of the group language across the party line occurs through the question and answer interaction in the committee sessions, where the physical distance between the government and the opposing parties is much closer than that in the Main sessions.

Regional differences in the conjunctives in the minutes of local assemblies

Suguru KAWASE
Hirosaki University

In a number of Japanese dialects, there is a group of conjunctives derived from subjunctive expressions, e.g. *soo sureba*, *sorede-wa*, *soo sitara*, *sorenara*. Using the local assembly minutes, I will first show their geographical distributions in Japan and then demonstrate how a quantitative analysis uncovers subtle differences among those dialects using those expressions.

Speech style in the Fukuoka Prefectural Assembly

Hitoshi NIKAIDO

Fukuoka Jogakuin University

In the minutes of the Fukuoka Prefectural Assembly, one can observe that some members show clear stylistic differences in their speeches between the main sessions and the committee sessions. Those speakers, mostly aged members, use the Standard Japanese in the main session, while they also use dialectal forms. These dialectal forms, however, have a peculiar pattern, with the utterances mostly closed by polite expressions in the Standard Japanese. I argue that such a pattern is one of the strategies taken by the dialectal speakers to keep the speech style as polite as possible.