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For Naomi

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PREFACE

There are arguably three indigenous languages in Japan: namely, Ainu, Japanese, and Ryūkyuan. However, the genetic relationship between Japanese and Ryūkyuan has been proven and the transparency of the relationship is such that the latter is now considered as a dialect (group) of Japanese by most scholars. This leaves us with two languages to deal with, and the book title of “Ainu and Japanese” would have been less pretentious. The less pretentious title, however, suggests that the book is about the genetic relationship between Ainu and Japanese or a comparative work dealing with them. Neither was my primary concern, and the book consists of two independent parts. There is no strong evidence suggesting a genetic relationship between Ainu and Japanese, and structurally the two differ significantly. Ainu, especially Classical Ainu, is a polysynthetic language involving incorporated nouns, incorporated adverbs, affixal forms of reflexive and reciprocal morphemes, as well as personal affixes agreeing with subject and object. Japanese also shows a high degree of synthesis in its verbal morphology, but involving neither personal affixes nor noun incorporation of the Ainu type, it shows a qualitative difference from the Ainu structure.

Having to deal with only two languages has afforded me space to dwell on a number of salient points in Ainu and Japanese. However, this proved to be both curse and advantage. Compared to most other surveys in this series, this book is perhaps more technical and less informative with regard to certain elementary facts than may be expected by non-specialists. On the other hand, I was able to concentrate on those theoretically problematic areas that general linguists and Japanese specialists may find interesting. The decision to opt for this format was primarily based on the availability of reference works in English. In the case of Japanese, there are at least two works that cover the general ground: namely, Roy Andrew Miller’s *The Japanese Language* (University of Chicago Press) and a slightly more technical grammar book by Samuel E. Martin, *A Reference Grammar of Japanese* (Yale University Press). In the case of Ainu we are less fortunate. The only easily available book in English is Kirsten Refsing’s recent book, *The Ainu Language*

(Aarhus University Press). But since this eminently readable book deals mainly with the colloquial Ainu of a single dialect – actually a single speaker – I have tried to offer a broader survey, sometimes concentrating more on Classical Ainu, which shows a stronger polysynthetic character than the colloquial dialects. Here too some readers may find parts of the discussion somewhat technical and will have to bear with me.

Another point of emphasis in this book is the introduction of some salient aspects of the grammatical tradition in Japan, which has a history of more than two hundred years. While a large number of notions and concepts developed within this tradition must be carefully interpreted in the framework of the linguistic tradition of the West before they can be rendered understandable to non-Japanese, such efforts are worthwhile since many of them, as I have attempted to show, have contemporary relevance. Indeed, as far as some aspects of Japanese are concerned, the treatments offered within the Western tradition are shockingly shallow compared to those analyses that have undergone and endured two hundred years of repeated challenge and enrichment within Japan. While I am least interested in boosting academic nationalism, I certainly hope that Western readers realize that a rich grammatical tradition exists in Japan, whose inception antedates the Neogrammarian comparative grammar by a hundred years.

In writing a book of this nature, one accumulates numerous debts in both professional and private spheres. But before recounting those who have helped me more immediately, I wish to take this opportunity to thank my former teachers at Berkeley: Wallace L. Chafe, Charles J. Fillmore, Richard Stanley, William S.-Y. Wang, and Karl E. Zimmer. Writing this book owes much to my first linguistics teacher, Bill Wang, who, when I was drifting toward empty theorization in linguistics, suggested that I become a linguist with a strong language background, perhaps a Japanese specialist who can be asked anything about the language. Well, I am still far from the kind of linguist that Bill had in mind when he lectured me, but this book is a small token that I have not forgotten and that I am still doing my homework.

Bernard Comrie, Charles De Wolf, Stanley Dubinsky, John Hinds, Sachiko Ide, Stefan Kaiser, Bart Mathias, Katsumi Matsumoto, Kyōko Murasaki, Ho-Min Sohn, and Andy Spencer read portions of this book and provided me with comments invaluable in improving the contents. Above all, I owe the greatest debt to John Haig, who, while spending a year in Yamagata in the final phase of this work, read the entire manuscript and offered numerous comments and advice on both substantial and stylistic matters. I am fortunate to have a colleague–friend like John, who is so knowledgeable about Japanese and who shares so many academic interests with me. Without his help this book would have been much the poorer.

Professor Eugénie Henderson, the editor assigned to this book by Cambridge University Press, also read the entire manuscript and guided me, with remarkable patience, through the completion of the work. Her offer of the use of her office at SOAS greatly facilitated the completion of part of the book. My stay at the University of London was made possible by a research grant from the British Council, for which I am very grateful, and was made comfortable by the hospitality rendered me by Professor R.H. Robins and Professor Theodora Bynon, Head of the Phonetics and Linguistics Department at SOAS. At a more personal level, Wynn Chao must be thanked for her appetizing conversation over the Chinese noodles in Leicester Square and the oysters at Wheeler's.

Much closer to home, I wish to thank Suzuko Tamura and Kyōko Murasaki, two of the foremost contemporary Ainu specialists in the world and perhaps the last linguists to have done extensive work with native Ainu speakers, for providing me with useful information about the language and for sharing with me their research results. Mayumi Nakamura and Masumi Katagiri, graduate students in linguistics at Kobe, were also helpful in typing portions of the manuscript and drawing maps.

Professor Hisao Kakehi, my senior colleague, made sure that I had ample time to do research and write in Kobe. His encouragement and confidence in me were a source of needed energy in the course of writing. I am also very grateful to Professor Kazuko Inoue, who, like Professor Kakehi, saw to it that I have been provided with an ideal research setting ever since I returned to Japan in 1979. I am pleased to acknowledge that this work was in part supported by a research grant to the project headed by Professor Inoue: "The theoretical and empirical studies of the properties of Japanese in terms of linguistic universals" (Monbushō-Grant for Specially Promoted Research Project (1) No. 60060001).

Finally, it is my pleasurable duty to acknowledge here the patience and understanding shown by my wife and daughter while this book was (or sometimes was not) being written. Hopefully, they will not have to put up with an absent-minded husband and father at the dinner table – until, well, the next book. This book is affectionately presented to Naomi, our nineteen-year-old daughter, who has just set out to see the world and to experience the excitement of intellectual pursuits.

M. S.
Kobe, Japan

ABBREVIATIONS USED IN GLOSSES

ABL	ablative	INTERJEC	interjection
ACC	accusative	IO	indirect object
ADV	adverb(ializer)	ITERA	iterative
AGT	agent	LOC	locative
AP	adverbial particle	N	noun
APPL	applicative	NEG	negative
ASP	aspect	NOM	nominative
ATTR	attributive	NOMI	nominalizer
CAUS	causative	O	object
COHORT	cohortative	OBL	oblique
COM	comitative	PASS	passive
CONCL	conclusive	PAST	past
COND	conditional	PERF	perfective
CONJ	conjunctive	PL	plural
CONT	continuative	POTEN	potential
COP	copula	POSS	possessive
DAT	dative	PRES	present
DESI	desiderative	PROG	progressive
DO	direct object	Q	question
EXCL	exclusive	REAL	realis
EXPL	expletive	REC	reciprocal
EMPH	emphatic	REFL	reflexive
FP	final particle	S	subject
GEN	genitive	SG	singular
GER	gerundive	SPON	spontaneous
HON	honorific	SU	subject
IMP	imperative	TOP	topic
INCL	inclusive	1	first person
IND	indicative	2	second person
INDEF	indefinite	3	third person