

The Ainu Language: bibliography

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Introduction

There exists no comprehensive bibliography devoted entirely to Ainu language studies and no compilation that includes the important publications that have appeared over the last decade. Ainu, historically prominent among several indigenous languages of Japan has been, of course, the subject of voluminous research mostly in Japan and Europe. Research on Ainu is generally located in four major areas: physical anthropology, ethnography, social history and linguistics. Clear delineations between these fields are uncommon and that is to be expected. However, there are no bibliographies oriented to works on the Ainu language per se and this experimental efforts seeks to address that need.

The Ainu Language: a brief note

The very first records of the Ainu language itself come from the Italian Jesuit missionary in Hokkaido, Girolamo de Angelis, during 1602-1623. His reports (1624) include glossaries of Ainu. Japanese studies of Ainu began in the

19th century with the Japanese interpreter Uehara Kumajiro's 4,000 item compilation of Ainu vocabulary *Moshiogusa* (1804). Kindaichi reported (1931/1967) that the first Yukar translations appeared in 1882 or 1883. Since that time, research on all aspects of the Ainu language has expanded. A zenith of Ainu language research was the mid-1990s which saw the publication of no less than three major dictionaries on the Saru and Chitose Ainu dialects: those of Kayano (1996), Nakagawa (1995) and Tamura (1996).

There are two dialects of Ainu today: the Hokkaido and Sakhalin dialects – no speakers of the Kuril dialect remain. (The Kuril dialect was recorded in Russian studies and in Torii Ryuzo's *Les Ainou de Kouriles* (1903). An official of the Hokkaido provincial government, Nagata Hosei, compiled a short grammar of the language (1886). Following the English scholar Basil Hall Chamberlain and his studies of Ainu language, geography and mythology (1887), the most substantial linguistic studies of the Ainu language started with the Edinburgh missionary-lexicographer, John Batchelor (1854–1944). In addition to the compilation of the Ainu–English–Japanese Dictionary (1938), he speculated on the origins of Ainu, suggesting Paleosiberian (Tungus) and even Aryan affinities (supposed lexical cognates in Cornish and Welsh). Kindaichi Kyosuke (1882–1971) is regarded as a major figure in Ainu studies particularly for his studies of the *Yukar*, the Ainu epics.

The Hokkaido dialect is classified into subdialects: northern, central, eastern and southern and south-western. Of these there are no speakers of the northern and south-western dialects. There is no established writing system for the Ainu language although the *itokpa* the varieties of nontotemic animal crests are thought to be the vestiges of a writing system. The phonetic alphabet has traditionally been used for transcription as well as, more recently by Japanese linguists, the Japanese phonemic katakana syllabary.

The Bibliography

Bilingual bibliographies on Ainu in general are available. The comprehensive *Annotated Bibliography of Ainu Studies by Japanese Scholars* published by Heibonsha (1962) in the series *Collectanea Universitatis Catholicae Nanzan* does incorporate a linguistic category in 'Part One'. Library collections occasionally publish lists based on stock and on-line items. An example is the *List of Ainu Reference Materials* (1985) published by the School of Oriental and African Studies (SOAS), University of London. Such lists are vicariously updated. Other compilations derive from the work of specialist booksellers such as the *Sapporo-do* (Sapporo). Such is Adami's 1990 *Bibliography of materials on the Ainu in European languages* (Sapporo-do). University publishers have likewise contributed to bibliographical holdings as with the *Ainu Bibliography* of Senmoto Takashi (1992) from Hokkaido University. Thematically, these general bibliographies, in their coverage of language topics concentrate mainly on the traditional topics such as Ainu dictionaries, yukar (epic poetry), oyna (tales) place-names, Ainu morphology and syntax. Infrequently do they include pedagogical reference works (textbooks, etc.) on the teaching of the Ainu language. Moreover, reference citation in Japanese typically does not provide transliteration into "romaji" (i.e. romanized form). This makes utility somewhat difficult for the non-Japanese language reader.

This bibliography is intended to be experimental in five ways. The bibliography: (1) deals with the Ainu language only, (2) includes works published up and including 1996, (3) includes pedagogical materials for the teaching of Ainu, (4) romanizes and translates all Japanese language references. This work, the authors believe, is somewhat experimental in that it constitutes the first in a series of bibliographies which seek to catalogue work on the "community languages of Japan." The purpose and framework of this linguistic bibliography is, therefore,

qualitatively different from those accomplished hitherto.

Format of the entry.

This bibliography employs a modified version of the American Psychological Association (APA) style. The reference used is the third edition of the Publication Manual of the American Psychological Association (1983). The major difference in our format compared to the original APA format is we omit commas and periods. Our decision on the choice of format is based solely on convenience when compiling each entry in our computer. Only the APA format allows us to indicate the initials of authors' first names. We omitted all commas and periods because they are not crucial for the clarity of description. The other departure from the original APA is that in the case of Japanese entries, we attached a Chinese character description of authors' names and original titles in Japanese, in parenthesis. We believe this practice will provide Japanese users with a quick access to the entries.

Examples.

An Article in a Periodical

Watanabe S 渡部昇一 1993 Gendai nihongo no seiritu [Formation of modern Japanese] 現代日本語の成立 *Gekkan Nihongoron* [Monthly Japanese Language Theory] 月刊日本語論1 (1) 10-24.

Books

Tanaka K 田中克彦 1991 *Gengo kara mita minzoku to kokka* [Race and nation from the viewpoint of language] 言語からみた民族と国家 Tokyo: Iwanami.

An Article or Chapter in an Edited Book

- Kitahara K 北原きよ子 1994 Ainu—gengo to sono hitobito [Ainu—language and people] アイヌ—言語とその人々 In J. C. Maher and Nobuyuki Honna (Eds) *Atarashii nihonkan sekaikan ni mukatte: nihon ni okeru gengo to bunka no tayousei* [Towards a New order: Language and Cultural Diversity in Japan] 新しい日本観・世界観に向かって：日本における言語と文化の多様性 Tokyo: Kokusai Shoin.

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- Bunno A 文野彰子 1995 *Ainu to sono gengo: utau to iu koto* [The Ainu and its language: the meaning of singing] アイヌとその言語：歌うということ Unpublished B.A. thesis. International Christian University Tokyo.
- Chamberlain B H 1887 *The language, mythology and geographical nomenclature of Japan viewed in the light of Aino studies*. Tokyo: Faculty of Letters. University of Tokyo.
- Chiri M 知里真志保 1936 *Ainugoho gaisetsu* [General explanation on Ainu expressions] アイヌ語法概説 Tokyo:Iwanami.
- Chiri M 知里真志保 1952 *Ainugo ni okeru boin chowa* [Vowel harmony of Ainu language] アイヌ語における母音調和 *Hokkaido daigaku bungaku kiyo* 北海道大学文学紀要 1:103–18.
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