

国立国語研究所学術情報リポジトリ

Preface

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The ‘General Research for the Study and Conservation of Endangered Dialects in Japan’ project was started in October 2009 as a core collaborative research project of the National Institute for Japanese Language and Linguistics. Since 2010, we have been conducting yearly joint surveys, in which collaborating researchers and young researchers gather in one location to carry out a survey together. We have conducted the following two such surveys thus far.

First joint survey: survey on the Kikaijima dialects
(Kagoshima Prefecture, September 2010)

Second joint survey: survey on the Miyako dialects (Okinawa Prefecture, September 2011)
The present volume constitutes the research report resulting from the second joint survey, the survey on the Miyako dialects.

We had the help of many people in conducting this survey. Firstly, we are very grateful to our informants, who were willing to make time and defy the heat to come to the community center to kindly share the language of Miyako with us. It is thanks to them that we have been able to produce this report. From the preparation and execution of the survey to the cultural symposium, we also received much help from the people of the Lifelong Learning Advancement Division of the Lifelong Learning Department of the Miyako City Board of Education, including the director of the Board, Mr. Tetsuya Kawakami. We are particularly indebted to the head of the Cultural Property Section of the Lifelong Learning Advancement Division, Mr. Munefumi Shinjo, who introduced us to participants and helped us with scheduling. I would like to take this opportunity to express our deep gratitude.

When considering the entirety of the language of Miyako, it is clear that the contents of this report represent but a small fragment of it, but we would be delighted if it were found to be a useful resource for the study, documentation, and conservation of this language. The reader is invited to also have a look at the PDF version of this volume, which has been made available on the ‘General Research for the Study and Conservation of Endangered Dialects in Japan’ page of the National Institute for Japanese Language and Linguistics website.

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