

## University of Tsukuba Spoken Japanese Dialect Corpus

### Producer and Project

Machine Intelligence and Biomedical Engineering Laboratory, University of Tsukuba  
Grant-in-Aid for Scientific Research (A) during 1999-2001

### Contents

Read speech

1. Phrases of greetings
2. Telephone dialogues
3. Continuous vowels
4. Counting numerals
5. Telephone numbers

Natural conversations between the researcher and the informant or among the informants.

### Speakers

Aomori: 6 males and 7 females  
Yamagata: 6 males and 6 females  
Chiba: 4 males and 9 females  
Aichi: 5 males and 6 females  
Toyama: 6 males and 17 females  
Nara : 12 males and 9 females  
Tottori : 6 males and 9 females  
Kagawa : 8 males and 7 females  
Fukuoka : 4 males and 6 females

### Recording media

1 DVD (16 kHz sampling, 16 bit quantization)

### Price

No fee to be used for research purposes only.

### Comments

The recording level is not necessarily unified because the recording was performed at different places.

We selected five categories of the text for reading (English translation):

- 1) Phrases of greetings:
  - a) Good morning.
  - b) You work hard.
  - c) Hello.
  - d) Please come in to my house.
  - e) Good evening.
  - f) Thank you.
  - g) I am sorry.
  - h) Good bye.
- 2) Telephone dialogues:
  - a) Hello, is it Mr. Sato?

- b) No, I am not. I am Yamano.
- 3) Continuous vowels:
  - a) /aiueo/
- 4) Counting numerals:
  - a) Chinese reading of single digits: 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10.
  - b) Traditional Japanese reading of single digits: 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 8, 9, 10.
- 5) Telephone numbers:
  - a) 0467-41-2136
  - b) 0298-53-5206
  - c) 06-6850-5131
  - d) 0426-77-2136
  - e) 075-753-7799
  - f) 099-285-7557

6) Natural conversations:

These are natural conversations among dialect informants or between a researcher and an informant. A typical part of the recorded conversation of about 5 minutes was transcribed into ‘Kana’ letters. The conversation covers various topics and the recording time also varies depending on the informant and the topic.

Lapel microphones were used for recording so as to record as natural utterance as possible by avoiding unnecessary nervousness to the informants. Most recordings have been carried out in community centers, temples or the speakers’ house so that we can record as natural dialectal pronunciation as possible.

Outline of the recorded data

We recorded dialects from 44 speakers including 18 male and 26 female speakers as shown in Table 1. Table 1 indicates that Toyama dialects were spoken by 6 male and 17 female speakers and Nara dialects were spoken by 12 male and 9 female speakers. Most of them recorded both text reading and free conversation but some were not successful in text reading.

Table 2 indicates the duration of the recorded data which is about 62 hours, including 23 hours for Toyama and 39 hours for Nara.

Speech data were converted from DAT (48kHz, 16bit) through DAT interface (Iwatsu IS-3671) to 16kHz-16bit digital data.

Table 1 Speakers of the dialects

	Male	Female	Total
Toyama	6 (6)	17 (15)	23 (21)
Nara	12 (7)	9 (5)	21 (12)
Total	18 (13)	26 (20)	44 (33)

\* Figures in parentheses denotes the number of speakers who read the text.

Table 2 Reading time of dialect data (minutes)

	Text reading	Free conversation	Total
Toyama	524	871	1395
Nara	1003	1326	2329
Total	1527	2197	3724

Table 3 Length of the corpus (minutes)

	Text reading	Free conversation	Total
Toyama	27	871	898
Nara	13	1326	1339
Total	40	2197	2237

The speakers usually read the text or made free conversation one to three times and we selected the material of the best recording and pronunciation conditions in the process of editing. The text readings data have been edited and contained in two CD-ROMs with 16 kHz sampling rate.