

**Edo Travelogues and local word lists –
A glimpse on the early sources of Hachijō language**

The Edo period (1603-1868) saw a thrive in scientific and cultural productions in Japan and the birth of various scientific traditions, among which the very important *kokugaku*, i.e. the study of Japanese literatures and culture. Therefore, many descriptions of Japanese islands were written in that period, often including richly illustrated geographical, zoological or botanic portraits, and sometimes including local legends, songs or words, which form the only pre-modern sources for the dialects and minority languages of Japan.

A good example of such travelogues is given by the various descriptions of the South-Izu islands (Hachijō, Kojima and Aogashima) written throughout the 17th and 18th centuries. At that time, those islands were considered particularly remote and exotic, and were the subject of many myths in mainland Japan. Moreover, since 1603, they were being used as banishment islands by the shogunate, which made them subject to rare but regular visits from government officials. Thus, many descriptions and travelogues were copied or published about those three islands, either by shogunate officials, or by convicts, who wished to describe their life and the local culture of this faraway region.

Overall, around 30 different accounts on the South Izu islands were written and published during that period, and I counted that at least 14 of those works contain some words from the local language. However, while some of those sources have since been edited (for instance in TAKAKURA, 1968; KANAYAMA, 1976) or even commented (for instance ŌTA, 1811 in NINJAL, 1950; or TAKAHASHI, 1802 and KONDŌ, 1858 in YOSHIMACHI, 1951), several of them are still only accessible through their original manuscript, and have never been studied, analysed, or compared together.

Thus, this presentation will be dedicated to giving an introduction to this topic. However, as those documents are quite numerous, and encompass various difficulties that cannot be treated within the scope of a 20-minute presentation, I will focus my analysis on the Hachijō word lists provided in those documents.

Of the 14 pre-modern Hachijō sources that I could gather so far, it appears that 9 provide a word list of the local language, namely:

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| 1. the 1781 <i>Izu kaitō fudoki</i> , written by SATŌ Yukinobu | (ca. 80 items) |
| 2. the 1791 <i>Nanpō kaitō-shi</i> , by AKIYAMA Funan | (ca. 40 items) |
| 3. the 1796 <i>Shichitō nikki</i> , by KODERA Ōsai | (ca. 40 items) |
| 4. the 1801 <i>Izu shichitō fudo sairan</i> , by MISHIMA Masahide | (ca. 80 items) |
| 5. the 1802 <i>En'ō kōgo</i> , by TAKAHASHI Yoichi | (ca. 200 items) |
| 6. the 1811 <i>Hachijō kiriko-ori</i> , by HATTORI Yoshitaka | (ca. 60 items) |
| 7. the ca. 1811 <i>Ichiwa ichigen</i> , by ŌTA Nanpo | (ca. 210 items) |
| 8. the 1839 <i>Asahi gyakutō-ki</i> , by SAWARA no Kisaburō | (ca. 30 items) |
| 9. the 1858 <i>Hachijō jikki</i> , by KONDŌ Tomizō, with 2 word lists | (ca. 80 items /
ca. 390 items) |

Therefore, this presentation will be dedicated to the philological study and comparison of those pre-modern Hachijō word lists.

Notably, I will try to analyse:

- their method and structure
- their differences and similarities
- their spelling, and what it indicates about the phonology and dialectology of early Hachijō
- the words they provide, how they compare to modern-day Hachijō (for instance to ASANUMA, 1999 and YAMADA, 2010), and what insights they can give about the evolution of the language in the last 200 years.

Provisional references

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- ASANUMA Ryōji. 1999. *Hachijō-jima no hōgen jiten*. Tōkyō: Asahi Shimbun publishing service.
- HATTORI Yoshitaka. 1811. *Hachijō kiriko-ori* [manuscript]. Several versions are available online, for instance one provided by the Edo Tokyo museum:
<https://www.edohakuarchives.jp/detail-508.html>
- KANAYAMA Shūkō (ed.). 1976. *Izu shotō junken kiroku-shū*, Tōkyō: Ryokuchi-sha.
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- KONDŌ Tomizō. 1858. *Hachijō Jikki*, edited by the Hachijō Jikki Kankō kai. 1964-1976 (seven volumes). Tōkyō: Ryokuchi-sha
- MISHIMA Masahide. 1801. *Izu Nanashima fudo sairān*. Included in TAKAKURA, 1968; pp. 644-661.
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- TAKAKURA Shin'ichirō (ed.). 1968. *Tanken kikō chishi*, vol. 1, *Nantō, Nihon shomin seikatsu shiryō shūsei*, pp. 644-841. Tōkyō: San'ichi shobō.
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