

Today's topics:

- **Dictionary data: JDIC**
- **Corpus data: The BCCWJ**

Background:

- *Handout - Word classes (syntactic categories) in Japanese*

0. Today's objectives

After today's class, you should be able to:

- Query JDIC for 'standard' Japanese morphology
- Query the BCCWJ corpus / Syoonagon interface for data from language in use
- Consider how to answer a research question in terms of relative frequencies in a corpus
 - Compare 'standard' and 'non-standard' forms
 - Compare distribution patterns for different word classes

1. Warm-up and check-in

- Tools:
 - The [JDIC online Japanese dictionary](#)
 - The class [kana charts](#)
- Any questions about...
 - Finding pronunciation and word-class data in JDIC?
 - Using the kana charts to convert to kunrei romanization?

2. Dictionary data for morphology: JDIC

- Look up this verb in [JDIC](#): 食べる
 - Click on *Links* and then *Verb conjugations*
 - The chart shows the 'standard Japanese' forms as they are accepted by language authorities
 - Linguistics students: Is this **prescriptive** or **descriptive** grammar?
- What is the **potential** form?
 - Segment the morphemes
 - What does the footnote say?

2. Dictionary data for morphology: JDIC

- Morpheme segmentation of the **potential** form of the verb whose citation form is 食べる 'eat'
 - Compare these forms:

nonpast informal	nonpast formal	nonpast negative informal
食べられる	食べられます	食べられない
taberarereru	taberaremasu	taberarenai

- What morphemes can we identify here?
- What is the **potential morpheme** (vowel-root verbs)?
- What is the **alternative** potential morpheme described in the footnote?

3. Corpus data for morphology: The BCCWJ

- Handout - [Guide to using the 少納言 \(Syoonagon\) interface to the BCCWJ corpus](#)
 - See also NINJAL's [English-language description](#) of the BCCWJ
- Corpus linguistics basics
 - What you can do with a corpus is **compare frequencies**
 - Sometimes you have to think carefully about what frequencies to compare in order to answer your question

3. Corpus data for morphology: The BCCWJ

- How many hits do we get for the non-standard negative potential form 食べれない?
 - What kind of documents are the sources for these occurrences in the corpus?
 - Do modern speakers of Japanese use these “non-standard” forms?

4. Corpus data for word class

Example research question:

- We saw last time that N and AN are said to be distinguished by how they are used to modify (describe) N: **N-no** N vs. **AN-na** N
- Can we confirm that this distinguishes N and AN?
 - What are some examples we could try?
 - How can we make sure we are comparing frequencies meaningfully?

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Data set - [Corpus data on N, AN](#)

4. Corpus data for word class

Data set - Distributional evidence for word class:
Corpus data

- If we get **surprising results**, we can look at the individual examples more closely
 - Interpreting corpus results may require hand-checking results and finding ways to exclude spurious matches to the intended structure
 - Later in the course, we will look at JDIC's Text Glossing tool (with Google Translate) for support in reading Japanese text

4. Corpus data for word class

FYI: Some commonly encountered grammatical morphemes

は	wa	TOP	topic
が	ga	NOM	nominative (subject)
を	o ("wo")	ACC	accusative (object)
に	ni	DAT/LOC	dative/locative (<i>to, at, in, ...</i>)
で	de	(various)	<i>of / with (using) / from /</i> continuative form of copula
の	no	GEN	genitive (<i>X's, of X</i>)
な	na	NA	with AN; also N-na + extended pred
から	kara		from; because

5. For next time

- Prep questions: Morphological segmentation; corpus data
- Upcoming schedule:
 - Morphology wrap-up discussion and quiz review on Monday
 - Final project information and rendaku discussion on Wednesday [or Japanese language careers discussion]
 - Morphology quiz on Friday