

Examples of dialect differences

Audio, video, and map resources mentioned here are linked from “Media resources for Japanese regional dialects,” [<http://users.castle.unc.edu/~jlsmith/ling563/dialects.html>]

I. Phonology: Examples of northern (Tohoku) dialects

(1) Poem: *Ame ni mo makezu* (Miyazawa Kenji 宮澤 賢治, 1896-1933; see web page for links)

(a) Orthography (transliterated) of the first few lines (English from Wikipedia)

ame ni mo makezu	not losing to the rain
kaze ni mo makezu	not losing to the wind
yuki ni mo natsu no atsu ni mo makenu	not losing to the snow nor to summer's heat
zyoobu na karada o moti	with a strong body
yoku wa naku	not fettered by desire
kessite ikarazu	by no means offending anyone
itumo sizuka ni waratte iru	always quietly smiling

(b) Listen to a Tokyo speaker

(c) Listen to a Tohoku speaker (Miyagi prefecture)

II. Lexicon, morphology, syntax: Examples of Western Japanese dialects

(2) Kansai-area dialect

- Dialogue with video, from *A guide to colloquial [Kansai] Japanese*, U. Tübingen web site
- Kansai (non-Tokyo) forms bolded

Hide: Hazimemasite.
begin-FRML-CONT [set expression used when first meeting someone]
'Hi/nice to meet you.'

Maki: Hazimemasite. **Nankai-sei** desu ka?
begin-FRML-CONT what.turn-student COP.FRML.NPST Q
'Hi/nice to meet you. What year student are you?' [note Tokyo-style formal forms]

Hide: **Sankai** desu.
3-turn COP.FRML.NPST
'I'm a third-year.'

Maki: **Honma** ni? **Uti**-mo **sankai** **ya** **nen**.
true +ADV I-also 3.turn COP.NPST SENTENCE.FINAL.PARTICLE
'Really? I'm a third-year too.'

Hide: A, soo na.n **ya**. Zya, **tameguti de!** **Ore**, Hide. **Zibun**-wa?
oh like.that (~fact) COP.NPST then, informal-friends as I Hide you-TOP
'Oh, is that right? Then, we're people who can talk like friends! I'm Hide.'

Maki: Maki. Yorosiku!
Maki good.HON-ADV [set expression requesting good relations going forward]
'I'm Maki. (~See you around!)

(3) Can we categorize the differences from Standard Japanese seen in this Kansai dialogue?
Are there any...

- (a) Lexical (word-choice) differences?
- (b) Morphological differences?
- (c) Language-usage differences?

(4) Fukuoka dialect (audio only)
• From *Narikiri Hakata-kko* web site

A: Nan si-yoo to?
what do-CONT Q 'What are you doing?

B: Benkyoo-si-yoo to.
study-do-CONT SFP 'I'm studying.'

A: Issyo-ni asob-an?
together-ADV play-NPST.NEG 'Want to play? (=go do something fun)'

B: [Syukudai-o se-n] to ik-an.
homework-ACC do-NPST.NEG C go-NPST.NEG
'If I don't do my homework, things won't go well.' (= 'I have to do my homework.')

A: Syukudai-ga mada owatt(e) oran to?
homework-NOM not.yet finish-TE I-NPST.NEG Q
'Your homework isn't done yet?'

B: Dare.ka-san-ga zyama bakkai su-ru ken, deki-n to!
somebody-HON-NOM in.the.way nothing.but do-NPST because, can-NPST.NEG SFP
'Somebody keeps getting in the way, so I can't finish it!'

(5) Can we categorize the differences from Standard Japanese seen in this Fukuoka dialogue?
Are there any...

- (a) Lexical (word-choice) differences?
- (b) Morphological differences?
- (c) Language-usage differences?

(6) Compare dialect maps: (see web site)

- (a) Negative forms of verbs
- (b) What corresponds to modern Tokyo te-i-(ru) constructions
- (c) 'Because'