

Cathy Zhang

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5-7PM

4-370

Introduction To Japanese

Writing System

- ✕ Kanji (漢字)
 - + Borrowed from Chinese
 - + Used for native Japanese words
- ✕ Hiragana (平仮名/ひらがな)
 - + Used for native Japanese words
- ✕ Katakana (片仮名/カタカナ)
 - + Used for foreign loan words
 - + Also used for emphasis in certain contexts

Kanji

- ✕ Borrowed from Chinese

- + Some are the same as in traditional Chinese
- + Some are the same as in simplified Chinese
- + Some are derived from traditional Chinese and do not exist in Chinese

- ✕ At least two readings per kanji

- + On'yomi (音読み)
- + Kun'yomi (訓読み)

Hiragana

✕ Use similarities to memorize

+ あ、ぬ、め

+ ね、れ、わ

+ ち、さ、き (computer font and handwriting different)

+ け、に、は、ほ

+ も、ま

Katakana

✕ Use similarities to memorize

+ ア、ケ、チ、テ、ナ

+ ウ、ヌ、フ、ラ、ワ、ヲ

+ マ、ム

+ シ、ツ、ン、ソ、ノ (stroke direction is important)

✕ Many are basically straighter versions of hiragana counterpart

+ カ、キ、セ、ニ、ヘ、ヤ、モ、リ

+ Beware of し (hiragana 'si') vs. レ (katakana 're')

Kana Modified Using Dakuten/Handakuten

- ✕ Dakuten (濁点)
 - + Colloquially 点々 (てんてん), meaning dot-dot
- ✕ Handakuten (半濁点)
 - + Colloquially 丸 (まる), meaning circle
- ✕ ヱ is used to represent v(u)
- ✕ Rendaku (連濁) are loose rules for adding dakuten when forming compound words
 - + Some changes have semantic consequences
 - ✕ “yamakawa” (mountains & rivers) vs. “yamagawa” (mountain river)

Small つ / ツ

✕ Doubles following consonant (both hiragana and katakana)

+ 買った (かった) is “katta”

Small Vowels

✕ フォーク

+ f_(u)ooku

✕ パーティー

+ paat_(e)ii

Romanization Systems

- ✕ Nihon-shiki (日本式ローマ字)

- + Literally “Japan-style romaji”
- + More regular

- ✕ Hepburn

- + More commonly used
- + Emphasis on more accurate representation of pronunciation