

Colloquial Japanese Expression in *Dictionarium Latino Lusitanicum, ac Iaponicum* (1595)

Emi Kishimoto,

Kyoto Prefectural University, Japan
kishimoto@kpu.ac.jp, emik@aioros.ocn.ne.jp

The Latin-Portuguese-Japanese dictionary *Dictionarium Latino Lusitanicum, ac Iaponicum*, published by the Jesuits in Japan in 1595, seems to have used standard and written Japanese, which implies that it should have excluded dialectal and colloquial expressions. This was owing to the fact that the Jesuits in Japan tried to learn the refined and standard Japanese.

It is true that the Japanese used in the dictionary is not vulgar; however, in reality, the dictionary has at least twenty dialectal words, as Kishimoto (2011) indicates. This paper aims to clarify that the dictionary includes not only dialects but also many colloquial expressions, and considers the reasons for this.

For example, in the dictionary, the translators often use the *-xij* form of an adjective before a noun like *Fanafadaxij icari* (great anger), instead of using *-xiqui* in the written style. Several colloquial expressions have been found, especially in the translations of conversational Latin sentences. We can find a number of such colloquial Japanese sentences when we compare the dictionary to Rodriguez's *Arte da lingoa de Iapam* (1604–1608), which gives detailed information on the differences between the spoken and written styles of the Japanese language.

Why does the dictionary include several colloquial Japanese expressions? Regarding grammatical forms such as *-xij*, the translators did not seem to have a clear understanding of the difference between the spoken and written style. In fact, back then, spoken and written Japanese were so different that only a few people could write refined Japanese. It is possible that several translators were using colloquial Japanese ignorant of the fact that they were being colloquial.

References

- ANONYMOUS (1595) *Dictionarium Latino Lusitanicum, ac Iaponicum, ex Ambrosii Calepini volumine depromptum*. Amakusa: Collegio Iaponico Societatis Iesu. (Facsimile. Tokyo: Benseisha. 1979)
- RODRIGUEZ, JOÃO (1604–1608). *Arte da lingoa de Iapam*. Nagasaki: Collegio de Iapão da Companhia de Iesu. (Facsimile. Tokyo: Benseisha. 1976)
- KISHIMOTO, EMI (2011) “Dialects included in *Dictionarium Latino Lusitanicum, ac Iaponicum*(1595).” *ASIALEX 2011 Proceedings*. Kyoto: The Asian Association for Lexicography. 274–283.