

## Forward to Ainu Conversational Language Dictionary

(translated from Modern Japanese by Sarah Rumme)

Kanazawa Shozaburo, B.A., is a learned scholar of linguistics, originally from Osaka. He visited Hokkaido about four times between 1895 and 1897, staying for a total of 150 days. There, Kanazawa researched the Ainu language, edited the “Moshihogusa” (published in the Tokyo Geographical Society Journals), and researched Batchelor’s Ainu dictionary. He also compiled this dictionary based on the materials which he had collected during his field research. Kanazawa’s achievements in Ainu research during his studies at graduate school are clear in this book. I have read this book extensively and added some notes and suggestions, allowing me to add my name to the cover of this dictionary. Although the Ainu people will go extinct in the not so far future, the Japanese people are not so keen on researching the Ainu language. Courses are offered as optional courses at Faculty of Letters of Tokyo Imperial University, but they are not sufficient. If sympathizers would read Batchelor’s dictionary or translation of the Christian Bible and take Kanazawa’s conversational dictionary into the field and research the Ainu, the fruits of Professor Ueda Mannen’s inclusion of Ainu language research into courses of Faculty of Letters of Tokyo Imperial University will be apparent for the first time.

Jimbo Kotoru  
March 1898  
Tokyo

### Legend

I compiled this dictionary following the teachings of Professor Jimbo Kotoru, D.Sc., and based on my experience in researching the Ainu language. I hope that it will be a functional tool for people hoping to travel to Hokkaido, and as a resource for comparing and researching Eastern languages. Everyone knows that the Professor Jimbo is devoted to studies. He has spent great sums of his personal money researching the Ainu language, and has continued to promote research on the Ainu language. My mentor Professor Ueda Mannen has given me valuable advice and suggestions on my research policy. It is with the kind advice of these two professors that I was able to compile this dictionary.

The style of this dictionary follows the German Meyer’s Sprachfuher, and functions as both a dictionary and conversation phrase dictionary. When using it as a regular dictionary, the user must find the topic of conversation from the index at the back.

The order of words differs slightly from a regular dictionary. First, the voiced sound line is placed after the corresponding unvoiced sound line. Secondly, the semi-voiced sound is placed in front of the corresponding voiced sound. Thirdly, the nasal sound and assimilated sound are placed last.

The words, even if they are in a conversation, are provided as the most ordinary words and are described as pronounced regardless of historical kana usage.

This dictionary was compiled by selecting only commonly used words from the materials which

I collected in order to research the Ainu language from a linguistic prospective. Undoubtedly, there are many shortcomings. I was not able to spend much time in the editing process, and many word arrays are probably broken up. I eagerly expect corrections which may be made later.

I wish to express my gratitude to the owner of the Kinkodo for his help in publishing this dictionary.

Kanazawa Shozaburo, B.A.  
March 1898  
Writing from Graduate School

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