

Port Language Revitalization Project



Masahiro Yamada (NINJAL) <m-yamada@ninjal.ac.jp>

NINJAL International Symposium

“Approaches to Endangered Languages in Japan and Northeast Asia:
Description, Documentation, and Revitalization”

Aug.6-8,2018 @ NINJAL



“Port *Language Revitalization*” Project

Vision

Maintain the linguistic diversity (in Ryukyu/Japan) via multi-lingualism

Goal

Support language communities’ language revitalization via “fun”

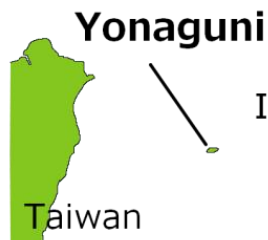
You will hear “how” in this session.



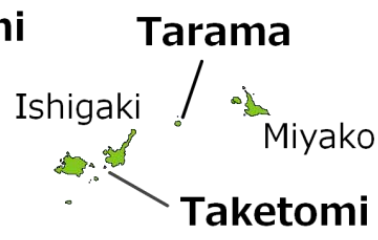
“Port Language Revitalization” Project

Platform to share

- experts
- language contents
- experience



Yonaguni



Ishigaki

Miyako

Taketomi



Kyushu

Amami-Ooshima

Okinoerabu

Okinawa



We Do Documentation *and* Revitalization

Documentation (reference grammar, dictionary, texts)

- Systematic understanding of a language is foundational for everything
- Must be done *now*
- ... does not preserve a language (=linguistic ability in human brain)

Revitalization (recreate intergenerational language transmission)

- Must be done *now* too
- Returning the linguistic data back to the language community
- ... likely to be superficial without understanding of the grammar

Doing both is possible, effective, and ideal.



We do Documentation *and* Revitalization

We give the linguistic data that the linguists collect “a shape”, so that non-researchers can play with it.

A way to return the linguistic data back to the language communities

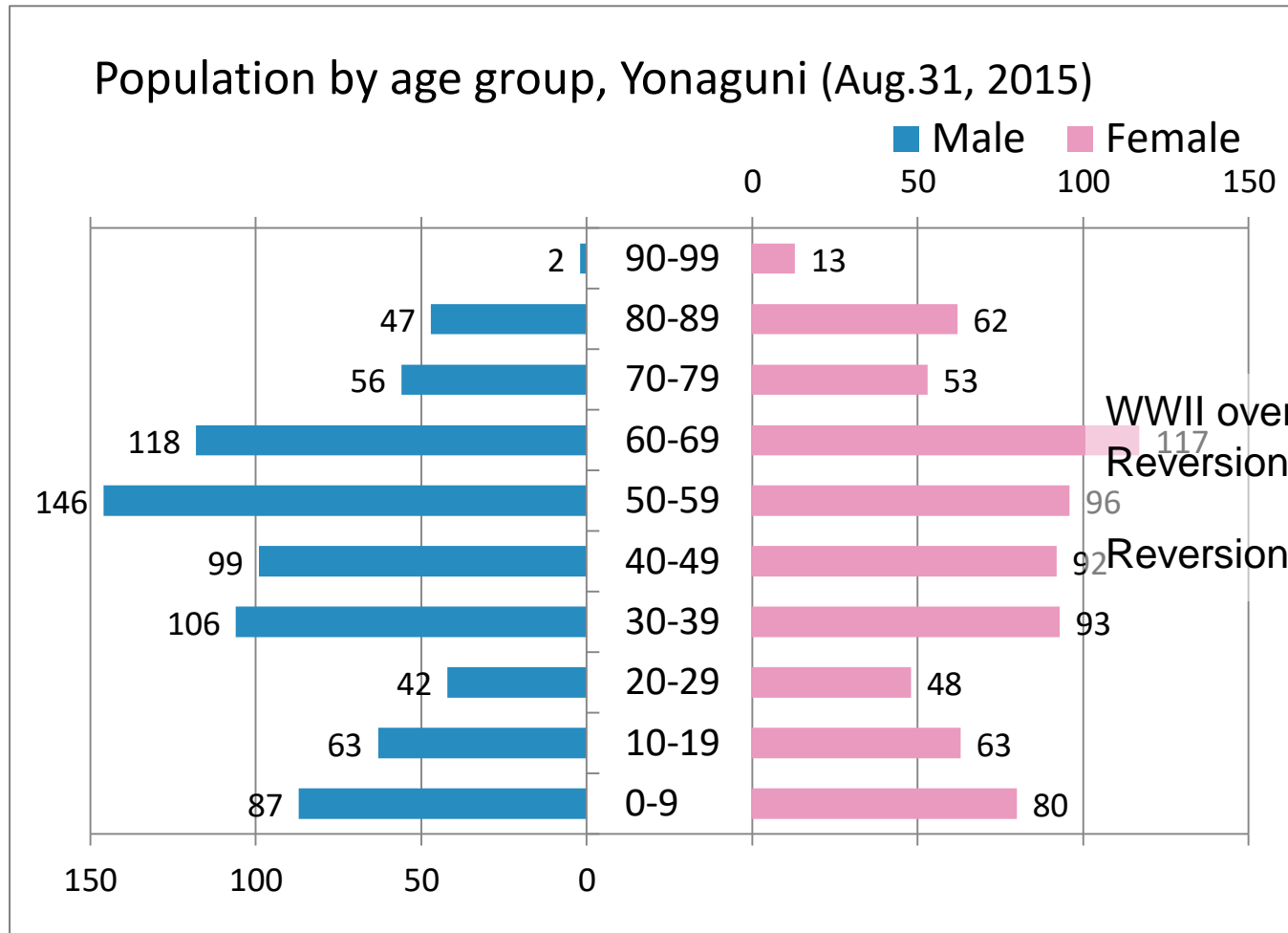
This is where we need designers and artists.

→ Fumi Yamamoto's part



Revitalization...?

Yes, Ryukyuan languages are in danger, but...



Active bilingual

Passive bilingual

Japanese monolingual

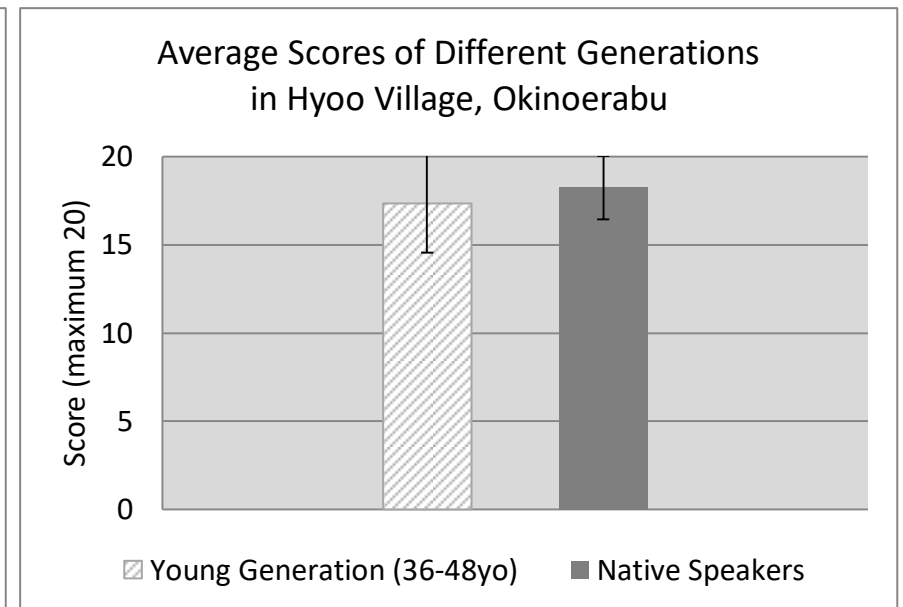
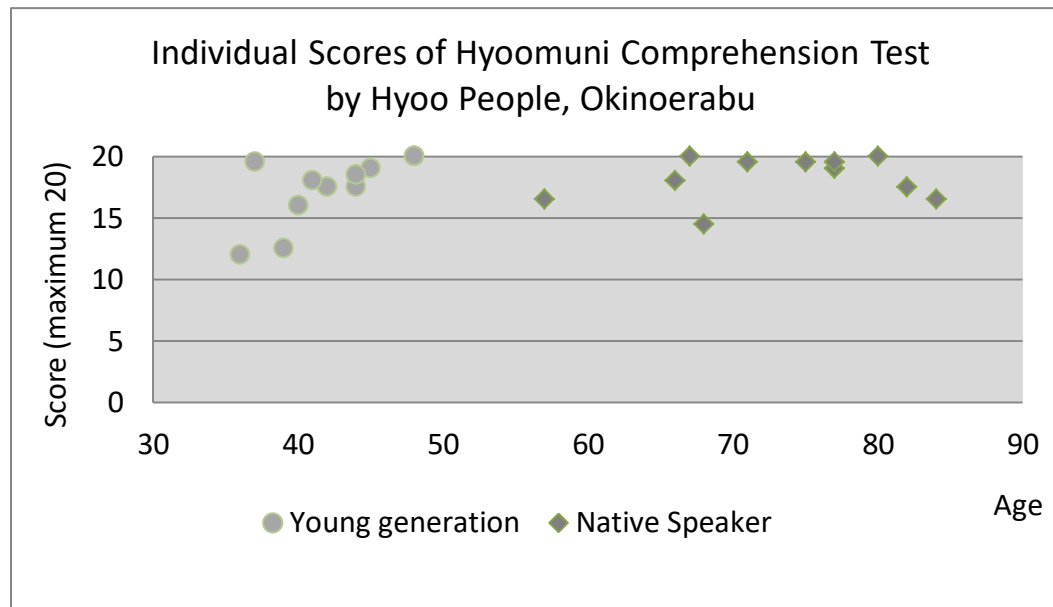
WWII over: 1945
 Reversion of Amami: 1953
 Reversion of Okinawa: 1972



Revitalization

People with passive knowledge of the local language

- need little effort to (re)learn the local language
- in the “parental generation”: their output ~ children’s input



You will hear more about the Mutual-intelligibility project from Yuki Takubo on Day3.



Revitalization

Cannot be done without active involvement of the language community

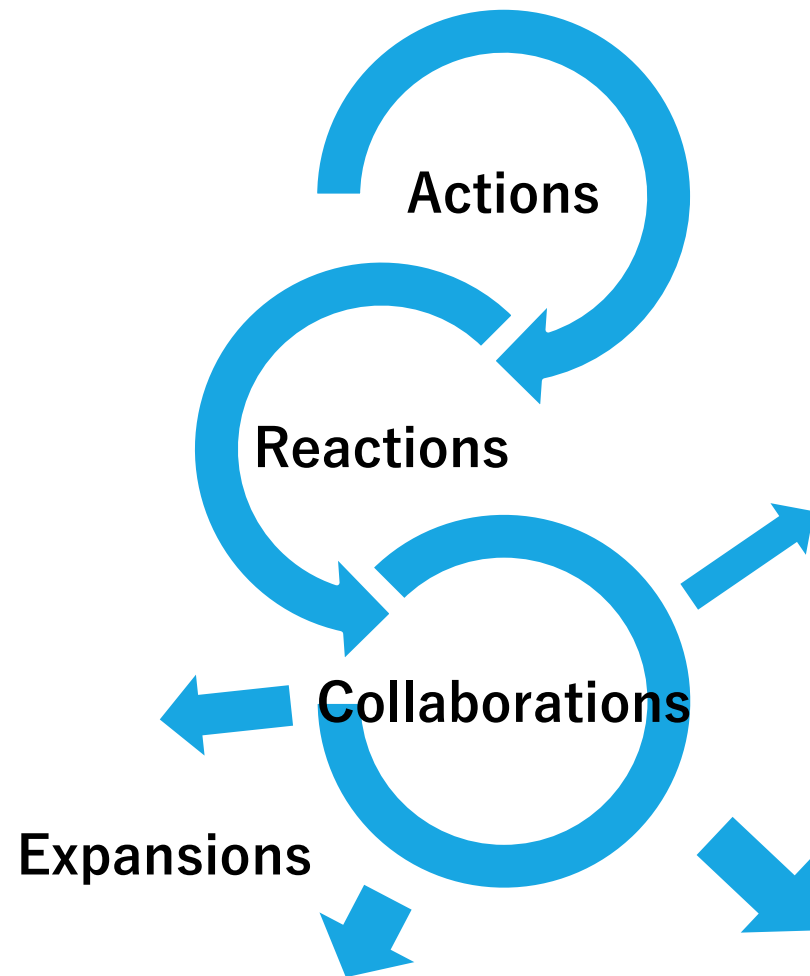
“A shape” that we give to the linguistic data we collect should;

- motivate the language community members to get interested in the local language, and further to learn it
- empower them to create and continue their own activities in the future

background?



Empowerment of Language Community



Cyclic impacts
between documentary linguists
and language community

→ Akiko Yokoyama's part

Empowerment of Language Community

We make use of the process of giving a shape to the linguistic data.

e.g. exchange of linguistic data and linguistic training

→ Yukie Matsumura's part

Fumi > Akiko > Yukie > Questions and Discussion



Acknowledgement



DNP Foundation for Cultural Promotion | Research grant for graphic culture

「コトバ×デザイン×コミュニティ～消滅危機言語復興研究におけるデザインのちから」

「絵とともに語ることばの未来 多言語表記民話絵本のブックデザイン」 (PI: Fumi Yamamoto)



Univer Foundation | Towards a healthy society and wellbeing

「コミュニティ主体の消滅危機言語の復興・地域伝統言語の世代間継承」



Hakuho Foundation | 11th Hakuho Research Grant for Child Education

「地域言語学習コンテンツ制作・利用プロジェクトを核とした琉球諸語の復興研究」



Toyota Foundation | Research Grant, Communication with Society Program

「多文化・多言語社会としての日本の理解－消滅危機言語の相互理解性と世代間継承度のための客観的尺度の創出」

「琉球諸語統一的表記法フォント開発と電子的な利用の普及」 (PI: Shinji Ogawa)



The Telecommunications Advancement Foundation | Research Grant

「「何もしなければ」消滅してしまう琉球のことばを、記録、共有して、継承するために」 (PI: Yuka Hayashi)



JSPS | KAKENHI Wakate B

「琉球諸語の記述と復興研究のためのプラットフォーム基盤構築研究」 #16K16824



NINJAL | Institution-based project

「日本の消滅危機言語・方言の記録とドキュメンテーションの作成」 (PI: Nobuko Kibe)



NINJAL | Discretionary funds from the Director-General of NINJAL

「「外の視点」を取り入れた地域言語コミュニティによる主体的かつ継続的な消滅危機言語研究の再活性化活動促進プロジェクト」

