

## Adjective suffix variation in Kagoshima dialect

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<Goal> While the adjective suffix for non-past form is *i* in standard Japanese, as in *taka-i* “(it is) high”, there is a suffix variant *ka* used for the same function, as in *taka-ka* “(it is) high” mainly in Kyushu area. It has been known that both *i* and *ka* suffixes are utilized in the southern Kyushu dialect group, known as Satsugu dialect group (Kibe 1997). Setoguchi (1967) revealed that even in the southern Kyushu dialect group there can be seen the regional variation of the non-past tense suffix:

- (i) Dialects with only *i*-suffix
- (ii) Dialects with only *ka*-suffix
- (iii) Dialects with both *i* and *ka* suffixes

Although Setoguchi (1967) described the regional details throughout the area, it is still unclear how these two are used in dialects with both suffixes (iii above). It is our goal to describe the switch between the two suffixes in such dialects.

<Method> We collected adjective samples from the legacy recordings at the Kagoshima Prefectural Library. In particular, we scrutinized the corpora of the dialects with both *i* and *ka* suffixes.

<Result> The dialects with both suffixes can be classified into four groups:

- (i) The suffixes are chosen depending on the style.
- (ii) The suffixes are fixed depending on the adjective roots.
- (iii) Although the suffixes are basically fixed as (ii), the roots with high frequency take both suffixes.
- (iv) The suffixes are not fixed.

<Discussion> We found that there are various ways of the switch of the suffixes in the area. From the result, we conclude that there have been multiple dialectal contacts historically between those Kagoshima dialects and other variants including standard Japanese.