# Distribution of Particles ka, ja, and zo in Interrogatives in Sanuki Dialect

Kaori Ototake
*National Institute for Japanese Language and Linguistics*

The aim of this presentation is to illustrate the distribution of the particles *ka*, *ja,* and *zo* in interrogatives in the Sanuki dialect (a Japanese dialect spoken in Kagawa Prefecture). These particles appear in interrogatives of casual speech especially spoken by men. From my research data of an 88-year-old male native speaker, born and living in Mitani district in Takamatsu city, Kagawa Prefecture, I demonstrate that these particles are in complementary distribution. The data was gathered from inquiries with the native speaker based on questionnaires, and recording his speech data during normal conversations with his family. The details of the distribution are as follows:

1. *ka* appears at the end of polar questions in direct interrogatives. The nominalizer *N* is dispensable.
2. *ja* appears at the end of content questions in direct interrogatives. The nominalizer *N* is indispensable.
3. There is an exception to 1 and 2 above. *ka* appears at the end of content questions when a speaker's speech act is described to ask the questions.
4. *zo* works as an affirmative polarity item such as *naNzo* (something) and *dokozo* (somewhere), following question words *naN*, *doko*, and so on.
5. In indirect questions, *ka* appears at the end of their subordinate clauses.

The above distribution is different from standard Japanese where the sentence-final particle *ka* appears in both polar questions and content questions in direct interrogatives and where the nominalizer *no/N* is not required in content questions (Kuno 1983; Kinsui 2012). *ka* also appears as affirmative polarity item in standard Japanese.

Particles *ka*, *ja*, and *zo* in classical Japanese have been discussed in studies on the history of Japanese interrogatives (Yamaguchi 1990; Kinuhata 2014). The results of this study on the Sanuki dialect will provide further recommendations to this field as well.