SOME CONTACT LANGUAGES INVOLVING JAPANESE: AN OVERVIEW

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Abstract: *The literature on the outcomes of the contacts between Japanese and other languages has mostly, if not exclusively, been concerned with lexical borrowings – particularly from English – and their adaptation. However, within various socio-historical contexts, Japanese has also been involved in the emergence of several contact languages. These varieties are under researched and, not surprisingly, they have figured only very marginally in the literature on pidgins and creoles or on mixed languages. The present paper focuses on the following contact languages: Yokohama Pidgin Japanese – spoken in the second half of the 19th century in Yokohama and, most probably, in Kobe and Nagasaki (Avram 2014); Yilan Creole – a Japanese-lexifier creole spoken in Taiwan (Chien & Sanada 2010); Japanese Pidgin English, also known as Bamboo English – formerly used by US army personnel and local Japanese after the Second World War and also transplanted to South Korea (Goodman 1967); the so-called "Ogasawara Mixed Language" – spoken in the Osagawara/Bonin Islands (Long 2007); Angaur Japanese – spoken in Palau (Long & al. 2013). Particular attention is paid to the controversial status of two of these varieties: the Ogasawara Mixed Language – a bilingual mixed language vs. an illustration of code-switching; Angaur Japanese – a "pidginoid" vs. an instance of imperfect L2 acquisition. Also discussed is the Japanese contribution to three other contact languages in the Pacific (Mühlhäusler & Trew 1996): Broome Pearling Lugger Pidgin, Thursday Island Aboriginal Pidgin English – both formerly used in Australia; Hawaiian Pidgin English – currently spoken in Hawaii.*

1. Introduction

The present contribution is an overview of the contribution of Japanese to the formation of seven contact languages: Yokohama Pidgin Japanese, Thursday Island Aboriginal Pidgin Japanese, Yilan Creole, the Ogasawara Mixed Language, Japanese Pidgin English, Hawaiian Pidgin English, and Broome Pidgin English.[1]

The examples (including variants) appear in the orthography or system of transcription used in the sources. The number of examples has been kept at a reasonable minimum. Unless otherwise specified, the translations are from the original sources. The following abbreviations

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[1] For previous works covering some of these varieties the reader is referred to Mühlhäsler & Trew (1996), Loveday (1996), and Maher (2004).

are used: 1 = first person; 2 = second person; 3 = third person; A = Atayal; abl = ablative; acc = accusative; BPE = Broome Pidgin English; caus = causative; com = comitative; cond = conditional; cop = copula; D = Dutch; dat = dative; dem = demonstrative; E = English; emph = emphatic; gen = genitive; HPE = Hawaiian Pidgin English; imp = imperative; indef = indefinite; ins = instrumental; J = Japanese; JPE = Japanese Pidgin English; lnk = linker; loc = locative; M = Malay; neg = negator; OML = Ogasawara Mixed Language; P = Portuguese; pl = plural; prog = progressive; pst = past; ptc = particle; sg = singular; TIAPJ = Thursday Island Aboriginal Pidgin Japanese; top = topic; YC = Yilan Creole; YPJ = Yokohama Pidgin Japanese.

The paper is organized as follows. Sections 2 to 4 focus on three Japanese-lexifier varieties: Yokohama Pidgin Japanese, Thursday Island Aboriginal Pidgin Japanese, and Yilan Creole. Section 5 deals the Ogasawara Mixed Language. Sections 6 to 8 are concerned with three English-lexifier varieties to which Japanese has also contributed: Japanese Pidgin English, Hawaiian Pidgin English and Broome Pidgin English. Section 9 briefly discusses the findings and some of their implications.

2. Yokohama Pidgin Japanese

YPJ was spoken in the second half of the 19th century not only in the multilingual settings of Yokohama, but also, in all likelihood, in two other ports, Kobe and Nagasaki (Lange 1903: XXVIII; Chamberlain 1904: 369; Daniels 1948: 805–806; Loveday 1996: 69; Stanlaw 2004: 56–59; Inoue 2003; Inoue 2006: 55–56). As shown in Avram (2014: 44), YPJ exhibits features diagnostic of pre-pidgins.[2]

YPJ is mentioned by a number of contemporary authors. Diósy (1879: 500) and Griffis (1883: 493) refer to it as "Yokohama dialect". Gills (1886: 185) writes that YPJ is "a species of hybrid, ungrammatical Japanese, spoken by foreigners who do not learn the language [= Japanese] accurately". Some authors explicitly call it a "pidgin". Lange (1903: XXVIII), for instance, states that "in the ports there is a good deal of pidgin-Japanese [...] which is to be avoided". Chamberlain (1904: 369) comments that "in Japan [...] we have "Pidgin Japanese" as the *patois* in which new-comers soon learn to make known their wants to coolies and tea-house girl, and which serves as the vehicle for grave commercial transactions at the open ports".

YPJ is poorly documented. Most descriptions of YPJ (Daniels 1948; Fujita 1982; Kodama 1999; Long 1999; Inoue 2003, 2004; Kaiser 2005; Inoue 2006; Sugimoto 2010; Okawa 2017) are based on data from

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[2] In terms of the typology suggested by Mühlhäusler (1997: 5–6, 128–138; see also Siegel 2008: 2–4).

Atkinson (1879) exclusively; Avram (2012, 2013, 2014a) also include data from a glossary (Gills 1886), travel accounts (Griffis 1883; Knollys 1887), and two magazine articles (Anonymous 1879, Diósy 1879).

2.1. Phonology

As shown in Avram (2014a: 32), the phonological interpretation of the system of transcription used in the few written records of YPJ can only be tentative in nature. The remarks that follow (based on Avram 2014: 32–34) are therefore restricted to just a few features which can reasonably be inferred from the available evidence.[3]

Consider first the deletion of the high vowels /i/ and / ɯ /, which reflects their devoicing in Japanese, i.e. their phonetic realization as [i̥] and [ɯ̥], a characteristic of the Tokyo dialectal area. In the sources, deletion is indicated by the use of the apostrophe, as in (1a), or the absence of the vowel letter <i> or <u>, as in (1b):

(1)   a.   *h'to* 'person' (Diósy, 1879: 500) < J *hito*
        b.   *moots* 'six' (Atkinson 1879: 18) < J *mutsu*

Consider next consonants. YPJ [ʃ] corresponds to the Standard Japanese palatal voiceless fricative [ç]. This is illustrated by the examples below:

(2)   a.   *shto* 'man' (Atkinson 1879: 20) < J *hito* 'person'
        b.   *sheebatchey* 'stove' (Atkinson 1879: 24, f.n.) < J *hibachi* 'stove'

YPJ has word-internal [ŋ], which is a characteristic of earlier Tokyo Japanese (Shibatani 1990: 171–173, Avram 2005: 48–56). The nasal velar [ŋ] is rendered by the digraph <ng>, as in the following examples:

(3)   a.   *nang eye* 'long' (Atkinson 1879: 18) / *nangeye* 'tall' (Atkinson 1879: 28) < J *nagai*
        b.   *tomango* 'egg' (Atkinson 1879: 24) < J *tamago*

The syllable structure is, generally, that of Japanese (Avram 2014: 33): words have simple syllable margins and the only admissible word-final coda is /N/. Consequently, lexical items of foreign origin undergo adjustment. The repair strategies employed for the resolution of illicit onsets and codas are epenthesis and paragoge, illustrated in the examples under (4) and respectively (5):

(4)   a.   *bidoro* 'glass' (Diósy 1879: 500) < P *vidro*
        b.   *sitésh'n* 'railway station' (Diósy 1879) < E *station*
(5)   a.   *bricky* 'canned' (Atkinson 1879: 23), 'sheet tin' (Diósy 1879: 501) < D *blik* 'can'
        b.   *dontaku* 'Sunday' (Diósy 1879: 500) < D *Zondag*

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[3] For a recent attempt at reconstructing the vowel system of YPJ see Okawa (2017).

Like all pre-pidgins, YPJ exhibits inter-speaker variation. This is sometimes explicitly mentioned. Atkinson (1879: 24, f.n.), for instance, notes that the word for 'stove', etymologically derived from J *hibachi* [çibaʧi], is either "Sheebatchey", with word-initial [ʃ], or "Heebatchey", with word-initial [h]. Atkinson (1879: 29) also comments on the differences between the pronunciation of Westerners and that of the Chinese: "Foreigners as a rule rattle their "Rs" roughly, readily […] or else ignore them altogether"; a Chinese speaker "lubricates the "R"". One such relevant example is reproduced below:

(6)   Westerner *worry* / Chinese *wolly* 'not well' (Atkinson 1879: 28) < J *warui*

Other cases illustrative of variation include different forms listed by the same author:

(7)   *maro-maro* / *maru-maru* 'to be somewhere' (Diósy 1879: 501)

The different forms recorded in different sources are further evidence of variation. Consider the examples below, attesting to the occurrence of variation both in the vowels and in the consonants:

(8)   a. *piggy* (Atkinson 1879: 21) / *peke* (Diósy 1879: 501) / *peggy* (Knollys 1887: 312) 'go' < M *pergi* 'to go'
        b. *pumgutz* 'punishment' (Atkinson 1879: 28) / *bonkotz* 'thrashing' (Diósy 1879: 501)

2.2. Morphology and syntax

YPJ has virtually no inflectional morphology. There are two rare exceptions. The negator *nigh* < J *nai* is said to be a "termination" (Atkinson 1879: 17), but it also occurs as a free morpheme *nigh* 'no'. The negator *-en* < J *-en* only occurs with two verbs.

Derivational morphology is better represented. One means of word-formation is compounding:

(9)   a. *mar gin ricky-pshaw* 'two-wheeled pony carriage' (Atkinson 1879: 23)
        b. *yama-inu* 'wolf' (Diósy 1879: 501)

A number of compounds are constructed with *mono* < J *mono*, as in (10), or with reflexes of J *hito*, as in (11):

(10)   a. *ato mono* 'crupper' (Atkinson 1879: 25)
        b. *caberra mono* 'hat' (Atkinson 1879: 15)

(11)   a. *ah kye kimmono sto* 'soldier' (Atkinson 1879: 25)
        b. *selly shto* 'auctioneer' (Atkinson 1879: 25)

The only suffix attested is *-san* < J *-san*. As can be seen in (12a), this is also attached to loanwords:

(12)   a. *doctorsan* 'doctor' (Atkinson 1879: 24)
        b. *Nankinsan* 'Chinaman' (Atkinson 1879: 25)