

# The use of Japanese in CMC by Japanese-speaking Melbournians:

Implications for language maintenance

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# We probably know...

- The more a minority language is used, the greater chance for it to be maintained.
- CMC provides great opportunities to language communities to use their own language in Melbourne.

**But how?**

What does this mean in language maintenance and multilingualism?

# Japanese-speaking community in Australia

- Rated at a medium language shift (10-25% using only English at home)
- In 2001, 16.9% of Japanese first generation migrants spoke only English at home (Clyne, 2005)
- 57.6% of the Japanese second generation spoke only English at home (Clyne and Kipp, 1997)

# Japanese-speaking community in Victoria

- 9,168 including 4,929 permanent residents (2007)
- The women outnumber the men (6.5:3.5)

## Japanese-speaking communities

- Saturday school
- Japanese ethnic school
- Victorian School of Languages
- Cultural groups
- Play groups

# Issues

- Language shift
- Saturday school
- Literacy

# But why Japanese?

- Yet to be investigated
- Small but strong community
- Relatively dispersed
- Expatriates
- Advanced technology, rich use of CMC

# Research Questions

1. What are the **patterns of language use in CMC** by the English-Japanese bilinguals in Melbourne?
2. What are the **factors affecting the patterns of language choice** and use on the Internet?
3. What **implications for language maintenance** do the results of the present study have?

# Methodology

- Questionnaire @ <http://www.quia.com/sv/92295.html>
- Online employment (by Mailing list, SNS)
- Saturday language school
- Friends

## Overview of the participants

- 45 participants
- 41 born in Japan, 4 in outside of Japan
- 10 left Japan before age of 12
- More than 50% had lived in Australia more than 5 years

## Finding 1

# Patterns of language use in CMC

- About 70% “always” or “usually” used Japanese on the Internet
- The average of 4.8 different Internet functions were used in Japanese
- In terms of use of CMC in Japanese, emailing was the most popular (89%) followed by SNS (53%)
- CMC is very well perceived and used in Japanese

## Finding 2

# Factors affecting language choice on the Internet

- Self-assessed language proficiency
- Use of Japanese in other discourses
- Frequency of contact with people in Japan
- Age and critical period
- Schooling in Japan
- Frequency of use of a computer
- Attitude toward CMC

## Finding 3

# Implications for language maintenance

- contact
- use outside home

## Socialisation

- use outside home
- schooling

## Participation

- use of a computer

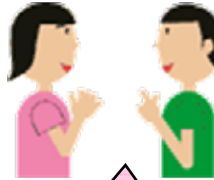
## Leisure

- use outside home
- proficiency
- age

## Natural Use

- attitude toward language and CMC

## Value



# Social Networking Service (SNS)

- What is it?
- Which one in Japanese?
- Why is it used?
- How is it used?
- Language learning and SNS?

# What is SNS?

A social network service uses software to build online social networks for communities of people who share interests and activities or who are interested in exploring the interests and activities of others. (Wikipedia)

Think of...

- My Space
- Facebook

# Which one in Japanese? - MIXI

- <http://mixi.jp/>
- profile, friends, mail, diary, comment, communities, news, photos, movies, music, “foot prints”, search
- On mobile phone
- Security
- More than 10 million participants
- The second most popular .jp website

# Why MIXI?

- To “update” myself to the communities
- Because it’s fun!
- Multimedia functions
- Multidirectional comments
- Enjoy “conversations”
- More casual
- “Easy” communication
- Daily life
- Information in Japanese

# How is MIXI used by Japanese Melbournians?

- More than 100 Melbourne-based communities
- “I’m in Melbourne now!” (486 members)
  - Seeking information about accommodation
- “The University of Melbourne” (318 members)
  - Study information
- “Let’s gather in Melbourne” (241 members)
  - Regular social events
- “Bearing and raising babies in Melbourne” (220 members)
  - Regular meetings to exchange information
- “International marriage in Melbourne” (91 members)
- “Primary students’ Japanese - Melbourne” (40 members)
  - Japanese language education, learning, acquisition and maintenance

# Emerging SNS for language learning

- Language learning communities in MIXI
- Tsunagaaru (by Japan Forum)
  - <http://www.tsunagaaru.com/>
- My Connected Community (by Victorian government)
  - <http://mc2.vicnet.net.au>