

エルマー パトリック

1. 事業実施の目的

The purpose of my research trip to Okinawa was to collect language data for my linguistic analysis. In order to achieve that, I attended a research meeting at the University of the Ryukyus dedicated to the use of an extensive language database on Ryukyuan languages developed.

2. 実施場所

琉球大学、沖縄県、那覇市

3. 実施期日

2021年12月09日(木)～2021年12月11日(土)

4. 成果報告

●事業の概要

During this research trip I collected language data from Ryukyuan languages by accessing a database developed at the University of the Ryukyus. This language data will be used for the analysis in my dissertation.

I attended the research meeting hosted at The University of the Ryukyus (12月の言語系統樹会議) organized by Professor Karimata Shigehisa, where I could personally introduce myself to other research members such as Prof. Kimura Ryosuke and Prof. Okazaki Takeo. During the meeting, Prof. Nakama Keiko introduced the online interface for the Ryukyu language database that is being developed as part of the research project. This allowed me to familiarize myself with the usage of the online resource. I also received very helpful instruction materials for the use of the database.

After the meeting, Prof. Karimata Shigehisa and Prof. Shimabukuro Sachiko showed me the office, from where the database can be accessed. At present, this is the only place where the database can be accessed. After a short introduction, I was able to use the university's computer with temporary login credentials to query the database and collect the language data that is required for my own research. During breaks, I could also discuss some important questions in the reconstruction of Proto-Ryukyuan with Prof. Karimata, who was able to clear up many of my questions and also point me to some interesting resources that will be of help with my research.

For example, through the expertise of Prof. Karimata and the available language resources at his office, I could verify that the color term for green (*midori* 緑 in Japanese) cannot be reconstructed to the Proto-Ryukyuan level, and thus the Ryukyuan and Japanese branches must have split before the concept for the color green developed.

Prof. Shimabukuro was also so kind to provide me with some scans of language materials that will allow me to search for words much more efficiently during the research process. Due to the preparations I already carried out before the research trip, I was able to accomplish the data collection process smoothly and efficiently and collect data for linguistic concepts about wet rice agriculture for my doctoral thesis.

●本事業の実施によって得られた成果

Before going on this research trip, I have determined and selected a list of several important language data for my dissertation project, which need to be analyzed in more detail. I successfully collected this language data during the current research trip.

Initially, due to time restraints, I was planning to only analyze rice-related vocabulary. However, due to the efficient language collection process at the University of the Ryukyus, I was able to get not only the rice-related vocabulary, but also words for trees and other plants, agricultural tools and animals. In total, I collected 45 lexical entries related to rice agriculture and 48 lexical entries on flora and fauna during my research trip.

This research trip allowed me to collect important language data from a variety of fieldwork publications, which I would otherwise not have had access to. This data, in turn, facilitates a much more detailed language analysis that is expected to enhance the outcome of my research results.

●本事業について

It was such a great opportunity for me to meet leading researchers in the field of Ryukyuan language studies in person, especially during this challenging pandemic. This further helped me in introducing my own research as well as learning about current research trends in the field. It is also an important step in my networking efforts for future research collaboration.