

# The System of phoneme in the Dialects of Luchuan - The Maezima Dialect-

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## 0. Introduction

Okinawa Prefecture consists of the main island (Honto) and a chain of islands known as the Sakishima islands. The main island is roughly divided into three parts: 北部(Hokubu, the northern region), 中部(Chubu, the central region), 南部(Nanbu, the southern region). Naha, the capital city, is located in Nanbu; and Maezima is an area of Naha. The following description of the Ryukyu dialect is based on: Basil Hall Chamberlain's *Essay in Aid of Grammar and Dictionary of the Luchuan Language*(1895); 「琉球語」『世界言語概説下巻』, by Shiro Hattori(服部四郎 1955); Teruo Hirayama's(平山輝男)『琉球方言の総合的研究』(1966); and Choei Kinjo's(金城朝永)『金城朝永全集 上巻』(1974). The Shuri dialect, formerly used by the *samurai* and now spoken by residents of Naha, the capital of Okinawa. More recently, Mitsuyoshi Nohara's(野原三義)『琉球方言助詞の研究』(1983) and Uchima Chokujin's(内間直仁)『沖縄北部・南部方言の記述的研究』(2000) have broadened our knowledge of the various dialects that used to be spoken by residents of Okinawa, prior to World War II. The Naha dialect has been much more extensively researched than other Ryukyu dialects. The Ryukyu dialect has for some time been believed to be on the verge of dying out. Until recently, a lot of effort has been devoted to describing dialects that are only used by elderly residents of Ryukyu, although only a few books have been written on the Ryukyu dialect. However, in recent years, more research material has become available. For this research, 2 Okinawan people from Maezima were interviewed, Ms. Yoshi Kise (1914-2003) and Ms. Yukiko Amuro (1941-todate). Further information on the Maezima dialect, refer to Uchima (2000).

In this paper we have adapted and furthered some of the finding from Chiba-University 2001 regarding the Maezima dialect.

Due to time limitations it was not possible to describe in detail examples for each word. For further examples refer to Arakaki (2001).

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## 1. Phonological system

### 1.1 Phoneme

The following 23 phonemes are accepted in the Maezima dialect.

Vowel phoneme . . . i e a o u

Consonant phoneme . . . ? ' h k g t c s z r n p b m

Semivowel phoneme . . . j w

Mora Phoneme . . . N Q

### 1.2 Mora (born in 1941 data)

The following is the pattern of morae of the Maezima dialect. (C means consonants, S-semi vowel, V-vowel)

CV CSV V CN N Q

A concrete description is as follows.

ʔi	ʔe	ʔa	ʔo	ʔu	ʔja			ʔwi	ʔwa	
[ʔi]	[ʔe]	[ʔa]	[ʔo]	[ʔu]	[ʔja]			[ʔwi]	[ʔwa]	
'i	'e	'a	'o	'u	'ja	'jo	'ju	'wi	'wa	
[i]	[e]	[a]	[o]	[u]	[ja]	[jo]	[ju]	[wi]	[wa]	
[ji]	[je]			[wu]						
hi	he	ha	ho	hu	hja					
[çi]	[he]	[ha]	[ho]	[ɸu]	[çja]					
ki	ke	ka	ko	ku			kju	kwi	kwe	kwa
[ki]	[ke]	[ka]	[ko]	[ku]			[kju]	[kwi]	[kwe]	[kwa]
gi	ge	ga	go	gu				gwi	gwa	
[gi]	[ge]	[ga]	[go]	[gu]				[gwi]	[gwa]	
ti	te	ta	to	tu						
[ti]	[te]	[ta]	[to]	[tu]						
ci	ce	ca	cjo	cju						
[tçi]	[tçe]	[tça]	[tçjo]	[tçju]						
si	se	sa	so	su						
[çi]	[se]	[sa]	[so]	[su]						
zi	ze	za	zo	zu						
[dçi]	[dçe]	[dça]	[dçjo]	[dçju]						
ri	re	ra	ro	ru						
[ri]	[re]	[ra]	[ro]	[ru]						
[di]	[de]	[da]	[do]	[du]						
ni	ne	na	no	nu						
[ni]	[ne]	[na]	[no]	[nu]						

pi	pe	pa	po	pu	
[pi]	[pe]	[pa]	[po]	[pu]	
bi	be	ba	bo	bu	bjo
[bi]	[be]	[ba]	[bo]	[bu]	[bjɔ]
mi	me	ma	mo	mu	
[mi]	[me]	[ma]	[mo]	[mu]	
i	e	a	o	u	
[i]	[i]	[i]	[i]	[i]	

<sup>N</sup> [ɾ]

?<sup>N</sup> [ʔm ʔn]

'<sup>N</sup> [m n ŋ n]

q [k t tʃ s ʃ p]

### 1.3 Concrete examples and phonetic features

#### 1.3.1 Vowel

A vowel forms a mora by combining with other consonants or semi vowels. Concrete examples are shown below.

i shows phonological oppositions to other vowels such as [ni : n] (煮える)、[ne : n] (無い) and this is shown as follows.

[ʔiʃi] (石)、[ʔitʃi] (池)、[mimi] (耳)、[mi:] (目)、[ɸuni] (骨)、[ni:] (根)、[ʔaʃi] (汗)、[ɕa:i] (日照り)、[ʃiramu n] (涼む)

e shows phonological oppositions to other vowels such as [ne : n] (無い)、[ni : n] (煮える) and this is shown as follows.

[he:ʃi] (雛子)、[ʔiɸe:] (位牌)、[ɕitʃe:] (額)

a shows phonological oppositions such as [dʒa:] (座)、[dʒui] (尾) and this is shown as follows.

[ʔa:sa] (あおさ)、[ʔaʃi] (汗)、[tage:su n] (耕す)、[maki:n] (負ける)、[ʃiramu n] (涼む)、[sakko:bi] (しゃっくり)

o shows phonological oppositions such as [dʒo:] (門)、[dʒui] (尾).

[ʔoru:] (青)、[ho:tʃa:] (包丁)

u shows phonological oppositions such as [dʒui] (尾)、[dʒo:] (門).

[ʔuta] (歌)、[ʔuɸuttʃu] (大人)、[susui n] (拭く)

As mentioned above, although a vowel combines with other consonants or semi vowels and forms a mora, a vowel alone is able to form a mora. It is a so-called long vowel. In this point, a long vowel has the character as mora phoneme. Examples of each

vowel are as follows.

- i [ʔi:] (胃)、[ji:] (絵)、[ni:] (根)、[maki:n] (負ける)
- e [te:ɸa] (冗談)、[ke:rita n] (転んだ)、[ʃibane:i n] (舌を出す)
- a [ja:] (家)、[ta:ge:isu n] (耕す)、[ma:su] (塩)
- o [so:] (竿)、[sakko:bi] (しゃっくり)、[guso:] (後生)
- u [nu:] (何)、[kju:] (旧)、[tʃu] (今日)、[kudʒu] (去年)

### 1.3.2 Consonant

**ʔ** shows phonological oppositions such as [ʔja:] (あなた)、[ja:] (家) . **ʔ** appears by combining with mainly semi vowel and Hatsuon (Hameruon).

[ʔa:sal] (あおさ)、[ʔi:] (胃)、[ʔnni] (胸)、[ʔnnadʒi] (鰻)、[ʔja:] (あなた)、[ʔwa:] (豚)

**'** shows phonological oppositions such as [ja:] (家)、[ʔja:] (あなた) . **'** appears by combining with mainly semi vowel and Hatsuon (Hameruon) and vowel.

[jatʃu] (焼く)、[majugi] (眉)、[jumi] (嫁)、[ʃiwa] (心配)、[ntʃa] (みた。土)、[mu n] (食べ物)、[tʃui] (鳥)

**h** shows phonological oppositions such as [hana] (花)、[ʔana] (穴) .

[he:ʃi] (雛子)、[he:] (蠅)、[ha:ma] (涙)、[hani] (羽)、[hanarai] (鼻ったれ)、[haru] (畑)、[hatʃa:] (蜂)、[haraka] (裸)、[hajal] (柱)、[hari:n] (晴れる)、[ho:tʃa:] (包丁)、[ho:tu] (鳩)、[katʃiho:i n] (散らかす)

**k** is non-laryngealization sound and shows phonological oppositions such as [ku:] (粉)、[gu:] (碁) .

[ki:] (木)、[kidʒi] (傷)、[kudʒu] (去年)、[kumi] (米)、[ke:i n] (帰る)、[kunu] (この)、[ka:] (井戸)

**g** shows phonological opposition such as [gu:] (碁)、[ku:] (粉).

[gi:ta:] (片足跳び)、[gudʒu:] (五十)、[sugui n] (殴る)、[gamaku] (腰)、[go:gutʃi] (愚痴)、[matʃi gi] (睫毛)

**t** is a non-laryngealization sound. It shows phonological oppositions such as [tuku] (得) and [ruku] (毒)、[ti:] (手) and [ni:] (根) .

[tabaku] (煙草)、[katami:] (片目)、[kutuba] (言葉)、[tatami] (畳)、[tʃui] (鳥)

**r** shows phonological oppositions such as [re:] (代金) and [ne:] (根) .

[ʔiri] (西)、[saru:] (猿)、[ʔiru] (色)

Although [d] is observed like [de:] (代金) as a concrete sound, [d] and [r] are considered to have the relation of a free variation since [re:] is observed as well.

**c** shows phonological oppositions such as [tʃi:] (血)、[dʒi:] (字).

[tʃe:saja:] (来たね)、[ʔitʃi] (何時)、[tʃore:] (兄弟)、[tʃimi] (爪)、[mutʃi] (餅)、[tʃu:] (今日)

s shows phonological oppositions such as [ʔn:su] (味噌) and [ʔn:dʒu] (溝).  
[kusa] (草)、[ʔasaba n] (昼食)、[ʃiba] (舌)、[ʔa ʃi] (汗)、[susu] (裾)、[sabətʃi] (櫛)、  
[ʃinʃi:] (先生)、[ʃe:ku] (大工)、[ni:ʃe:] (青年)

z shows phonological oppositions such as [dʒi:] (字)、[tʃi:] (血).  
[dʒi:mami] (落花生)、[dʒi n] (錢)、[ʔamadʒaki] (酔)、[dʒa:] (座)、[kudʒu] (去年)、  
[ʔa dʒi:] (味)、[sakadʒitʃi] (杯)

n shows phonological oppositions such as [ni:] (根) and [ti:] (手).  
[ni] (荷)、[ni:n] (煮える)、[na:ka] (仲)

p is a non-laryngealization sound. It shows phonological oppositions such as  
[me:] (飯) and [pe:] (唾).  
[kumpirakasu n] (踏み潰す)、[tʃimpe:] (唾)、[papaja:] (パパイヤ)、[po:po:] (ポーポ  
ー)、[ʔippu:] (一表)

b shows phonological opposition such as [be:] (倍) and [me:] (飯).  
[kandaba:] (芋蔓)、[ba n] (番)、[ʔi:bi] (指)、[bo:] (棒)、[ʔibi] (海老)、[ʔubi] (帯)

m shows phonological opposition such as [me:] (飯) and [pe:] (唾).  
[matʃigi] (睫)、[majugi] (眉毛)、[namamu n] (生もの)、[mi:] (芽)、[mumu] (桃)

### 1.3.3 Semi Vowel

j shows phonological opposition such as [jatʃu n] (焼く) and [watʃu n] (湧く). There were no findings for [je] and [ji].

[jama] (山)、[juka] (床)、[jai] (槍)

w shows phonological opposition such as [watʃu n] (湧く) and [jatʃu n] (焼く) but there are only few examples.

[warabi] (子供)、[wutu] (夫)、[wu:dʒi] (砂糖黍)

### 1.3.4 Mora phoneme

n shows phonological opposition such as [ti n] (天) and [ti:] (手). n forms mora by combining with the consonant, or independently.

[ʔmma] (馬)、[ntʃa] (土)、[do:gu] (道具)、[hambu n] (半分)

q shows phonological opposition such as [ʔi:tʃi] (息) and [ʔitʃi] (何時). The example of a Sokuon (Hameru on) is shown below.

[ʔippe:] (非常に)、[ttʃu] (人)、[ʃiʃi:] (薄い)、[wassa n] (悪い)、[rikka] (さあ、行こう)、[ʔittu] (一斗)

v shows phonological opposition such as [ti:] (手) and [ti n] (天). The example of a long sound is shown below.

[ju:ʔi:n] (暮れる)、[ʔuju:] (祝い)、[ba:ki] (籠)、[bo:] (棒)、[ʔu:ku] (奥)

## 2 Phoneme correspondence

The correspondence relation between Standard Japanese (common language) and the Maezima dialect is as follows. In addition, a relation with classic Japanese has been provided. The example of a word is described as [concrete sound] (correspondence word. meaning).

### 2.1 Vowel

Hereafter, correspondence relations of vowels will be shown

Figure 1

Common Language	ア	イ	ウ	エ	オ
Maezima Onset	'a	'i	'u	'i	'u
Medial · Ending	—	—	—	—	—

ア of standard Japanese corresponds to [ʔa] of the Miyara dialect.

[ʔami] (雨)、[ʔaka:] (赤)、[ʔaki:n] (開ける)、[ʔagi:n] (上げる)、[ʔadza] (痣)、[ʔafi] (汗)、[ʔami] (網) .

イ corresponds to [i].

[ʔikutfi] (いくつ)、[ʔisanuja:] (医者の家)、[ʔita] (板)、[ʔitfi] (いつ)、[ʔifi] (石)、[ʔitfi] (息)、[ʔi: ɸe:] (位牌) .

ウ corresponds to [ʔu].

[ʔuʃi] (牛)、[ʔuʃi] (臼)、[ʔuta] (歌)、[ʔusa dʒi] (兎)

Also, there is the example in which ウ becomes /N/.

[ʔnnadʒi] (鰻)、[ʔmmi] (膿)

エ corresponds to [ʃi].

[ʃi n] (縁)、[ʃi:] (絵)、[ʃi] (柄)、[ʃi:ju n] (得る)

Also, there is the example in which エ becomes [i].

[ʔirabu n] (選ぶ)、[ʔibi] (海老)

オ corresponds to [ʔu].

[ʔutu] (音)、[ʔuɸuttʃu] (おほひと。大人)、[ʔutuge] (おとがい) .

### 2.2 Continuant vowel

Although synizesis of continuant vowels occur in many areas of the Ryukyu dialect, there are many examples in which synizesis are not seen in the Maezima dialect.

The example of synizesis

[ʔi: ɸe:] (位牌)、[ɸe:](鯛)、[he:ʃi](嚙子)、[me:su n](燃やす)、[ʃe:ku] (大工)、[de:kuni] (大根)、[he:] (灰)、[me:mitʃi](毎日)、[ʔaka:] (赤)、[so:] (竿)、[ʔoru:] (青い)

## The example of non-synizesis

Figure2

Common Language	アイ	アウ	アオ	アオ	アユ	イオ	ウイ	ウヨ	オウ
Maezima	'ee	'oo	'oo	'aa	'ee	'u	'ii	'uu	'oo

When a vowel overlaps, the following long vowels are formed.

The example which アイ becomes [e:] was seen.

[ne : n] (ない)

The example which アフ(>アウ) becomes [o:] was seen.

[ʔo : dʒu n] (あふぐ。弱ぐ)

アオ becomes [o:].

[so :] (筈)、[no : su n] (直す)、[no : su n] (治す)

Also, there is the example in which アオ becomes [a:].

[ʔa : sa] (あおさ。石葎)

アユ becomes [e:].

[ʔuke :] (粥)

イオ becomes [u].

[ma : su] (ましお。塩水)

ウイ becomes [i].

[dʒu : ji:] (雑炊).

Also ウヨ becomes [u:].

[tʃu : sa n] (強い)

Moreover, the example in which オウ becomes [o:].

[do:gu] (道具)

## 2.3 Consonant

カ行 consonant

Figure3

Common Language	カ	キ	ク	ケ	コ
Maezima Onset	ka	ci	ku	ki	ku
Medial · Ending					

カ becomes [ka] at the onset and the medial.

[kabi] (紙)、[kani] (鐘)、[ɕikai n] (光る)、[hakai n] (計る)、[naka] (仲)

There is an example that カ at the onset changes into [ga].

[gani] (蟹)

There is also an example used as [tʃa].

[ʔitʃa] (鳥賊)

キ becomes [tʃi] at the onset and the ending.

[tʃimu] (肝)、[tʃi n] (きぬ。着物)、[tʃi:ba] (牙)、[satʃi] (先)

There is also an example used as [ki].

[ki:] (木)、[kidʒi] (傷)

ク becomes [ku] at the the onset and the ending.

[kumu] (雲)、[kusu] (糞)、[kudʒi] (釘)、[ça:ku] (百)

ケ becomes [ki].

[ki:] (毛)、[kibui] (煙)、[tʃikimu n] (漬物)、[saki] (酒)、[wu:ki] (桶)、

[kiritubasu n] (蹴り飛ばす)、[maki:n] (負ける)、[daki] (竹)

コ becomes [ku] at the onset and the ending.

[ku:] (粉)、[nukudʒiri] (鋸)、[haku] (箱)、[taku] (蛸)

Next, キョウ becomes [tʃo].

[tʃo:de] (兄弟)

Also キョウ (ケフ) becomes [tʃu:], キュウ becomes [kju].

[tʃu:] (今日)、[kju:] (旧)

#### ガ行 consonant

Figure 4

Common Language	ガ	ギ	グ	ゲ	ゴ
Maezima Onset	ga	zi	—	—	gu
Medial · Ending			gu	gi	—

ガ become [ga] at the onset and the medial

[gadʒa n] (蚊)、[ganʃu:] (頑固)、[kaga n] (鏡)、[nigai n] (願う)

ギ becomes [dʒi].

[dʒiri] (義理)、[mudʒi] (麦)、[kudʒi] (釘)、[ʔusadʒi] (兎)、[ʔo:dʒi] (扇)、[ʔunadʒi] (鰻)、

[nukudʒiri] (鋸)

グ becomes [gu].

[do:gu] (道具)

ゲ becomes [gi].

[hagi:n] (禿げる)、[magi:n] (曲げる)、[nagi:n] (投げる)

the example that ゲ becomes [dʒi] is seen.

[çidʒi] (髭)

ゴ becomes [gu] at the onset and the medial

[guso:] (後生)、[guri:] (御礼。礼)、[gumbo:] (牛蒡)



サ行 consonant

Figure5

Common Language	サ	シ	ス	セ	ソ
Maezima Onset	sa	si	su	si	su
Medial・Ending					

サ becomes [sa] at the onset.

[sa:ta:] (砂糖)、[saki] (酒)、[kʷsasa:n] (臭い)、[kʷsari:n] (腐れる)、[hasa n] (鉄)、  
[ʔasasa n] (浅い)、[ʔa:sa] (あおさ)、[kʷsa] (草)

シ becomes [ʃi].

[ʃiba] (舌)、[ʃimal] (島)、[ʃiru] (汁)、[ʔuʃi] (牛)、[tuʃi] (年)、[haʃi] (橋)、[ʃimi:n] (締める)、  
[ʔiʃi] (石)

ス becomes [su].

[susu] (裾)、[susui n] (磨る。拭く)、[nusumu n] (盗む)、[kʷsui] (薬)

There are examples used as [ʃi] at the onset and the medial.

[ʃi:ʃi] (煤)、[ʔu:ʃi] (臼)

There are examples used as [çi] at the onset.

[çti:n] (捨てる)

セ becomes [ʃi] at the onset.

[ʔaʃi] (汗)、[kʷʃi] (癖) [kaʃi:] (加勢。手伝い)

ソ becomes [su] at the onset and the medial.

[suri] (袖)、[sui n] (剃る)、[sumi:n] (染める)、[nsu] (味噌)、[kʷsu] (糞)

シャ・シヨ become [sa] [sol], the example that don't palatalize is seen with シャ・シヨ.  
[basamma] (馬車馬。馬車)、[ʔisanuja:] (医者の家)、[so:gwatʃi] (正月)、[guso:] (後生)  
[sanʃi n] (三味線)、[basa:] (芭蕉)

ジュ become [dʒu].

[dʒu:baku] (重箱)

ザ行 consonant

Figure6

Common Language	ザ	ジ	ズ	ゼ	ゾ
Maezima Onset	za	zi	zi	zi	zu
Medial・Ending					

ザ becomes [dʒa].

[dʒa:] (座)、[gadʒa n] (蚊)、[ʔadʒa] (痣)

ジ becomes [dʒi] at the onset and the ending.

[kodʒi] (麴)、[tudʒi] (とじ。妻)

ズ becomes [dʒi].

[midʒi] (水)、[mimidʒi] (みみず)、[kidʒi] (傷)、[dʒo :dʒi] (上手)

ゼ becomes [dʒi].

[ʔudʒi n] (膳)、[kadʒi] (風)

ゾ becomes [dzʊ].

[kudʒʊ] (去年)、[ndʒʊ] (溝)

ゾウ becomes [dʒʊ].

[dʒʊ :ji] (雑炊)

ジョ becomes [dʒo].

[dʒo :dʒi] (上手)、[tindʒo :] (天井)

### タ行 consonant

Figure 7

Common Language	タ	チ	ツ	テ	ト
Maezima Onset	ta	ci	ci	ti	tu
Medial · Ending					

タ becomes [ta] at the onset, the medial.

[ta :] (田)、[daki] (竹)、[ka:ta:] (形)、[katami:] (片目)

チ becomes [tʃi] at the onset and the ending.

[tʃi :] (乳)、[tʃi :] (血)、[tʃikara] (力)、[mutʃi] (餅)、[mitʃi] (道)

ツ becomes [tʃi].

[tʃinu] (角)、[tʃina] (綱引き)、[tʃimi] (爪)、[tʃikimu n] (漬物)、[mutʃikasa n] (難しい)、  
[ʔitʃitʃi] (五つ)、[ma:tʃi] (松)、[matʃigi] (睫)、[tʃimi] (爪)、[tʃitʃimu n] (包む)、[tʃitʃu  
n] (着く)

There is an example used as [çi] at the onset, the medial.

[çitimiti] (つとめて。朝)

テ becomes [ti] at the onset.

[ti n] (天)、[tindʒo :] (天井)、[ti :] (手)、[ʔasati] (明後日)、[çitimiti] (つとめて。朝)

ト becomes [tu] at the onset and the ending

[tui] (鳥)、[tuʃi] (年)、[tumai n] (泊まる)、[tudʒu n] (研ぐ)、[ʔitʃuku] (従兄弟)、[ʔutu  
(音)

There is an example that トウ becomes [ta :].

[sa:ta :] (砂糖)

ツオ becomes [tʃʊ :].

[katʃʊ :] (鯉)

ツヨ becomes [tʃo :].

[tʃu :sa n] (強い)

チャ becomes [tʃa].

[tʃa :] (茶)、[tʃawa n] (茶碗)

ダ行 consonant

Figure8

Common Language	ダ	デ	ド
Maezima Onset	da	—	du
Medial · Ending		di	

ダ becomes /da/ at the onset, the medial and the ending.

[damai n] (黙る)、[haraka](裸)、[mi:nara] (涙)、[jura] (枝)

デ becomes /di/.

[diki:n] (出る)、[suri] (袖)

ド becomes [du] at the onset and the ending.

[duku] (毒)、[duru](泥)

There is an example used as [do] at the onset.

[do:gu] (道具)

ナ行 consonant

Figure9

Common Language	ナ	ニ	ヌ	ネ	ノ
Maezima Onset	na	ni	nu	ni	nu
Medial · Ending			'N		

ナ becomes [na] at the onset, the medial and the ending.

[mi:nara] (涙)、[nami] (波)、[na:] (名)、[hanadzji:] (鼻血)、[hana] (鼻)、[hana] (花)

ニ becomes [ni] .

[ni:] (荷)、[niʃi] (にし。北)、[me: nitʃi] (毎日)、[ganu] (蟹)

There are exemplated that ニ becomes Hatsuon (Hameruon) at the onset and the ending.

[ndʒasa:n] (苦い)、[dʒi n] (銭)

ニイ becomes [mi:] at the onset.

[mi: sa n] (新しい)

ヌ becomes [nu] at the onset.

[nunu] (布)、[nui n] (塗る)

ヌ carries out apocopate at the ending.

[ʔi n] (犬)、[tʃi n] (きぬ。着物)

ネ become [ni] at the onset and the ending.

[nitʃi] (熱)、[nindʒu n] (寝る)、[ni :gʷi] (根っこ)、[ɸuni] (骨)、[sani] (種)

ノ becomes [nu] at the onset and the ending.

[nuri:] (喉)、[numu n] (飲む) [tʃiru] (角)、[nukudʒiri] (鋸)、[tanumu n] (頼む)、[nunu] (布)

ハ行 consonant

Figure 10

Common Language	ハ	ヒ	フ	ヘ	ホ
Maezima Onset	ha	hi	hu	hi	hu
Medial · Ending					

ハ corresponds to [ha] fundamentally.

[haku] (箱)、[haji] (橋)、[ha :] (歯)、[hana] (花)

ヒ becomes [çi].

[çiru] (昼)、[çi :] (日)、[çidʒi] (髭)、[çidʒai] (左)

フ becomes [ɸu] in the onset and the medial. However, there are few examples at the medial.

[ɸaju] (冬)、[ɸui n] (振る)、[ɸuni] (船)、[ju :ɸuru] (湯風呂。風呂)、[ɸuʃi] (節)、[ɸuta] (蓋)

The example from which フル becomes [ho :] was also seen.

[ɸui n] (降るはず)

ヘ becomes [ɸi].

[çi :] (屁)

ホ becomes [ɸu] at the onset and the medial.

[ɸuni] (骨)、[ɸui n] (掘る)、[ɸu :] (穂)、[ɸuʃi] (星)、[ɸumi:n] (褒める)、[ʔuɸuttʃu] (おほひと。大人)

There is an example that ヒヤ becomes [ça].

[ça: ku] (百)

バ行 consonant

Figure 11

Common Language	バ	ビ	ブ	ベ	ボ
Maezima Onset	ba	bi	bu	—	—
Medial · Ending				bi	bu

バ corresponds to [ba].

[basa:] (芭蕉)、[ba n] (番)、[basamma] (馬車馬)、[dʒu:buku] (重箱)、[tabaku] (煙草)、[tʃi:ba] (牙)

ビ becomes [bi].

[ʔakubi] (欠伸)、[na:bi] (鍋)、[ʔu:bi] (帯)

ブ becomes [bu].

[ku:bu] (昆布)、[hambu n] (半分)、[kibui] (けぶり。煙)

There is an example that プ becomes /N/.

[ʔanda] (油)

べ becomes [bi].

[na:bi] (鍋)

ボ becomes [bu]

[so: kibuni] (肋骨)

There are examples that ボウ becomes [bo :].

[bo :] (棒)、[gumbo :] (牛蒡)

### マ行 consonant

Figure 12

Common Language	マ	ミ	ム	メ	モ
Maezima Onset	ma	mi	mu	mi	mu
Medial · Ending					

マ becomes [ma] at the onset, the medial and the code position.

[matʃi] (松)、[matʃu n] (巻く)、[kama] (釜)、[kuruma] (車)、[ʃima] (島)

ミ becomes [mi] at the onset.

[mimi] (耳)、[miʃi: n] (見せる)、[mimidʒi] (みみず)

There are also examples of vowel elision at the onset, the medial and the code.

[ntʃa] (みた。土)、[kannai] (雷)、[sanʃi n] (三味線)、[ʔami] (網)、[hasa n] (鋏)

There is an example used as [bi] at the ending.

[kabi] (紙)

ム becomes [mu].

[mura] (村)、[muʃi] (虫)、[mudʒi] (麦)、[mu:ku] (婿)、[mutʃikasa n] (難しい)、[ʃidʒimu n] (沈む)

There are also examples of vowel elision at the onset.

[nni] (胸)、[ʔmbusu n] (蒸す)

メ becomes [mi] at the onset and the ending.

[mi :] (目)、[ʔimi] (夢)、[ka:mi] (亀)

モ becomes [mu].

[munu] (物)、[ki: numumu] (桃)、[kwa: muja:] (子守)、[kumu] (雲)、[ʃimu] (肝)

ヤ行 consonant

Figure13

Common Language	ヤ	ユ	ヨ
Maezima Onset	'ja	'ju	'ju
Medial · Ending			—

ヤ becomes [ja] at the onset and the ending.

[jatʃu n] (焼く)、[ʔuja] (親)

ユ becomes [ju] at the onset and the ending.

[jubo n] (夕飯)、[ju:] (湯)、[ɸuju] (冬)

There is also example used as [jo] at the ending.

[majugi] (眉)

ヨ becomes [ju].

[jumi] (嫁)、[majunaka] (夜中)、[juru] (夜)、[ju ɲi] (四つ)

ヨフ become [jo:] [ju].

[jo:sa:n] (弱い)、[jo:i n] (弱る)

ラ行 consonant

Figure14

Common Language	ラ	リ	ル	レ	ロ
Maezima Onset	ra	—	ru	—	—
Medial · Ending		'i		ri	ru

Examples of ラ correspond to [ra] and only found the medial and the ending.

[daku] (楽)、[garasa:] (鳥)、[jaɸarasa n] (柔らかい)、[kura] (倉)、[haja] (柱)、[tura] (虎)

リ becomes [i] at the ending.

[hɑ:i] (針)、[nai] (なり。実)、[ju:] (百合)、[ʔaiko:] (蟻)、[kibui] (煙)

ル becomes [ru].

[kuruma] (車)、[saru:] (猿)、[ʃiru] (汁)

レ becomes [ri].

[ʔari] (あれ)、[kuri] (これ)

ロ becomes [ru].

[ʔiru] (色)、[duru] (泥)、[ju ɸuru] (風呂)

Examples that クラ has a sound change to [kkwa].

[makkwa] (枕)

ワ行 consonant

Figure15

Common Language	ワ	ヰ	ヲ
Maezima Onset	'wa	'i	'u
Medial・Ending		—	'ju

ワ becomes [wa] at the onset and the medial.

[watʃi] (脇)、[wakai n] (分かる)、[kawai n](変わる)、[ʔuwa i n] (終わる)、[tʃawa n] (茶碗)、[ʃiwa] (世話。心配)、[warabi] (わらべこ。小さい子)

It omits at the medial and the ending.

[ma:i] (まわり)、[ka:i] (皮)

Classical Japanese ヰ becomes [ji] .

[ji:n] (ゐる。坐る)、[ji:] (蘭草)

Classical Japanese ヲ becomes [wu] .

[wutu] (をとつ。夫)、[wu:ɔʃi] (をぎ。荻)、[wun] (居る)、[wu i n] (織る)

There is an example that ヲ becomes [ju] .

[jinagu] (をなご。女)、[ʔiju] (魚)

#### 2.4 Hatsuon (Hameruon・撥音)

As for Hatsuon, it also serves as Hatsuon in this dialect.

[hambu n] (半分)、[gaŋku:] (頑固)、[ti n](天)

#### 2.5 Sokuon (Tsumaruon・促音)

As for Sokuon(Tsumaruon), it also serves as Sokuon (Tsumaruon)in this dialect.

[tippu:] (鉄砲)

### 3. Comparison

#### 3.1 Mora (born in 1915)

ʔi	ʔe	ʔa	ʔo	ʔu	ʔja			ʔwi	ʔwa
[ʔi]	[ʔe]	[ʔa]	[ʔo]	[ʔu]	[ʔja]			[ʔwi]	[ʔwa]
'i	'e	'a	'o	'u	'ja	'jo	'ju	'wi	'wa
[i]	[e]	[a]	[o]	[u]	[ja]	[jo]	[ju]	[wi]	[wa]
[ji]	[je]			[wu]					
<u>hi</u>	<u>he</u>	<u>ha</u>	<u>ho</u>	<u>hu</u>	hja				
<u>[çi]</u>	<u>[he]</u>	<u>[ha]</u>	<u>[ho]</u>	<u>[φu]</u>	[çal]				
<u>[φi]</u>	<u>[φe]</u>	<u>[φa]</u>							

ki	ke	ka	ko	ku
[ki]	[ke]	[ka]	[ko]	[ku]
gi	ge	ga	go	gu
[gi]	[ge]	[ga]	[go]	[gu]
ti	te	ta	to	tu
[ti]	[te]	[ta]	[to]	[tu]
ci	ce	ca	cjo	cju
[tʃi]	[tʃe]	[tʃa]	[tʃo]	[tʃu]
si	se	sa	so	su
[ʃi]	[se]	[sa]	[so]	[su]
zi	ze	za	zo	zu
[dʒi]	[dʒe]	[dʒa]	[dʒo]	[dʒu]
ri	re	ra	ro	ru
[ri]	[re]	[ra]	[ro]	[ru]
di	de	da	do	du
[di]	[de]	[da]	[do]	[du]
ni	ne	na	no	nu
[ni]	[ne]	[na]	[no]	[nu]
pi	pe	pa	po	pu
[pi]	[pe]	[pa]	[po]	[pu]
bi	be	ba	bo	bu
[bi]	[be]	[ba]	[bo]	[bu]
mi	me	ma	mo	mu
[mi]	[me]	[ma]	[mo]	[mu]
i	e	a	o	u
[i]	[e]	[a]	[o]	[u]

kju	kwi	kwe	kwa
[kju]	[kwi]	[kwe]	[kwa]
	gwi		gwa
	[gwi]		[gwa]

bjo  
[bjo]

N [ɾ]

?N [ʔm ʔn]

'N [m n ŋ n]

Q [k t tʃ s ʃ p]

### 3.2 Mora (born in 1941)

ʔi	ʔe	ʔa	ʔo	ʔu	ʔja		ʔwi	ʔwa	
[ʔi]	[ʔe]	[ʔa]	[ʔo]	[ʔu]	[ʔja]		[ʔwi]	[ʔwa]	
'i	'e	'a	'o	'u	'ja	'jo	'ju	'wi	'wa
[i]	[e]	[a]	[o]	[u]	[ja]	[jo]	[ju]	[wi]	[wa]
[ji]	[je]			[wu]					
<u>hi</u>	<u>he</u>	<u>ha</u>	<u>ho</u>	<u>hu</u>	hja				
[çi]	[he]	[ha]	[ho]	[ɸu]	[ça]				



ki	ke	ka	ko	ku		kju	kwi	kwe	kwa
[ki]	[ke]	[ka]	[ko]	[ku]		[kju]	[kwi]	[kwe]	[kwa]
gi	ge	ga	go	gu			gwi		gwa
[gi]	[ge]	[ga]	[go]	[gu]			[gwi]		[gwa]
ti	te	ta	to	tu					
[ti]	[te]	[ta]	[to]	[tu]					
ci	ce	ca	cjo	cju					
[tʃi]	[tʃe]	[tʃa]	[tʃo]	[tʃu]					
si	se	sa	so	su					
[ʃi]	[ʃe]	[sa]	[so]	[su]					
zi	ze	za	zo	zu					
[dʒi]	[dʒe]	[dʒa]	[dʒo]	[dʒu]					
ri	re	ra	ro	ru					
[ri]	[re]	[ra]	[ro]	[ru]					
di	de	da	do	du					
[di]	[de]	[da]	[do]	[du]					
ni	ne	na	no	nu					
[ni]	[ne]	[na]	[no]	[nu]					
pi	pe	pa	po	pu					
[pi]	[pe]	[pa]	[po]	[pu]					
bi	be	ba	bo	bu		bjo			
[bi]	[be]	[ba]	[bo]	[bu]		[bjo]			
mi	me	ma	mo	mu					
[mi]	[me]	[ma]	[mo]	[mu]					
i	e	a	o	u					
[i]	[e]	[a]	[o]	[u]					

N [ɾ]                    ?N [ʔm ʔn]                    'N [m n ŋ n]                    Ɂ [k t tʃ s ʃ p]

#### 4. Conclusion

I have researched the Maezima dialect and in conclusion would like to sum up the major points.

##### 4.1 The feature of the phonetic system

4.1.1 The Maezima dialect has five vowels: [i][e][a][o][u].

4.1.2 Laryngeal is seen in the Maezima dialect. In other words in the Maezima dialect system the distinction between the aspirated and unaspirated sounds is lacking.

## 4.2 The feature of the phonetic correspondence

4.2.1 The distinction of between [i] and [e] as found in the common-language is lost and in the Maezima dialect is combined to become [i]. Moreover, the distinction of [u] and [o] of the common-language is combined to become [u]. (Fig.1)

4.2.2 カ行 consonants are basically /k/, but キ becomes /ci/ at the onset. (Fig.3)

4.2.3 サ行 consonants are basically /s/. シ・ス・セ has a sound change to /si/. (Fig.5)

4.2.4 ザ行 consonants are basically /z/. ズ・ゼ has a sound change to /zi/. (Fig.6)

4.2.5 All ハ行 consonants become /h/. (Fig.10)

4.2.6 フ行 consonants become basically /w/. But, っ has a sound change to /ji/. (Fig.15)

## 4.3 The feature of the mora

4.3.1 Mora(born in 1915) has [ɸi] [ɸe] [ɸa] sounds, but Mora(born in 1941) don't use it. (3.1, 3.2) Here, the system of the speaker of 1941 born is described. As a result, it was found out that 4 out of 1,037 words had disappeared compared with the 1915 system. [ɸi:](火), [ɸi:ba:](火箸), [ɸitʃe:](額), [ɸidʒi:](肘) are the 4 words that disappeared.

From now I wish to proceed with a comparative study of the dialect system between the Maezima dialect and that of the surrounding regions in Ryukyu.

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