ANGLICIZED JAPANESE WORDS

ITOH, Kōji

The aim of this paper is to investigate and describe, as thoroughly as possible, Japanese words recorded in English dictionaries in Britain and the United States before and after World War II (1939-45).

Many Japanese words are found in English dictionaries before the War, and much more number are added to them after W W II, because Japan has carried out reforms in the fields of politics, economics, industry, society, education, household and so on, for these fifty years since the end of the War. In consequence of this, Japanese marvelous progress in many ways attracted considerable attention of people in the world, and it has aroused a great deal interest in the study of the Japanese language. And several universities in foreign countries have set up a course of Japanese as a subject.


1. Anglicized Japanese words found in the dictionaries total up to 763, which are as follows (arranged in alphabetical order):

abukumalite, aburachan seed, aburagiri, adsuki, ai, aikido, aikuchi, Ainu, akamatsu, akamushimite, akebi, akeki, akanobeite, akita, ama, amado, amanori, ansu, Aoyama's fluid, arakawaite, Arita, Atari Democrat, Atari Socialism, Atarize, aucuba, aucuba mosaic, awabi, baiu, baka bomb, banche, banzai, banzai attack, banzai charge, banzai party, banzuke, baren, basho, bekko, biwa, Bizen ware, black belt, Black Current, black mist, Bon, Bonin Islands, bonsai, bonseki, bonze, bonzery, bonzess, brown belt, bu, budo, bugaku, bullet train, bunraku, bushido, butoh, butsu, butsudan, Canon, chanoyu, Chediak-Higashi syndrom, chichi, cho, chorogi, daibutsu, Daijo, Daikoku, daikon, daimiate, daimio, dairi, dairisama, daisho, dan, dashi, do, dojo1, dojo2, emakimon, enoki, Esakidiode, eta, Euroyen, fugi, fugi cherry, fugu, fuji1, fuji2, Fujiwara, Fujiyama, fun, funori, furo, fusuma, futon, gagaku, gaijin, geisha, geisha girl, geisha-house, genro, geta, gi, gingko, go, goban, goban, Godzilla, gumi, gyokuro, habu, habutai, hagi, haiku, hakama, hanami, hanasika, haniwa, haori, hanni, haraigoshi, harakiri, Hashimoto's goitre, hatamoto, hechima, Heian, heimin, hiba arborvitae, ibachi, hibakusa, hinin, hinoki, Hirado, hiragana, Hirohito, Hiroshima, Hiroshima, Hizen, Hojo, Hokkaido, hokku, homestay, honcho,
oil meal, soybean sauce, soybean soup, soy biscuit, soy bottle, soy burger, soy flour, soy frame, soy ink, soy jam, soy milk, soy oil, soy protein, soy sauce, sudoite, sugi, suiboku, suiseki, sukiya, sukiyaki, sumi, sumi-e, sumi-gaeshi, sumo, sumodom, sumoist, sumotori, sumo wrestling, sun, Suntory, surimono, sushi, sushiya, Suzuki, suzuribako, tabi, tai, tai-otoshi, tai-sabaki, Taisho, Taka-diastase, takamakie, Takayasu’s disease, tamari, tamari(foy)sauce, tamo, tan, tanka, tansu, tatami, tatami-floor, tatami mat, tatami-matted, tatami matting, tatami room, tattumi, Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles, temmoku, temmoku glaze, tempo, tempura, tempura restaurant, Tempyo, Tendai, tenko, tenno, teppanyaki, terakoya, teriyaki, to, tobira, togorokite, tofu, togidashi, Tojo, tokkin, tokonoma, Tokugawa, Tokyoite, Tokyo Rose, Tokyo Round, Tomonaga-Schwinger theory, tonarigumi, tongue sushi, torii, Tosa, Tosa picture, toyo, tsuba, tsubo, tsuga, tsugaresinol, tsugiashi, Tsukahara tuck, tsukemono, tsukuri, tsunami, tsurikomi, Tsushima Current, tsutsugamushi(disease), tsutsugamushi mite, tsutsu, tycoon, tycoonate, tycoony, tycoonism, tycooness, tycoonish, tycoonship, uchimata, uchiwa, ude-garami, ude-gatame, udo, udon, uguisu, uji, uji, ujigami, uke, ukemi, uki, ukiyo-e, ume, urushi, urushic acid, urushiol, urushiie, utsa, wabi, wacadash, waka, wakizashi, Walkman, warabi, wasabi, white belt, wooden kimono, Yagi, Yagi aerial, Yagi antenna, yakitori, yakuza, yamamai, Yaman oto, Yamasaki, Yamato, Yamato-e, yamato-damashii, Yamato-ryu, yashiki, Yaoi, Yedo, Yeddo crepe, Yeddo hawthorn, Yeddo poplin, Yeddo spruce, yen, yen bond, Yezo spruce, Yokohama, Yokohama bean, Yokohama crake, Yoko-shi-gatame, Yokozuna, Yoshewara, Yoshino paper, yugawaralite, yugen, yukata, Yukawa, Yukawa meson, Yukawa particles, Yukawa potential, yusho, yuzen, yuzen process, zabuton, zabatsu, zaikai, zazen, Zen, Zen Buddhist, zendo, Zengakuren, zenist, Zen Master, ziogoon, ziogoonship, zori.

II. Classification and Number

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<tr>
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III. 250 words of 763 are found in prewar dictionaries, but 4 words: Daijo, Daikoku, Tempyo, Yuzen process are not found in postwar ones.

IV. Newly introduced words are karaoke, Mamasan, Nintendo neck, pachinko, sashimi, shinkansen, Soka Gakkai, tonarigumi, Walkman and Zengakuren, etc.

V. Derivatives.
bonze—bonzery—bonzess, daimio—daimiate, judo—judoist, jujitsu—jujitsian—
—jujitsuist, katsu—katsuwonidae, kendo—kendoist, kimono—kimonoed, Mikado—
Mikadoate, moxa—moxibustion—moxocausis, Nippon—Nipponian—Nipponism—
Nipponize, Rykyu—Ryukyuans, Shiga—shigella—shigellosis, shikimi—shikimic—
shikimol, shimose—shimosite, Shinto—Shintoism—Shintoist—Shintoize—Shintostic,
shogun—shogunal—shogunate—shogunate—shogunship, sumo—sumodom—sumoist,
tsuga—tsugaresinol, tycoon—tycoonate—tycoonery—tycooness—tycoonish—
tycoonism—tycoonship, urushi—urushiol, Zen—Zenist.

VI. Compound words.
aucuba—aucuba mosaic, banzai—banzai attack—banzai charge—banzai party, geisha—
—geisha girl—geisha house, Ishihara—Ishihara blind—Ishihara method—Ishihara
plates—Ishihara test, karate—karate-chop—karate-kick—karate stick, koji—koji acid,
Kuroshio—Kuroshio extension, matsu—matsucoccus, Mikado—Mikado pheasant,
Nintendo—Nintendo neck, Nippon—Nippon chrysanthemum—Nippon Club—Nippon
vellum, No(No)play—Noh mask, rickshaw—rickshaw boy—rickshaw-cycle—
rickshaw man—rickshaw-tricycle, Ryobu—Ryobu Shinto, sake—sake bottle—sake
cup—sake shop, samurai—samurai bond—samurai-minded, soy—soy biscuit—soy
bottle—soy burger—soy flour—soy frame—soy ink—soy jam—soy milk—soy
protein—soy sauce, soya—soya bean—soya bean oil—soya burger—soya flour—
soya link—soya meal—soya milk—soya oil—soya sauce—soya sausage, soybean—
soybean cutlet—soybean flour—soybean milk—soybean oil meal—soybean sauce—
soybean soup, sumo—sumo wrestling—sumo wrestler, tamari—tamari sauce, tatami—
tatami mat—tatami matting—tatami-floored—tatami-matted—tatami room,
temmoku—temmoku glaze, tempura—tempura bar—tempura restaurant, Tokyo—Tokyo

 VII. English translated from Japanese.
   black belt—KURO OBI, Black Stream(Current)=KUROSHIO, black mist=KUROI KIRI, brown belt=CHA OBI, nightingale floor=UGUISU BARINO YUKA, white belt=SHIRO OBI.

 VIII. English words of Japanese coinage.
   Godzilla, home stay, mechatronics, lighter, Pac-Man defense, parametrion, protoanemonin, salary man.

 IX. Trade marks.
   Canon, Midori(melon Liqueur), Nikkei, Nintendo, Sega, Sony, Suntory, Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles, Walkman.

 X. Compound words of proper names.

 XI. The words in following nine categories are recorded in prewar dictionaries : character, clothes, coin, money, establishment, event, government, administration, the Imperial Household, literature and tradition.
   Dots are put on the words contained in prewar dictionaries. And the words in forty-three categories below are recorded in postwar: accessories, footwear, amusement, animal, architecture, chemistry, craft, culture, custom, daily necessaries, economy, education, electronics, enterprise, ethical code, fine arts, food, game, play, habit, history, human body, individual, group, medical science, microorganism, mineral, alloy, music, nation, race, natural phenomenon, news, occupation, physics, place name, plant, public entertainments, religion, residence, something else, sport, status, class, term of respect, greeting, vehicle, war, weapon, weights, measures.

 XII. kamikaze, ronin and banzai.

 KAMIKAZE : This was originally used as a divine wind. An invading Mongolian Navy was completely destroyed by the typhoon in 1281. Therefore, the Japanese called the wind 'kamikaze' because Japan fortunately could defeat a powerful enemy with the help of it.
   The word has been used as follows since then : 'kamikaze koho (=a candidate of Diet)', 'kami-haze sumotori (=sumo wrestler)', 'kamikaze tokkotai (=a
Japanese special air attack corps’, ‘kamikaze taxi, or ~ cab’ and ‘kamikaze tozan (=climbing)’.

In World War II (1939-45), Japanese soldiers in a special air attack corps were assigned to make a suicidal crash on a target (like a ship), and so they were called suicidal pilots or planes ‘kamikaze tokkotain’ or ‘kamikaze tokkotaiki’. The adjectives of reckless and suicidal are derived from ‘kamikaze’.

RONIN: In feudal times in Japan, a wandering lordless samurai was called a ronin (= roshi). Recently, this is applied to a Japanese student who failed exams and is permitted to retake a university entrance examination.

And there is a new coined word shushoku ronin who is in difficulty in securing work.

This ronin is a student who graduated from a university and failed a test for employment in a firm and is looking forward to entering it.

The Dictionary of Japanese Obsolete Words (ed. by OKUYAMA) says that from Meiji era to early Showa era, there were those who crossed over to China (chiefly to Manchuria) for a job and looked forward to having a chance of success, and so they were called Manchurian ronin.

BANZAI: Banzai is originally defined as a shout or cheer used by Japanese in greeting the emperor and wishing him a long life. The word of banzai is more notorious for a reckless, desperate mass attack by Japanese soldiers with yells of banzai than in greeting the emperor.

Their action must have given an extraordinary impact on American and British soldiers in W W II. Consequently, English and American dictionaries seem to have recorded the word and defined banzai as reckless, suicidal like ‘kamikaze’.

Above three words are recorded in dictionaries in Britain and the United States. The spirit of kamikaze and banzai attack are another representation of the samurai spirit and sanyushiki: three brave warriors who rushed at the enemy with burning bombshells in Sino-Japanese war (the Shanghai Incident, 1932).

The story was put in an elementary school textbook during W W II, as an example of young soldiers who lost their lives easily for the emperor.

X III. The following are not always spoken in daily life: some are archaic and others are obsolete.

accessories•footware: •bekko, •geta, katsura, kogai³, •netsuke, ojime, shimada, •tabi, zori.
character: •Ainu, •mana.
clothes: hakama, •haori, •happi, •kimono, mompe, •obi, yukata.
coin•money: •bu, •itzebu, •koban, •oban, rin, ryo, •tempo.
culture: suiseki, yugen.
daily necessaries•medical science: •inro.
economy: narikin, zaibatsu.
education: terakoya.
establishment : •mikadoate, •shogunate/•shogunship, tonarigumi, •tycoonism, •ziogoonship.
ethical code : •bushido, •harakiri, junshi, on, samurai-minded, yamato-damashi.
government•administration : black mist, •daimiate, •genro, •shikken, •shogunate/•shogunship,
•shogunite, soshi, •ziogoonship.
the Imperial Household : •dairi, •dairisama, •Mikado.
literature : •orihon, renga, •uta, waka.
nation•race : Kibei, kumaso.
occupation : joro, •kurumaya, oiran, pompom, •rickshaw man, •skibby, Tokyo Rose, •Yoshin- wara.
place name : Yeddo.
religion : •Daijo, •Daikoku, Kokka, Ryobu/Ryobu Shinto, Shuha.
status•class : •daimio, •eta, hatamoto, •heimin, hinin, jito, kabane, •kuge, •kwazoku,
•Mikado, muraji, omi, omuraji, Roju, •samurai, •shizoku, •shogun/•ziogoon,
shugo, •ty-coon, uji².
vehicle : •jiricheckshaw/•rickshaw, •kago, •kuruma, •maru, •norimon, rickshaw-cycle
/rick- shaw-tricycle.
war : baka bomb, banzai attack/banzai charge, kamikaze, kemeitai, tenko, Tojo.
weapon : aikuchi, daisho, katana, ken¹, kogai², koiri, kwaiken, shuriken, •tsuba, •wacada- sh/wakizashi.
weight•measures : •bu, cho, •fun, •ken¹, koku, •momme, ri, •shaku², sho¹, •sun, •tan, to,
tsubo.

XIV. Prewar : 123 words in Britain; 171 words in the United States.
Postwar : 571 words in Britain; 481 words in the United States.
Total 763 in Britain and the United States.

XV. OED is under revision, and when it is finished, how many words will be recorded ?
It is quite interesting to us. (Also see my articles written in Japanese, KENKYUKIHO,

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