

Potential use of the forthcoming Global Anglicism Database for the study of Anglicisms in Japanese

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1. Background

This paper aims to start a discussion on how the Global Anglicism Database (GLAD database), can be utilized for the study of Anglicisms, specifically the Anglicisms in Japanese. A considerable amount of scholarly research has been carried out on Anglicisms in Japanese. However, most of the present research has come about purely through the study of Japanese, independent from comparison with the trends in other languages. Understanding the Anglicisms of Japanese within the context of a global trend will provide a completely new perspective on this issue.

2. Historical Account

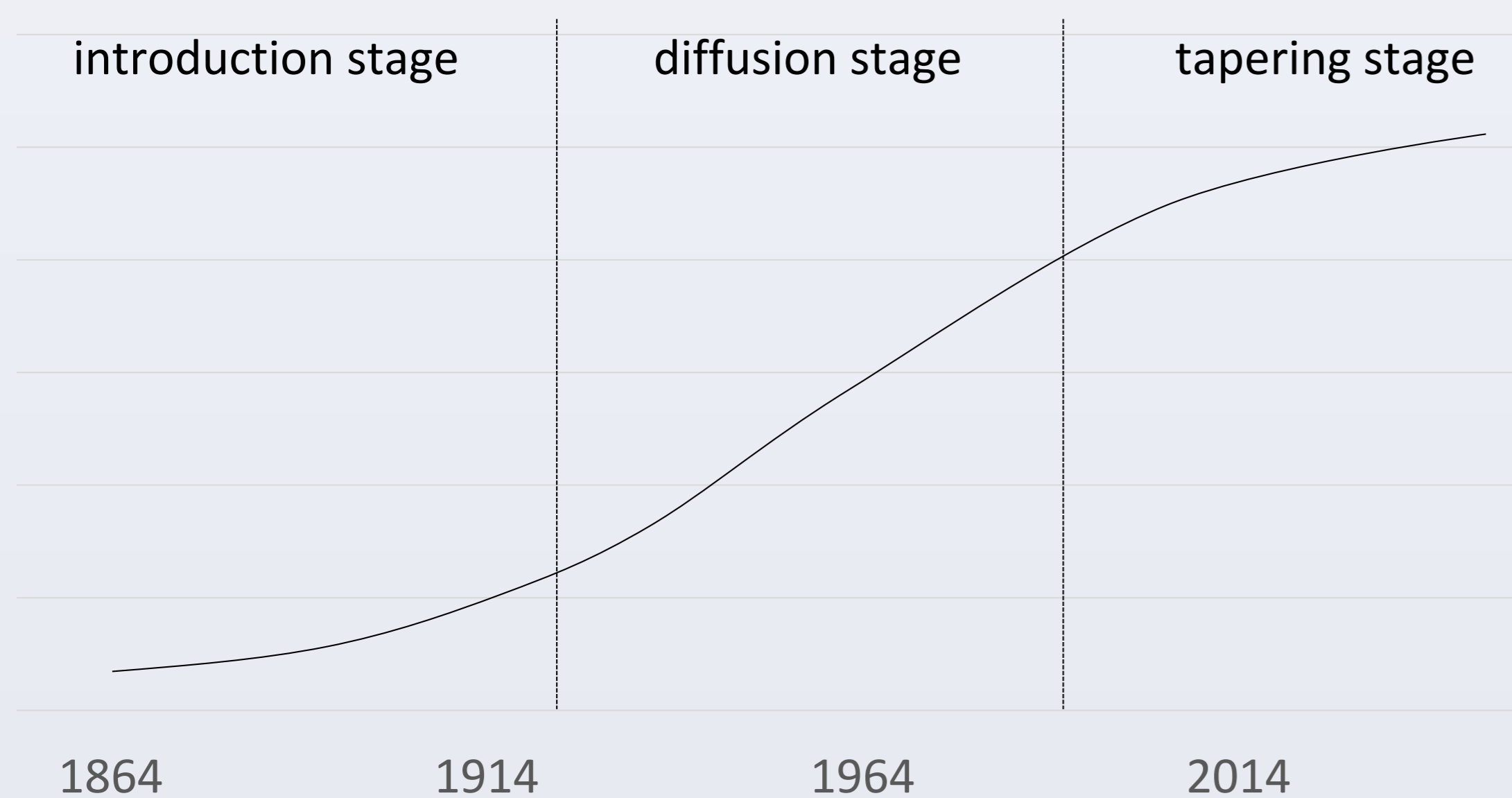


Figure 1. S-curve model of the increase of Anglicism in Japanese

1854~	The end of the isolationist foreign policy of Japan lead to the beginning of the influx of Anglicisms along with loanwords from other Western languages
~ early 20 th century	English words were rapidly introduced to the general public as Japan's modernization advanced
~ late 20 th century	Dramatic increase in the number of Anglicisms
~ present	The number of Anglicisms reached the tapering stage

3. The General Characteristics of Anglicisms in Japanese

3.1. Use of Scripts

In Japanese, 3 types of scripts are used where Western loanwords are easily recognized. Any words written in **Katakana**(カタカナ) except onomatopoeias are recognized as Anglicisms.

Script	Types	Major Use
Kanji 漢字	Logogram	Content words of native Japanese or Chinese origin (Sino-Japanese words)
Hiragana ひらがな	Phonogram	Some native Japanese content words, grammatical elements
Katakana カタカナ	Phonogram	(Western) Loanwords, onomatopoeias

3.2. Word-formation

Loanwords are taken as the stem and Japanese suffixes are attached according to the word types.

noun	チェック chekku	check	
verb	チェックする chekku-suru	to check	
adjective	クリアな kuria-na	clear	
adverb	クリアに kuria-na	clearly	
other	カー kā	car	Used only for noun phrase/ compounds
other	チック chikku/イック ikku	tic/ic	

3.3. Functions

A. Intellectual image

Having an understanding of Anglo-American concepts followed by the use of English loanwords has continued to be strongly associated to the perception of intelligence.

B. Modern, refined, or “cool” connotation

便所 (*benjo*) was once the mainstream word for “toilet,” but was later replaced with the loanword トイレ (*toire*) because of a more fresh and refined sound.

C. Euphemisms, obscure expression

借金 (*shakkin*) or 借り入れ (*kariire*) (to borrow money or to take a loan when buying an expensive item) was replaced with ローン (*rōn*) (“loan”) so as to obscure the negative aspect of borrowing or owing money.

D. Expression of broader concept

A loanword, トラブル (*toraburu*), covers six different meanings that can be expressed with its Japanese native hyponyms.

3.4. Pseudo-Anglicism

A. Recombination

バトンタッチする (*baton tatchi-suru*) = baton + touch:

to pass the baton (to someone)

ベビーカー (*bebīkā*) = baby + car: stroller

B. Conversion

アバウトな (*abauto-na*) = about (preposition→adjective):

(person, work, etc.) sloppy, rough

C. Resemantization/ Semantic shift

アナログな (*analogu-na*) = analog:

(a person or thing) technologically behind/ challenged

ブラックな (*burakku-na*) = black:

(of a company) having an exploitative work environment

D. Clippings/ Acronyms

AD = Assistant Director カーナビ (*kā-nabi*) = car navigation (system)

OB = Old Boy: alumni コンビニ (*konbini*) = convenience (store)

3.5. Hybrid

歯ブラシ (<i>haburashi</i>)	歯 (ha) (=tooth)	ブラシ (burashi) (=burush)	tooth brush
再チェック (<i>saichekku</i>)	再 (Sai) (=re~)	チェック (chekku) (=check)	recheck
駅ビル (<i>eki biru</i>)	駅 (eki) (=station)	ビル (biru) (=building)	a building built over a railroad station
バリアフリー化 (<i>bariafurī-ka</i>)	バリアフリー (<i>bariafurī</i>) (=barrier free)	化 (ka) (=an affix meaning “change into”)	making of barrier free environment

3.6. Phono-semantic Matching

簿記 (*boki*) (簿 notebook + 記 write down) = book keeping

背広 (*sebiro*) (背 back/shoulder + 広wide) = civil clothes (suit)

3.7. Loan Translation

冷戦 (*reisen*) = 冷 (cold) + 戦 (war) = cold war

空港 (*kūkō*) = 空 (air) + 港 (port) = air port

4. GLAD database (ABC) of Japanese

Currently, the letters A-C of the GLAD database on Japanese are completed.

Types	POS	Frequency	First attestation
unadapted	498	noun 582	<100/100M. 297 ~1914 203
adapted	6	verb 46	100~ 1000/ 1915~1964 137
pseudo-Anglicism	154	adjective 34	100M. 284 1965~ 57
hybrid	12	adverb 1	>1000/100M.98 No data 282
loan translation	7	interjection 2	
phono-semantic matching	2	other 14	
			Total words 679

*Frequency is measured by the number of usage of the word in the Balanced Corpus of Contemporary Written Japanese (BCCWJ) which comprises of 104.3 million words

5. Future use of GLAD database for study of Anglicisms in Japanese

A. Study of the characteristics of Japanese Anglicisms in the global trend

“To go beyond the descriptive goal of identifying particular loanwords and their histories” (Haspelmath 2009:35). Is Japanese comparatively more Anglicized?

B. Sociolinguistic effect

How does the genealogical and geographical distance affect the characteristics?

Does it result in a larger number of pseudo-Anglicisms?

C. Global trend of Anglicization

What words are commonly borrowed?

Global pseudo-Anglicism? (i.e. “body bag” “happy end”)

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