Indigenous Language Acquisition, Maintenance, and Loss and Current Language Policies—Tomi Okumura 2020–“This book explores sociolinguistic and analytical analysis. It also discusses the acquisition, maintenance, and loss of the indigenous languages and language policies.”—Provided by publisher

Hokkaido—A. Sato 2000–10–21 Japanese people have lived on the country’s other three main islands—Honshu, Kyushu, and Shikoku—for many centuries, but ethnic Japanese, or Wajin, began coming to Hokkaido in large numbers only in the latter half of the nineteenth century. This book tells the story of Japan’s aboriginal people, the Ainu, followed by that of foreign explorers and ethnic Japanese pioneers. The book begins close attention to the Japanese-Russia conflicts over the island, including Cold War confrontations and more recent clashes over fishing rights and the Hokkaido-abandoned islands annexed by the U.S. in 1945.

Indigenous Difference—Gerald Rude 2010–12–14 Indigenous differences refer to the surprising economic prosperity, demographic increase and cultural renaissance currently found amongst many Indigenous communities around the world. This book moves beyond a mere focus on "indicators" to examine these developments within their broader political and economic contexts. The material in this volume also examines the everyday practices and subjectivities of Indigenous differences and how these exist in tension with ongoing colonisation of Indigenous land, and the destabilising impacts of global neoliberal legislation. Contributions to this volume include both research papers and shorter case studies, and are drawn from amongst the Aborigines and First Nations peoples in Australia, Northern America, and Latin America.

Japan’s Ainu Minority in Tokyo—Mark K. Watson 2014–03–14 This book is about the Ainu, the indigenous people of Japan, living in and around Tokyo, it is, therefore, about what has been pushed to the margins of history. Conventionally, anthropologists and political officials have represented the Ainu people as powerless and politically voiceless, limited to rural pockets of Hokkaido. Today, however, a significant proportion of the Ainu people live in and around major cities on the main island of Honshu, particularly Tokyo. Based on extensive original ethnographic research, this book explores the largely unknown developmental impact of urban life and society on Ainu culture. Drawing from diverse sources, it demonstrates how the Ainu are re-shaping and re-asserting their cultural and political identity and sense of community in the city. Looking in-depth for the first time at the urban centre of ritual performance, cultural transmission and the construction of places of 'home' for Ainu rental activity, this book argues that recent government initiatives aimed at fostering a national Ainu policy will ultimately founder unless its architects are able to fully recognize the historical and social complexities of the urban Ainu experience.

Japanese Language—Haruhiko Kindaichi 2011–12–20 This is a book about the structure, history and evolution of the Japanese language. The Japanese Language is a classic study of one of the world’s most widely used but least understood languages. Emphasizing the richness and complexity of Japanese as well as its limitations, this fine book provides a lively discussion about the uniqueness of the Japanese language. The relationship of Japanese to other languages is not well understood even by native speakers, and Professor Kindaichi sets out to define it. He concludes that Japanese is indeed only remotely related to other world languages although it shares many features in common with the languages of mainland Asia. Japanese shares with these languages a rich and detailed vocabulary for natural phenomena and an unusually complex and accurate way of expressing social relationships. Moreover, its capability to absorb innovations from almost any language or source makes it the equal of English or German. The author, after briefly discussing the unique isolation of the Japanese language, moves on to consider the varieties of ordinary speech—students, Jaguar, sex—and role-based distinctions, and the differences between formal, literary and literary language. He then examines the structure of Japanese pronunciation, its rhythm, and accent. The longest section of the book is devoted to the variety of the vocabulary, what can and cannot be said in Japanese. Readers who are just beginning their own study of Japanese will find this section especially fascinating, for each point is backed by examples from literature and everyday speech. Kindaichi also investigates the so-called vagueness of Japanese and traces it to its source—the unusual sentence order. This book includes: The highly debated origins of the Japanese language. Differences between informal, formal, and literary language. Structure, rhythm, and accent of pronunciation. What can and cannot be said in Japanese. Read it and understand Japanese.

Dismantling the East-West Dichotomy—Joy Hendry 2006–09–27 It has been customary in the appraisal of the different approaches to the study of Japan anthropology to invoke an East-West dichotomy. However, the study of Japan anthropology can be seen to involve a more authentic "Western" system of thought against a more authentic "East-coast" observation. In this book, scholar in the field of Japan anthropology examines, challenges, and attempts to move beyond the notion of an East-West divide in the study of Japan anthropology. The book argues that the study of Japan anthropology involves the study of the experiences and collective struggles of different communities, and that the study of the experience of the Ainu community is an illustration of the study of Japan anthropology.

The Accidental History of the Japanese and Ryukyuan Languages—Morio Shimabukuro 2017–06–02 This book looks into the accidental history of the Japanese and the Ryukyuan languages. Applying the comparative method, the author has reconstructed the accidental history of the Japanese languages. The reconstruction is based on modern dialects of Japanese and Ryukyuan, and also on historical materials.
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