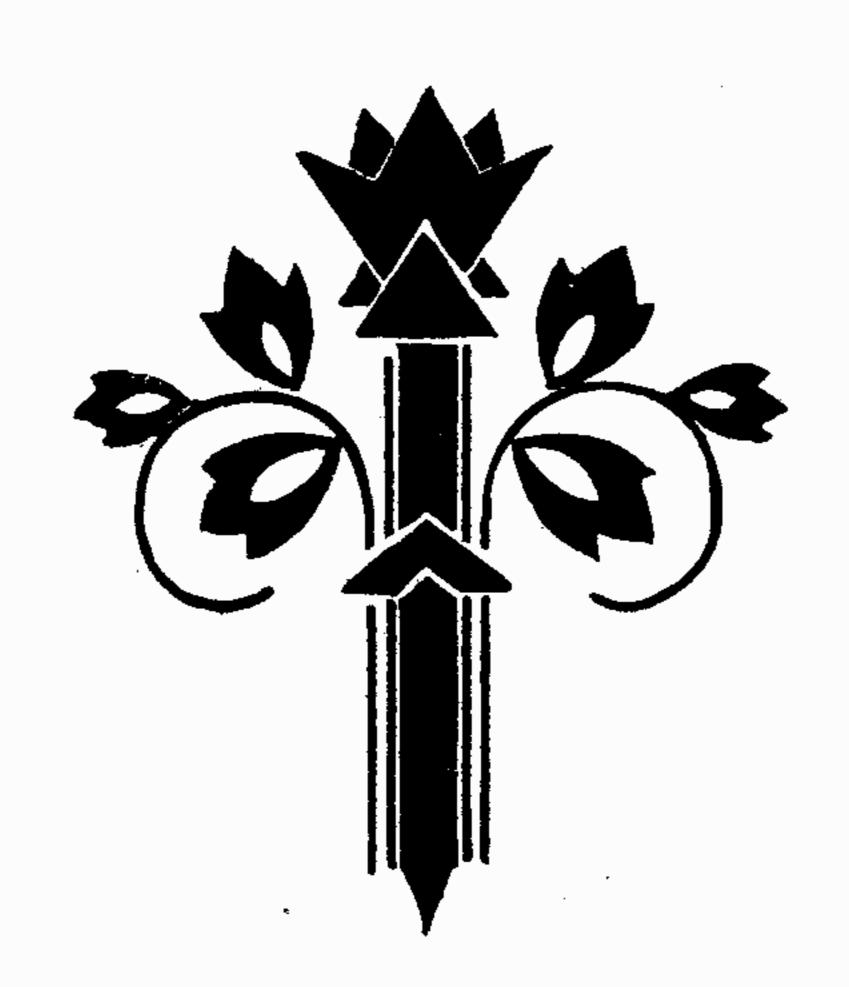
# SAITO'S APANESE-ENGLISH DICTIONARY 和英大辭典



NICHIEISHA

1931

#### PREFACE

It was my youthful ambition to write a Japanese-English dictionary that would make it a sin and a shame for a student of English to be unable to express himself in good English. I prepared myself long for the task. All my efforts were directed to that end. And the result is the present work. Whether it has realized my ideal or not, is for the competent critic to decide.

No lexicon can be complete. But an English-Japanese dictionary may approximate completeness, for it aims at explanation. Explanation is the analysis of existing forms, and there are limits to existing forms.

It was not long after I tackled my task before the conviction forced itself upon me that a Japanese-English dictionary can never attain completeness. A Japanese-English dictionary is an aid to expression, and expression is synthesis. Analysis may be final, but synthesis is infinitude. A few examples by way of illustration:—

#### 彼の云ふ事はさつばり分からぬ

I do not understand him at all.

I can not understand what he means.

I am at a loss to comprehend his meaning.

I can't make out his meaning.

I can make nothing of what he says.

I do not know what to make of his statement.

I can not make head or tail of what he says.

I am at a loss to make out what he is driving at.

What he can mean, is more than I can tell.

What he can mean, is above my comprehension

What he is driving at, is beyond my dull comprehension.

What he can be driving at, is a mystery to me.

What he aims at, goes clean ahead of me.

I can't see what he aims at.

Etc., etc.

馬鹿な事をする

to do a foolish thing.

to commit a folly.

to do something foolish.

僕は馬鹿な事をした

I have been foolish.

I own my folly.

I own to my folly.

I should have known better.

僕はそんな馬鹿な事はせぬ

I never do such a foolish thing.

I am not so foolish as to do such a thing.

I know better.

I am above such folly.

そんな馬鹿な事をするもの

You should know better.

ぢやない

You should be above such folly.

You should be above doing such a foolish thing.

彼は馬鹿な事をしたものだ What a foolish thing he has done!

He should have known better.

彼はそんな馬鹿な事をする 筈が無い

He can not have done such a foolish thing.

He can not have been so foolish.

He must know better.

He must be above such folly.

あの苦勞人がそんな馬鹿な 事をする筈が無い

He is too much of a man of the world not to know better.

彼は自分の家へ火を附ける

He is so foolish as to set fire to his own house.

樣な馬鹿な事をする

He knows no better than to set fire to his own house.

君はそんな馬鹿な事をしよ

I did not think you were so foolish.

うと思はなかつた

I thought you were wiser.

I gave you credit for more sense.

馬鹿の真似をする

to play the fool

to make a fool of oneself.

馬鹿の眞似をするな

Do not make an ass of yourself!

Do not make a show of yourself!

馬鹿の眞似を仕盡す

to do every foolish thing.

to leave no foolish thing undone.

to commit every folly.

to leave no folly uncommitted.

to commit every conceivable folly.

to complete the sum of follies

to complete the catalogue of follies.

to go through the catalogue of follies.

to range over the gamut of folly.

Etc. etc.

Now the question is: What sort of English is it that should be adopted in a Japanese-English dictionary? The English language may be graded as Primary, Common, and Higher.

Primary English:—{The Beginner's English. Simplified English.

Common English:—{Easy English. General English. Standard English. Standard English.

Practical English.

Higher English:—{Technical English. Literary English.}

What is Common or General English? This is the question of questions, for upon the answer to it depends the whole tenor of the lexicon. It is the Standard English, to which the Primary English but furnishes steps leading up to it, and to which all forms of Higher English ought to be referred and reduced.

Primary English is not a completeness in itself, since it merely serves to furnish the steps leading up to the Standard English. It is the English of the schools. In the school-room, it should chiefly be taught with a view to giving a general idea of syntactical and idiomatic difference between English and Japanese. Orthography, Pronunciation, and Grammar belong to this stage of language-study. Here also the so-called methods (Guvain's method, the psychological method, and the like) may be suffered to have their place.

Common, General, or Standard English is that form of the language which naturally falls, without any sort of pressure, from the lips of an educated Englishman or American in ordinary conversation. It also drops from the pen as the language of familiar correspondence—but not of business, for in business a man naturally resorts to the exact form of speech to be included in Practical English. What comes nearest to the Standard English in print is the average English of the average modern Third and Fourth Readers.

The Standard English should be free from all children's patois on the one hand, while, on the other hand, it should be clear from all technicalities. It should constitute the bony framework of the language, to which all variations and departures are but so many fleshly or artificial garments.

The Standard English is trite, hackneyed, and commonplace English, which we constantly hear in conversation, but rarely see in print. When a man takes pen in hand, he seems to feel bound to vary his expressions from the ordinary common-place. So that what we find in the course of reading are all variations from the standard form. The lexicographer must have come across the greatest number of variations in the course of his reading, but he must not give the variations as they are. He must generalize, and present his generalizations. For instance, one may pick up a scanty livelihood or starve on scanty pay or scratch along, but one must get one's living or gain one's livelihood. So that quotations may have their place in an English-Japanese dictionary, but not in a Japanese-English dictionary.

Higher or Literary English is the language of scholars and writers. It consists in the use of varied forms of speech—departures from the Standard English, for the sake of beauty, effect, or dignity. Le style est l'homme—so many men, so many styles.

Higher English must be distinguished from *Practical English*, which is the exact language of definition and description, and of business. This is the language of practical life, and admits of no individual style. It is the business-man, the official, and the journalist, who should be master of this form of English.

It will thus be seen that the English of the Japanese-English dictionary should be the Standard English and Practical English, with a slight and occasional intrusion into the domain of Higher English.

The first step of language-study is imitation. The student of English must be a good mimic. He must think and say things in the foreign way. He must learn to pronounce, gesticulate, emphasize, and even blunder in the English or American way. In short, he must make a foreigner of himself. A Japanese gentleman just returned from America excused himself from attending a meeting in honour of its being his aunt's birthday. I have known another Japanese gentleman hesitate in his speech à l'Anglaise.

But language-study must not stop with imitation. Each language has a flavour of its own, and this flavour must be preserved. Japanese is a unique

language, and awaits rendering into another unique language, the English. The mastery of a language has for its final object the expression of the exact light and shade of meaning conceived by the speaker. In a word, the Japanese speaker of English should be original. It was this originality that made Lafcadio Hearn what he was. It is humiliating to think that Japanese art should have been understood and appreciated by the Westerner before it had found its exponent among the Japanese. In short, the English of the Japanese must, in a certain sense, be Japanized.

And all these requirements a complete Japanese-English dictionary has to fulfil!

In conclusion, it is my pleasant duty to acknowledge the scrupulous, conscientious, religious care with which Mr. Iwao Yamada has had the goodness to read my final proofs.

H. Saito.

Jan. 1st, the 3rd Year of Showa.

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🍗 名詞は集合、物質、抽象の各種名詞を普通名詞に用ゐて其意味に變化を生ずる場合に限りて分類名稱を記す、其略語次の如し
      【普名】......普通名詞 (Common Noun)
                                            【質名】......物質名詞 (Material Noun)
                                            【抽名】.....抽象名詞 (Abstract Noun)
      【固名】.................固有名詞 (Proper Noun)
      【集名】......集合名詞 (Collective Noun)
二 動詞は必ず
      と區別し、又之に續く附屬構文は必ず括孤( )內に之を示す、而して動詞に續く前置詞には必ず Italics を用ふ。
三 其他の略字は
      【形】 ...... 形 容 詞 (Adjective)
                                         詞 (Adverb)
四 見出し語中の二重ハイフン(=)は複合詞たる事を示し、單ハイフン(-)は獨立發音を示す
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本書には第一の形 (nb, nm, np) を用ひたり。
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