



INSTITUTIONAL (IN)VISIBILITY AND LANGUAGE REVITALISATION IN JAPAN

THE AINU AND THE RYŪKYŪAN REVIVAL MOVEMENT

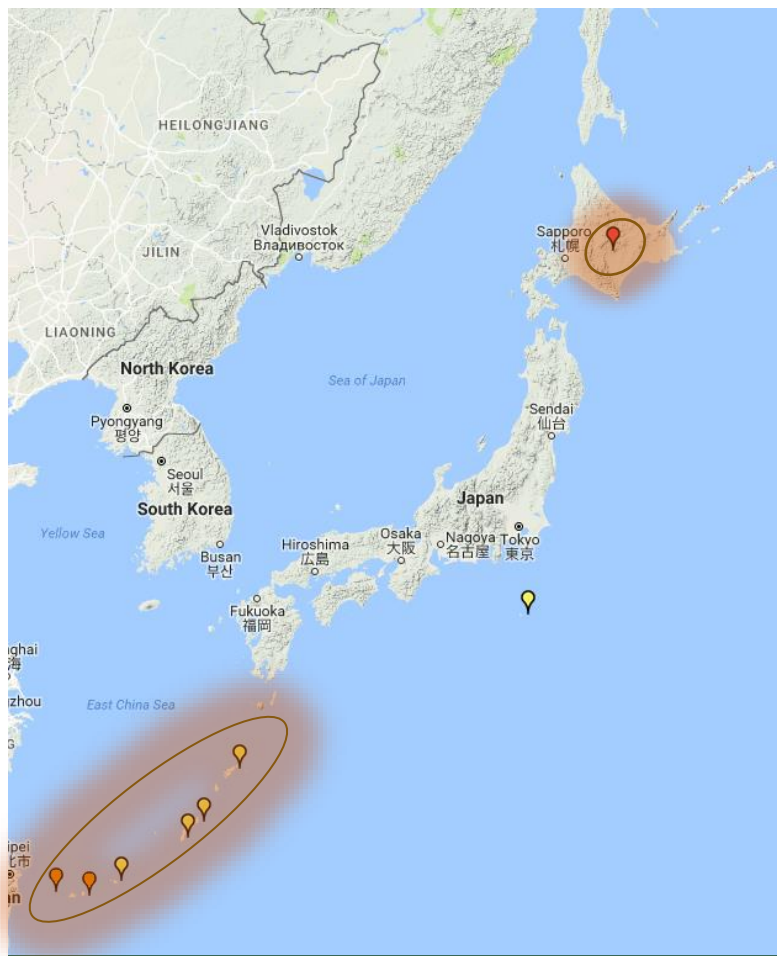
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OVERVIEW OF THE PRESENTATION

1. Endangered languages of Japan
2. The development of the Ainu language revitalisation
3. The development of the Ryūkyūan language revitalisation
4. Revitalisation and (in)visibility

ENDANGERED LANGUAGES OF JAPAN



Monolingual policy vs minority language(s)

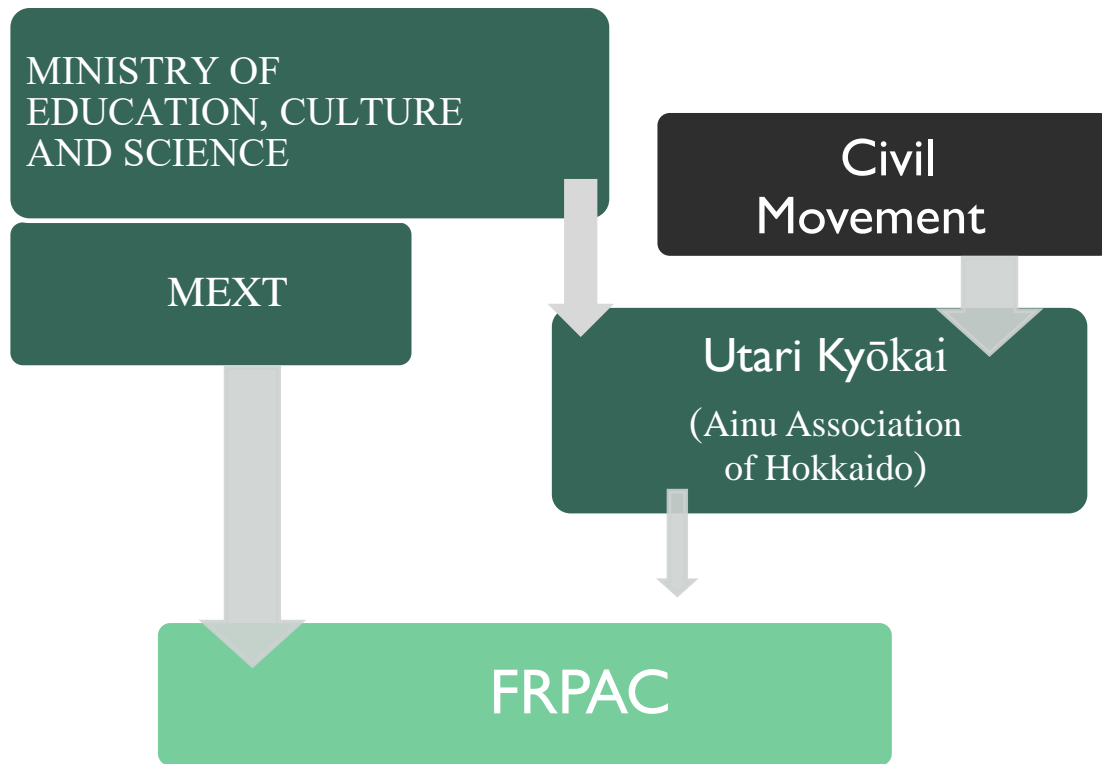
- Furusato ideology creating space and role for "lesser" language varieties

UNDRIP (2007)

1. Ainu language(s)
1991, 1997 2007-2008-2019.
official indigenous language
2. Ryūkyūan languages: Amami, Kunigami, Okinawan, Miyakō + Yaeyaman, Yonaguni
 - (2 creole: ton futsūgo, uchinaa yamatu guchi)
dialects

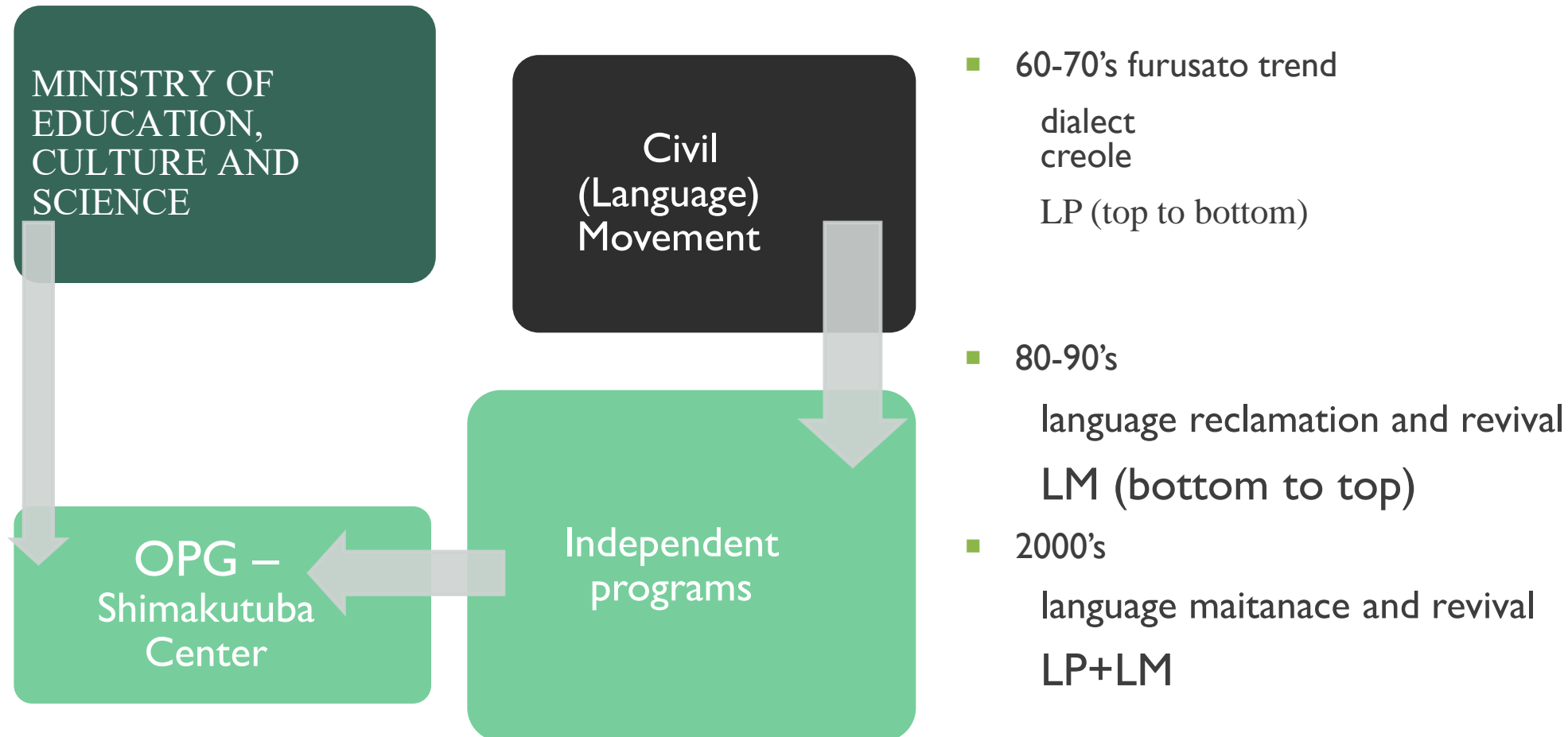
(Definitely) severely endangered: cultural assimilation (external) – inner motivation

AINU - CENTRALISED LANGUAGE REVITALISATION



- Monoethnic and monolingual Japan
fight for the indigenous rights
 - Late recognition (advanced – almost complete language shift)
- 1997 The Foundation for Research and Promotion of Ainu Culture (FRPAC)
- 2007-8-19 Official minority language: promotion and protection of the Ainu language and culture ("Ainu Law" act 16/2019)

RYŪKYŪAN – BOTTOM TO TOP APPROACH



OPG INITIATIVES

2006 Shimakutuba Day

18th september

2013 Shimakutuba Language Promotion Plan

10-year

planrevitalisation action plan, selfcheck

- Shimakutuba center
- SLA: teaching materials
- Greetings
- Linguistic landscape



OKINAWA TIMES „しまくとぅばの振興図る 沖縄県庁に普及センター設置” 2017.09.13.

REVITALISATION AND (IN)VISIBILITY

(OPG) Shimakutuba Center

- Network for the revival movement
 - link between linguists and activists
 - network and forum for participants
 - wider representation (education)
- Representation of language and cultural rights
- Helps to restore language prestige

Civil Language Movement

- Representation of the 6 (or more) language (varieties)
 - linguistic (cultural/bio-)diversity
- Problem-focused solutions
 - RLS methods for specific socio profiles
- Motivated in language use and transmission

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THANK YOU FOR YOUR ATTENTION !

Iyaraikere イヤライケレ
Ippee ni fuedebitan イッペーにフエデビタン

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