1. What are the common ‘myths’ about the JPN language?
   → ‘unique,’ ‘illogical/vague,’ ‘difficult’

2. What is the main factor contributing to the myths?
   → virtual isolation -- physical (island; mainly spoken within Japan)
      linguistic (‘language isolate’ cf. Ainu, Basque)

3. Is JPN ‘unique’?
   → Yes -- (1) genetic affiliation unknown (unique for a major language)
       (2) possibly amalgamation of 2 or more languages
   No -- overall typological characteristics not unique (ignorance of other languages, comparisons only with IE languages → JPN = ‘unique’)

4. What are the main typological characteristics of Japanese?
   → Grammar -- SOV, head final, postpositions (cf. 50% of languages studied = SOV)
      Phonology -- 5 Vs, simple set of Cs, basic CV syllable structure (cf. 5 Vs = common)

5. Are there specific characteristics of Japanese not shared by many other languages?
   → Phonology: (1) tone language, but ‘predictable’
      (2) 2 units of counting in accentual system: syllables & moras
      Morphology: (3) agglutinative language
         e.g. *tabe-sase-rare-taku-nakat-ta* ‘(I) did not want to be made to eat’
         eat-CAUS-PASS-DES-NEG-PAST
      (4) 3 types of word formation:
         lexical: e.g. *hon-bako* ‘book case’
         book box
         syntactic: e.g. *ik-ase-ru* ‘make (s.o.) go’
         go-CAUS-NON-PAST
         ‘post-syntactic’: e.g. *kare ga kaigai-ryokoo no sai* ‘occasion of his overseas trip’
         he NOM overseas-travel GEN occasion
      Structure: (5) subject-prominent, topic-prominent language

Writing system: (6) multiplicity of coding: *hiragana, katakana, kanji*, Romanization

Lexicon (7) multiplicity of choice: native, Sino-Japanese, other borrowing

Other (8) variety of forms of expressions (spoken or written, formality of setting, sex, social status of Sp, Hr, & referent → honorifics)

6. What types of impressions do these characteristics (in #6 above) give to people generally?
   → ‘vague,’ ‘difficult,’ ‘illogical’