LIN 881 Study Questions: Shibatani, Ch. 6. History (pp. 119-139)

NOTE: (1) ‘*’ means ‘unattested, reconstructed’ in historical linguistics.
(2) X is a ‘reflex’ of *Y = X is a descendant of *Y

1. Where do the major divisions fall in the history of Japanese, and what is each stage called?
   → ANSWERS on p. 119

2. (1) When did each of the 3 waves of Chinese borrowing occur?
   (2) Was there not any borrowing from China before then?

3. (1) When did each of the 3 waves of Western borrowing occur?
   (2) What were the major source languages in each?

4. How was the Japanese phonological system affected by language contact?

5. In what ways is modern Japanese simpler than Old Japanese (OJ)?

6. Has the basic structure of Japanese always been SOV?

7. (1) When did the honorific forms flourish?
   (2) Why did they?

8. What is Man’yoo gana? (brief answer, please)

9. How old is the tradition of on yomi (‘Chinese’ reading) and kun yomi (Japanese reading) of kanzi?

10. When and how were hiragana and katakana developed?

11. When and how was roomazi developed?

12. What compelled the establishment of Jooyoo Kanzi?

13. What are koo on and otu on?
   → A and B series of i, e, o, purportedly found in Nara documents.

14. Is the 8-vowel hypothesis supported by philological evidence?
   → According to Miller, yes; i.e., distinct kana used for two sets of i, e, o.

   By the comparative method?
   → According to Miller, yes; comparison of Satsuma & Tokyo vowels.

15. Give examples of i-o, e-a, and o-a alternations, respectively.
   → p. 133
16. (1) What are Matsumoto’s two main arguments against the 8-vowel hypothesis?
   → (i) B-series i, e (with subscript 2) derived historically from combinations of vowels:
     
     | Vowel | Rule                      | Example             |
     |-------|---------------------------|---------------------|
     | i     | i > / i / [ji]            | e.g. ki > k'i (k is palatalized) |
     | i     | i > / i_1 / [ji]          | e.g. ki > k'i (k is palatalized) |
     | o-i   | o > / i_2 / [(u;i)]       | e.g. ko>i > ki OR k"i |
     | u-i   | u > / i_2 / [(u;i)]       | e.g. ku+i > ki OR k"i, mu+i > m"i |
     | i-a   | i > / e_1 / [je]          | e.g. saki+ari > sak'er'i (k is palatalized) |
     | a-i   | i > / e_2 / [e]           | e.g. saka+i > sake; ama+i > ame |
     | o     | o > / o_1 / [o] / CuC ___ | o_i & o_2 in complementary distribution; i.e. same phoneme |
     | o     | o > / o_2 / [o] / CoC ___ | |
     | o     | o > / o_2 / [o] / CiC ___ | |

   For i and e, the A/B distinctions are attributed to the preceding Cs, which accounts for the skewed distributional pattern in Table 6.4. (p. 134).

   (ii) Language universals
   1. More front-back distinctions are made in higher Vs than in lower Vs
   2. If a language has ö (marked), then it has ü (less marked).
   3. ö (marked) occurs less frequently than o (less marked).

   8-V/6-V systems contradict these; i.e., they cannot be maintained. (o_2 cannot be ö)

(2) What does he propose for the OJ vowel system?
   → i, e, a, o, u (just like the Mod J system)

17. (1) What kind of vowel system does Hattori propose for OJ? Why?
    → i, e, a, o, u, ö (6 Vs)

(2) Why?
    → Because there are ‘minimal pairs’ for o_1 and o_2.

18. How do the pre-OJ vowel systems proposed by Oono, Matsumoto and Hattori differ?
    Oono:            i, a, u, ö  (4 Vs, p. 137)    ← contradicts ‘If ö, then ü’ (Matsumoto)
    Matsumoto:      i, a, ø(ø), u  (4 Vs, p. 138)
    Hattori:        i, a, u, ø, o  (5 Vs, p. 138)    ← ‘unnatural’ (Matsumoto)

19. Is there any evidence that there was vowel harmony in OJ?
    → Hattori & Matsumoto are skeptical. The vowel harmony-like phenomenon is confined to stems in JPN. No clear phonetic motivation.