

Diaspora and Language Behaviour

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In contrast to micro sociolinguistics, macro sociolinguistics typically deals with language contact phenomena at the societal level. In view of the relatively recent nature of the Japanese community in Australia, the majority of these residents belong to the first or second generation. Drawing upon some research undertaken by members of Monash's Japanese program, I will briefly outline some sociolinguistic patterns of language use relating to the first and second generation of the Japanese in this country. I will then proceed to introduce a study of my own where I investigate the private language policies of first generation Japanese adults in relation their management of new lexical transfers (ie borrowings/loans) which have become a part of their spoken lexical repertoire after their arrival in Australia.