

## Introduction

This volume of *Investigationes Linguisticae* is not a typical one, focusing on linguistic topics specific for this journal. On the contrary - it exceeds the philological framework, accepted and meticulously cared for, and takes the reader into the world *outside and beyond*. The texts this volume consists of are exactly *beyond*. Non-linguistic and yet related to it. Non-linguistic, yet affecting the problems the community lives with. They are from *outside and beyond* the philology, as they are classified as texts covering law, sociology and even technology. All this, however, is connected with one leitmotif – texts are focusing on Japan and are concerning Japanese society problems. The topics are, as already mentioned, very diverse, yet within this range, presented issues that bother contemporary Japanese society – and not only. The articles are the result of scientific discussions and polemics conducted at the 2018 Asian Congress, held at AMU, Poznań.

The first text by Ivona Barešova raises the subject of contemporary Japanese names for children. The author not only touches upon sociological and cultural topics, but also scrupulously analyzes examples of children's names (some extremely surprising for people outside the Asian culture). The text proves that the historical and cultural background still plays a great role in Japanese language, despite ever-increasing globalization and ubiquitous sociolinguistic changes.

The second text, written by Shinji Shimogaki, sheds light on the changes in law and agriculture Japan experienced after World War II. An analysis of specific legal regulations and their impact on contemporary Japanese society, as well as the effects it is facing currently, presents a picture of Japan facing the present challenges. Not only agriculture on all Japanese islands is an area requiring special attention, but – in a broader context – the whole agricultural legislation and its far-reaching effects on the needs of the global economy.

Munenori Ichishima focuses on aspects of regional policy on individual islands of the archipelago, explaining the current determinants of policy shaping in the region. The author draws more attention to the political decisions that led to the adoption of a specific goods distribution system in Japan during the Abe government rule. Also an attempt is made to present the results of the goods allocation in an economic and social contexts.

Unlike the first three texts, which showed linguistic, legal and social aspects of Japan, the last two texts reveal a completely different, technical face of Japan. The fourth text has three authors: Jeongsoo Yu, Shuoyao Wang and Kevin Serrona, who highlighted the issue of the end-of-life vehicle recycling system. From the global social and climatological awareness point of view this is an important issue. The authors embed this problem in a broader sense, comparing Japanese, Chinese and European approaches to the system. This text may come as a thematic

surprise, but in the face of current problems, the topic of recycling in an industrial context is becoming more and more important.

This text is also a prelude to the last article by Jeongsoo Yu and Shuoyao Wang describing an important for ecology issue of the utilization and regeneration of batteries in Japan. As a highly developed country, Japan also takes into account the needs of modern society in the automotive industry. The text, although technical, touches upon social aspects and presents important results not only for the Japanese people.

The thematic diversity may impose various restrictions, but a comprehensive approach to Japan and to presenting its contemporary problems as an expression of research interest in this part of the world is one of the most interesting points of view, worth applying especially because of this diversity.

The editor hopes this volume will be of interest to its readers.