

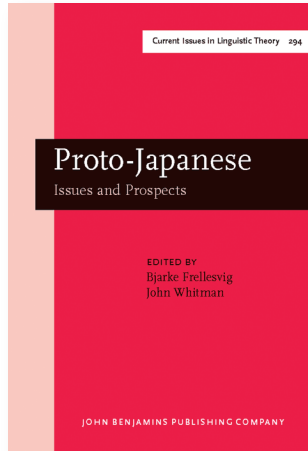
Linguistics

Proto-Japanese

Issues and Prospects

Edited by **Bjarke Frellesvig** and **John Whitman**

University of Oxford & University of Oslo / Cornell University



Proto-Japanese is the reconstructed language stage from which all later varieties of Japanese, including Ryukyuan, descend. It has been studied both as an end in itself (as the genetic code of the Japanese language) and as part of endeavors to clarify the genetic affiliation of Japanese. Based on the state of the field, especially as represented in Samuel E. Martin's seminal work *The Japanese Language Through Time* (1987), this volume singles out key areas in the reconstruction of proto-Japanese where salient progress has been or promises to be made since Martin. Contributions were invited from scholars

working on the following areas: segmental phonology, use of dialect evidence, accent, morphology, and syntax. While the book first of all presents new research which advances our understanding of proto-Japanese, it also gives an overview over the state of the art in the field and its main issues.

[*Current Issues in Linguistic Theory*, 294] 2008. vii, 229 pp.

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"An attractive volume on the reconstruction of the ancestor of Japanese and Ryukyuan: both a state of the art, and a collection of the most recent, cutting-edge work on phonology, morphosyntax, accentual systems and use of dialect evidence, by the most prominent specialists in the field."

Laurent Sagart, CRLAO, Paris

"Frellesvig & Whitman have brought together a distinguished group of linguistic experts who explore some of the most important questions surrounding the reconstruction of proto-Japanese. In doing so, they have produced a collection of essays that reflect recent scholarly thinking. The incorporation of Ryukyuan evidence in the findings is a noteworthy feature of this volume; and the presentation of the latest hypotheses about the proto-Japanese vowel system is excellent."

S. Robert Ramsey, University of Maryland

"This book makes the first impact of the 21st century on historical linguistics in Japan. In order to enjoy growth and development in our field, we must engage in dialogue with the authors of these contributions."

Satoshi Kinsui, Osaka University

"This collection is a landmark in the study of proto-Japanese, comprising contributions from many of the current leaders in the field."

Timothy Vance, University of Arizona

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