

Cambridge University
World Oral Literature Project
October 4th, 2010

'The Digital Museum Project for the Languages and Cultures of Ryukyu: The Case of Ikema Ryukyuan

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Goals of the Project

- To design a prototype for the web based museum for an endangered language that is easily updatable and extendable,
- to provide a forum in which local people can exhibit their language products, and
- to allow local people more access to their language, and help preserve the language and culture of the local community.

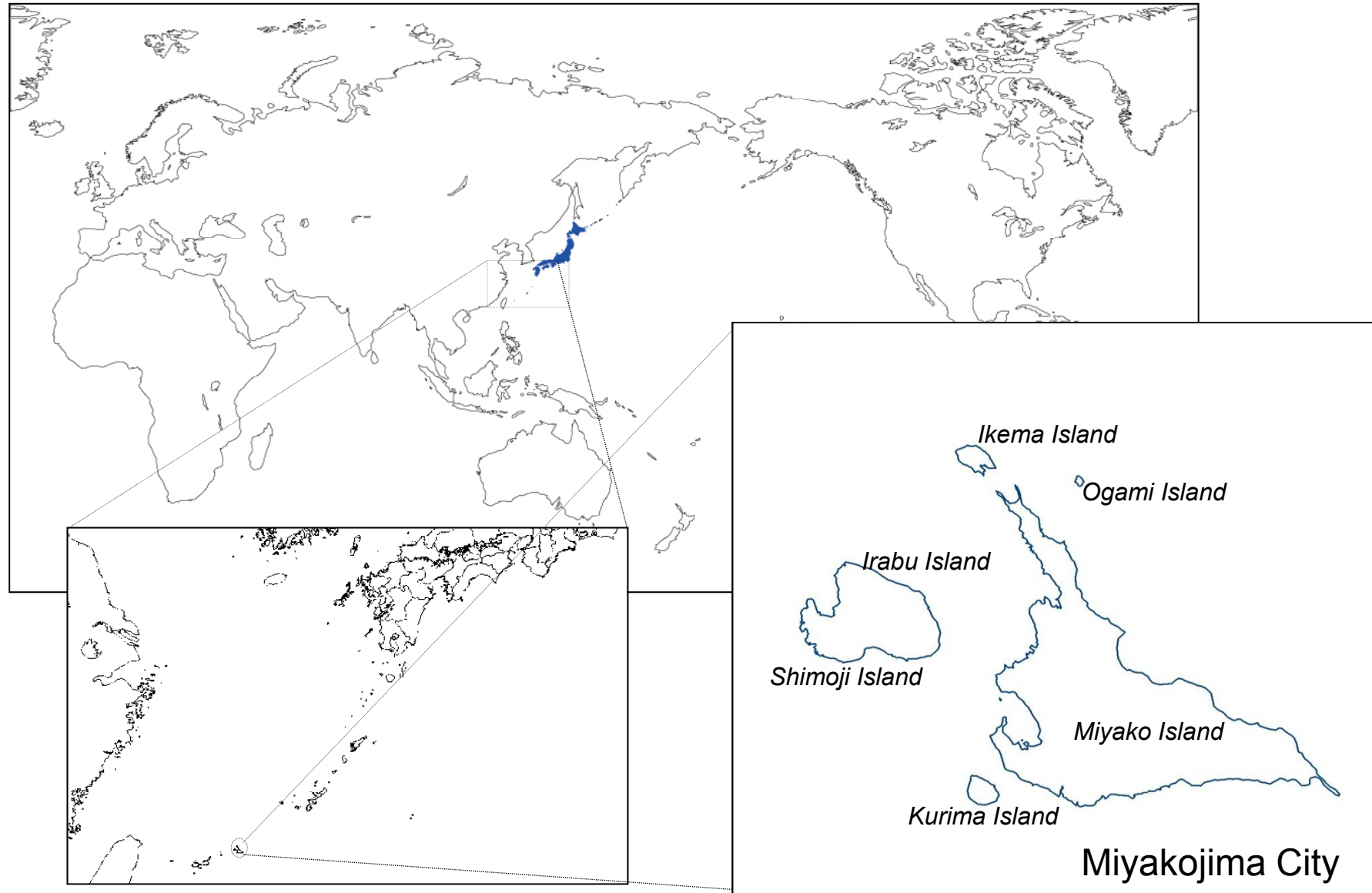
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3. The design features of the museum
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1. Overview of the language and the community

- Ikema is a subdialect of Miyako Ryukyuan, one of the 5 major dialects of Ryukyuan. Ryukyuan is the only language that has been proven to be genetically related to Japanese.
- Most of the dialects of Ryukyuan are endangered. Ikema is not an exception.

Map



Degree of endangerment:

Intergenerational Language Transmission

- **safe**: language is spoken by all generations; intergenerational transmission is uninterrupted
- **vulnerable**: most children speak the language, but it may be restricted to certain domains (e.g., home)
- **definitely endangered**: children no longer learn the language as mother tongue in the home
- **severely endangered**: language is spoken by grandparents and older generations; while the parent generation may understand it, they do not speak it to children or among themselves
- **critically endangered**: the youngest speakers are grandparents and older, and they speak the language partially and infrequently
- **extinct**: there are no speakers left

UNESCO Intangible Cultural Heritage - *Endangered languages*
<http://www.unesco.org/culture/ich/index.php?pg=00139>

Languages spoken in Japan

Safe: Japanese

definitely endangered: Okinawa, Kunigami,
Amami, Miyako, Hachijo

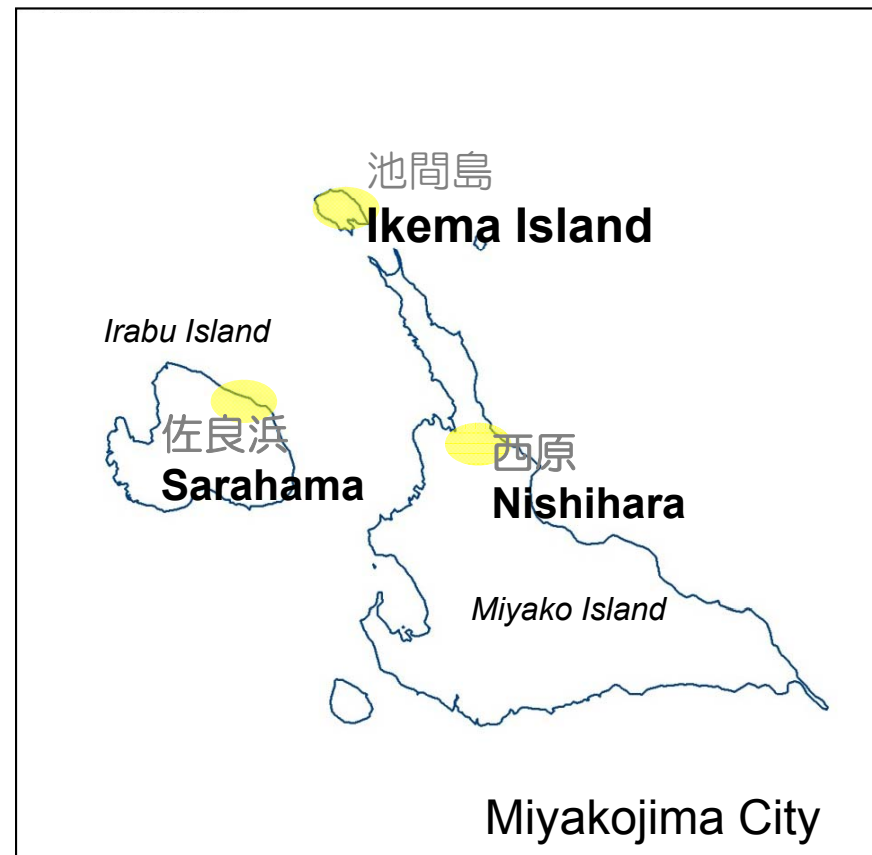
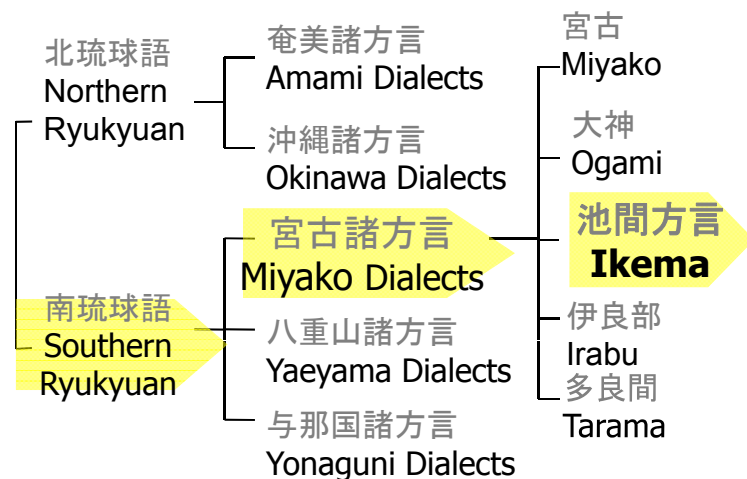
severely endangered: Yaeyama, Yonaguni

critically endangered: Ainu

**All the languages except for Ainu are
genetically related to Japanese**

Ikema Ryukyuan

- Spoken in Ikema Island, Sarahama in Irabu Island and Nishihara/Nishibe in Miyako Island
- Approx. 2000 speakers (fluent speaker are in the 50's or older)



2.1 About our research group

A two-year project (April 2008-March 2010) by a group of linguists and the Contents Production Team, the Department of Digital Content Research, Kyoto University, with help from anthropologists.

First year: Basic design of the proto-type of the exhibition space, rich interfaces

Second year: Construction of the updating system, and display of a full exhibition.

Consultant

- Nakama, Hiroyuki
 - The former principal of Miyako High School
 - Born in Nishihara in 1947

baga naayugyaa nakama
tidu ai. taukaa hii mai
nakama.

Kyuuya yabitunnnan izyaai
yagumi hukarasi munu



- ba=ga naa=yu=gyaa Nakama ti=du ai.
I=NOM name=ACC=TOP Nakama QT=FOC say
“My name is Nakama, which means '(keeping) company’”
- taukaa=hii=mai nakama.
alone=INS=also
“I am called 'company' although I am alone.”
- kyuu=ya yabitunnna=n izyaaii yagumi hukarasImunu.
today=TOP everyone=DAT mee=-CONT very happy
“I am very happy to meet you.”

2.2 About our research group: Fieldwork

Members : Department of Linguistics (Kyoto University), researchers from UCLA, University of Alberta, Kyusyu University, Stanford University.

- Fieldwork in Ikema, and other dialects in Miyako Islands since January 2006. Over 500 hours of recordings: natural discourse, interviews, elicitation sessions.

2.3 Digital Contents Production Team

- Specialties: Video shooting and editing, Illustration, Web design and Contents direction
- Activities: Support for Digital Contents Production for universities in Japan
 - Teaching Materials
 - Information Materials
 - Web, Video, 3DCGI, Poster etc

3. Design features of the Museum

Four layered web-based museum

Open space:

The exhibit space

Permanent and special exhibition room

Library and references

Closed space:

Closed library and archives

Data storage space

3.1 Closed access space

Closed library and archives:

Accessed only by closed members.

House past exhibits.

Files with transcription and other updated archiving information are stored here.

Data Storage Space:

Accessed only by our research group.

Raw data files with basic meta-data are stored here.

3.2 Open access space

Exhibit Space:

- Special exhibition room

Permanent exhibition room

- Design for the permanent room

Indexing by location

Indexing by time line

Examples (1)

Indexing by location



Click!

Activities

saitui

Map of Nishihara village

Preparing meals, Searching for food

- Saitui (Shrimp-fishing)
- nngii nu paa_aizyuu (Potato leaves dressed with vinegar and miso)

Cash income

- Tamunu (gathering firewood)

Children's play

- Opening a stall (at the village festivals)

▲ Return to Page Top
◀ Back to Previous Page

Movies : Land Culture

✕ Close

00:02 | 15:00

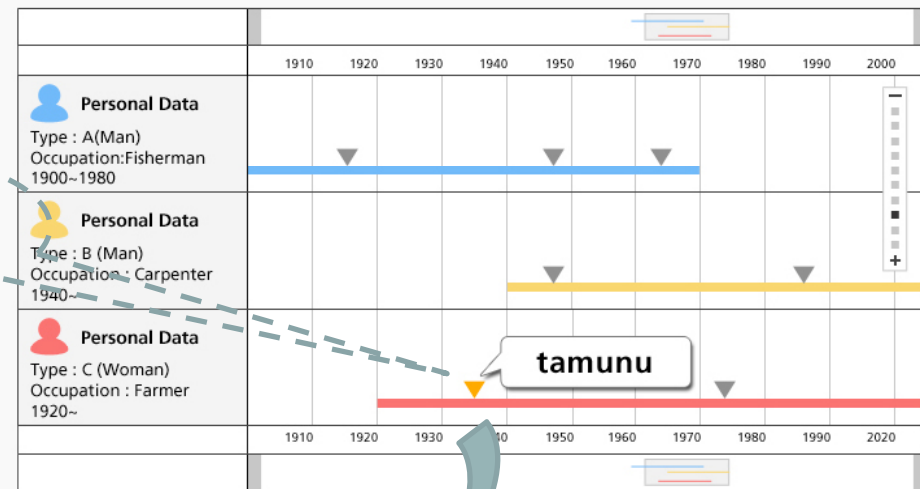
Examples (2)

Indexing by time line
(Life history)

Click!



Life History



Birth

- Pregnancy, childbirth
- Celebration of child's healthy growth

Childhood

- School
- Helping adults
- Playing

Adult

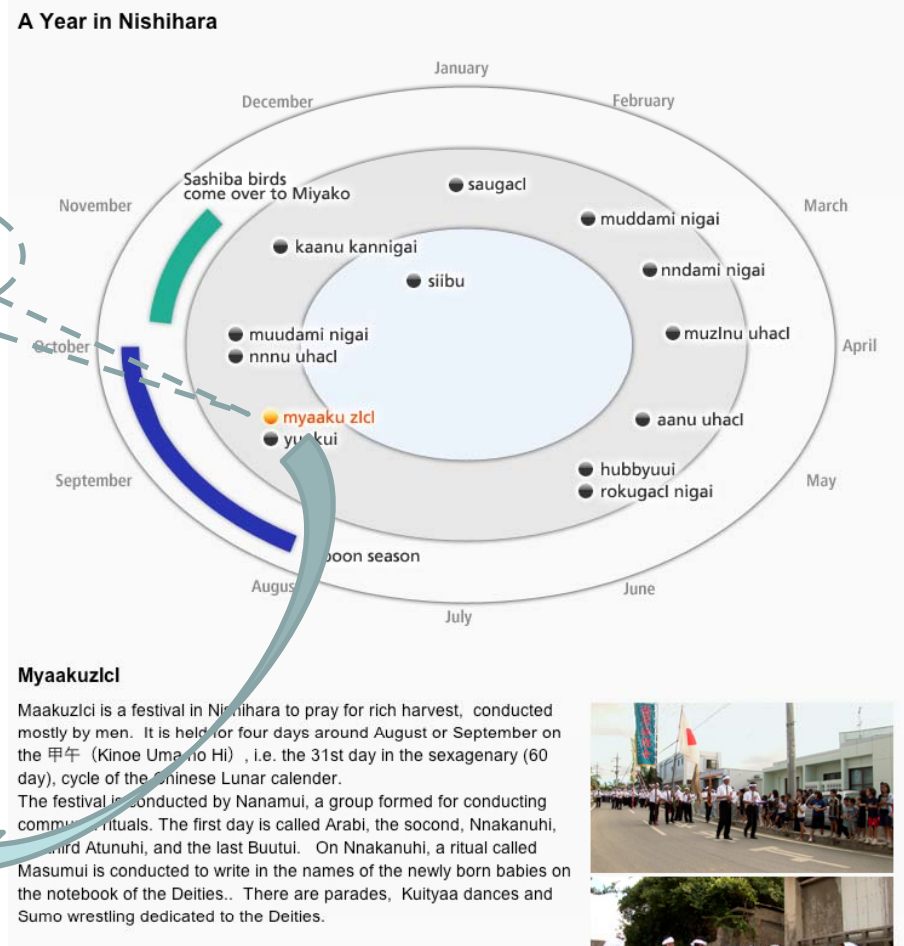
- Rites of passage
- Job
- Love
- Marriage
- Roles in family/relatives
- Roles in a community

Old Age

Examples (3)

Indexing by time line
(A year in Nishihara)

Click!



Why 'museum'?

- Why use the metaphor?
- Why do we need an exhibit space of a museum?

3.3 The purpose of the exhibit space

The purpose of the exhibit space is two folds:

- To provide a forum for local people.
- For the growth of the data files with more meta-data added.

3.3.1 To provide a forum for local people:

- Important events in the community are recorded for exhibits for younger generations to watch and learn, i.e. the recordings serve as manuals for performing the events:

E.g. The shooting of Myaakuzlcl, a festival for reporting to deities the names of the new-born babies for the year. 24 hours film edited to 45 minutes with explanations with the help of local people.

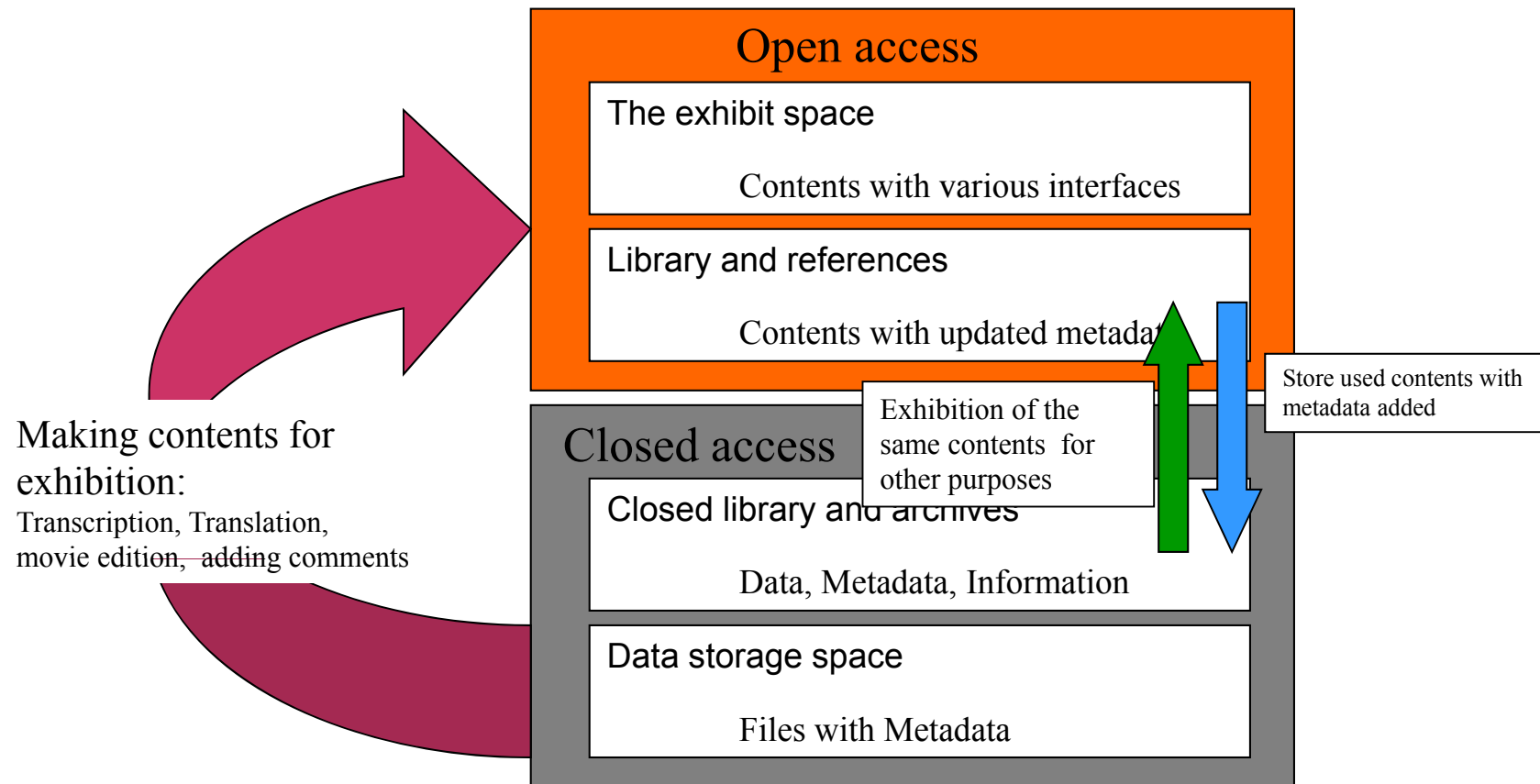
- The local people can exhibit their works and performances.
- Eg. Stories of Grandma Kanaru, a bilingual picture book for children written and narrated by Chieko Hanashiro, principal of a nursery school in Nishihara.
- E.g. The founding of Nishihara, a musical drama performed by local people.

3.3.2 Meta-data updating through exhibition

- The file coding made by researchers in one field can be utilized by researchers in other fields for their exhibits.
- Sound or movie files get more meta-data as they go from archives to exhibit space.

Metadata updating through Exhibition at the Museum

The function of the layers



4. Some special features of the Museum

- Easy updating
- Use of links

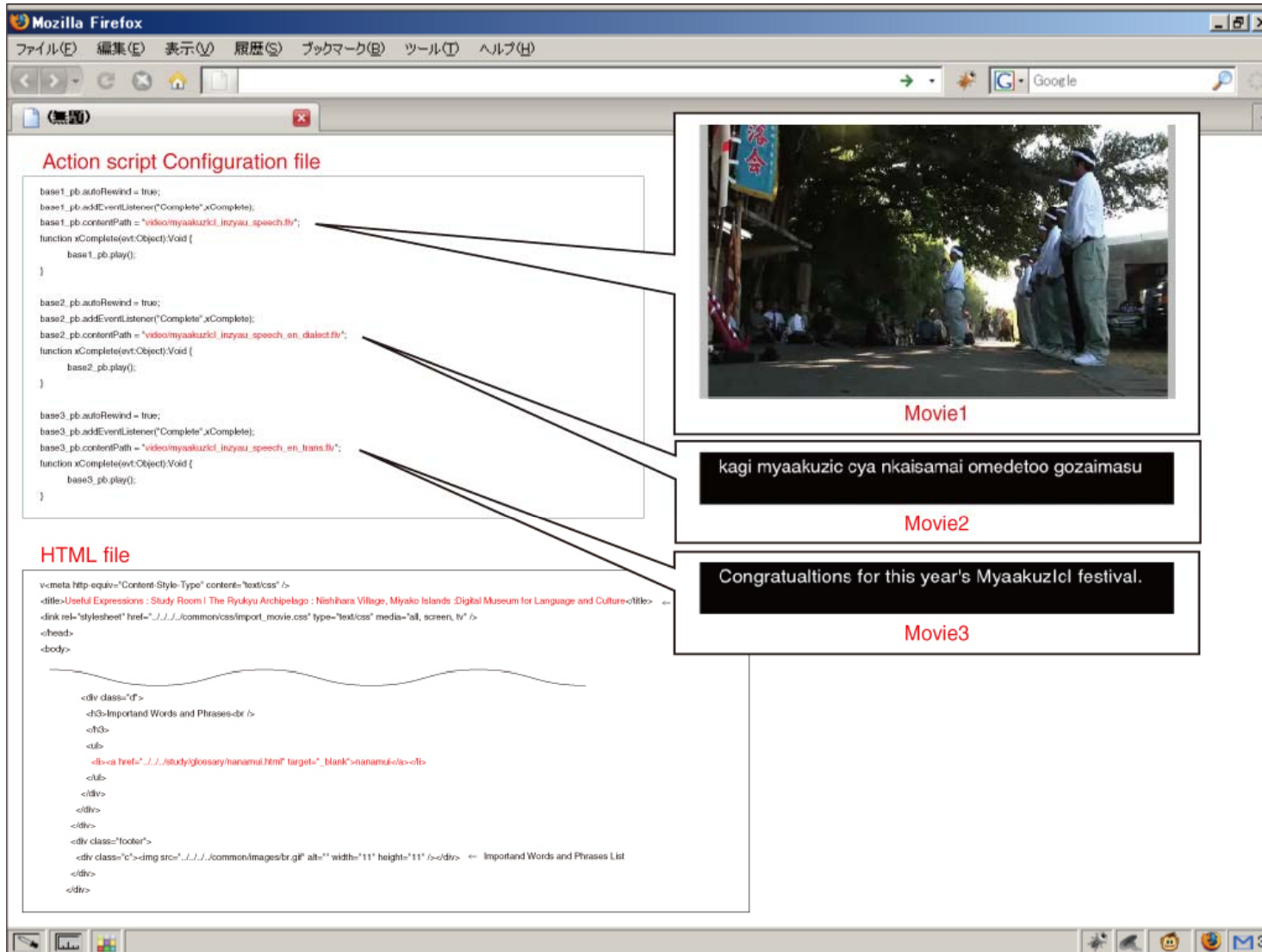
4.1 Updating

- Updating the site will be done through the internet by researchers themselves, by filling in the templates.
- The display is basically independent of the particular programs used.

The web is constructed according to the standards set by W3C (World Wide Web Consortium) as much as possible.

Updating

- Previous methods: manual rewriting of action scripts.



Updating

The method to be adopted for the Digital Museum:

Pages can be updated by filling the form

HTML file

Contents Title

Explanation

PDF Files

Importand Words and Phrases List

Link List

Action script Configuration file

Movie1

Movie2

Movie3

Updating

- The updated page looks the same as the one made by previous methods

Useful Expressions : Study Room | The Ryukyu Archipelago : Nishihara Village, Miyako Islands : Digital Museum for Language and Culture - Mozilla Firefox


file:///C:/Documents and Settings/CPTEndeavor/デスクトップ/_web/e/archives/movie/inzyauuya_speec


Useful Expressions : Study Ro... x Close

The speech of the representative of Inzyauuya

Explanation

Maakuzici is a festival in Nishihara to pray for rich harvest, conducted mostly by men. It is held for four days around August or September on the 甲午 (Kinoe Uma no Hi), i.e. the 31st day in the sexagenary (60 day), cycle of the Chinese Lunar calendar. The festival is conducted by Nanamui, a group formed for conducting communal rituals. The first day is called Arabi, the second, Nnakanuhi, the third Atunuhi, and the last Buutui. On Nnakanuhi, a ritual called Masumui is conducted to write in the names of the newly born babies on the notebook of the Deities.. There are parades, Kuityaa dances and Sumo wrestling dedicated to the Deities.

 [Text \(PDF\)](#)



ohayao gozaimasu

Good morning.

Subtitle on Nslmurafucl English Subtitle Subtitle off

Links

Importand Words and Phrases

4.2 Use of links

- One file can be used for various exhibits. Links to the same file are made from various places. See demo.
- One and the same file can be shown in different ways at different places.
See demo.

4.3 Other characteristics

- The system, once completed, can easily be used for creating sites for other languages and cultures.

5.1 Subtitle creation using ELAN

Useful Expressions : Study Room | The Ryukyu Archipelago : Nishihara Village, Miyako Islands : Digital Museum for Language and Culture

http://www.ryukyu.bun.kyoto-u.ac.jp/j/archives/movie/lec_nakama/lec_nakar

Useful Expressions : Study Room | ...

× このページを閉じる

仲間前宮古高校校長 池間語講義:挨拶

解説

テキスト(PDF)

korega ohayoogozaimasu ii

That is used for 'good morning,' you see.

Subtitle on Nslmurafucl English Subtitle Subtitle off

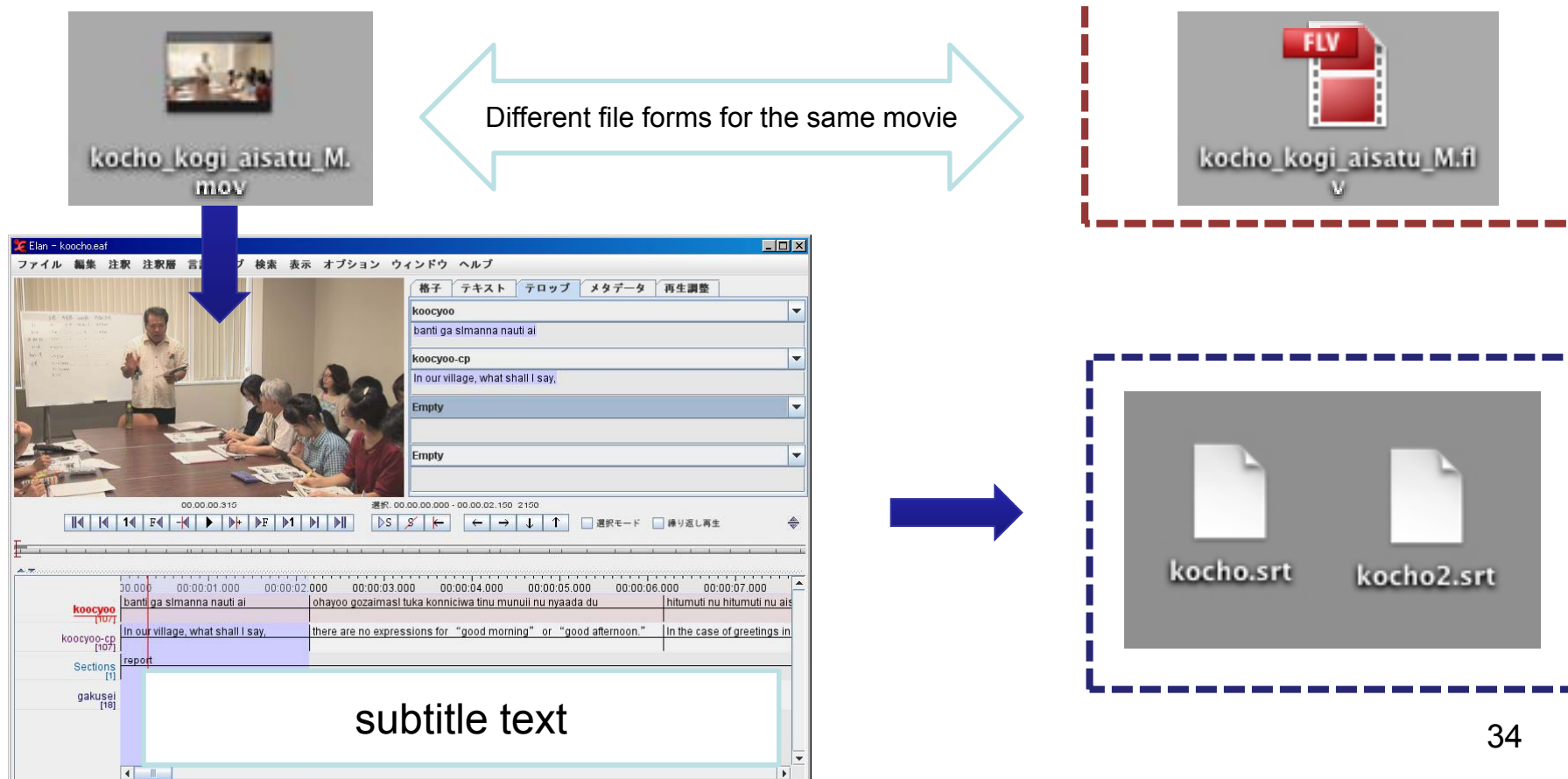
関連リンク

語句

完了

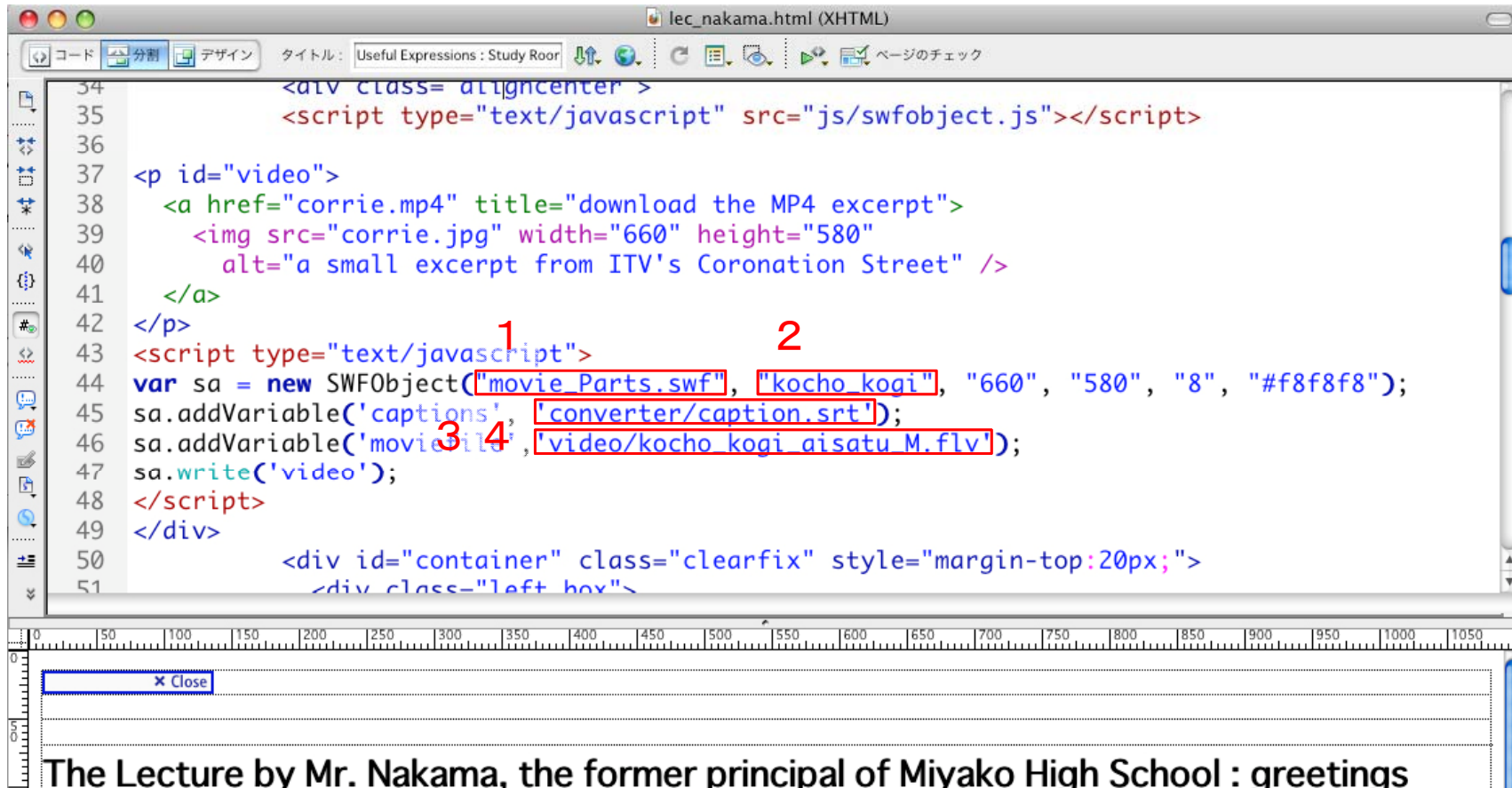
5.2 Subtitle creation using ELAN

- subtitle data using ELAN→.srt
- movie file 1: for subtitle data (.mp4/.mpeg/ .mov)
- movie file 2: for showing on the web (.flv)



5.4 Subtitle creation using ELAN

- Change template n HTML→create a new file→upload it to Web server
 1. specification of the player (JavaScript+Flash)
 2. title specification
 3. Caption file
 4. movie file path specification



```
34 <div class="aligncenter">
35   <script type="text/javascript" src="js/swfobject.js"></script>
36
37 <p id="video">
38   <a href="corrie.mp4" title="download the MP4 excerpt">
39     
41   </a>
42 </p>
43 <script type="text/javascript">
44   var sa = new SWFObject("movie_parts.swf", "kocho_kogi", "660", "580", "8", "#f8f8f8");
45   sa.addVariable('captions', 'converter/caption.srt');
46   sa.addVariable('movie_file', 'video/kocho_kogi_aisatu M.flv');
47   sa.write('video');
48 </script>
49 </div>
50 <div id="container" class="clearfix" style="margin-top:20px;">
51   <div class="left_box">
```

The Lecture by Mr. Nakama, the former principal of Miyako High School : greetings

5. Demonstration

Acknowledgements

- Thanks are due to
Hiroyuki Nakama, Chieko Hanashiro,
Tadashi Nakama and other people of
Nishihara Village
Yuka Hayashi, Chigusa Kurumada,
Tusyoshi Ono and Shoichi Iwasaki
The members of CPT