

KIKAI - RYUKYUAN

喜界一琉球語

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FACTS

- **Language name**

⇒ Kikai-Ryukyuan

- **Language family**

⇒ Japonic language family (the origin is unknown)

Other language is Japanese.

- **Spoken in**

⇒ Kikai island (Japan, Okinawa prefecture)

- **Number of speakers**

⇒ There is no available information.

the population of that island is 7303. (2015)

(Homepage of Kikai island)

- **Status**

⇒ Minority language

• writing

⇒Kana, Kanji (Chinese character)

☆Examples

English	Official Japanese	Kikai-Ryukyuan
• Mother	お母さん(Okaasan)	おっかん(Okkan)
• Today	今日(Kyou)	しゅう(Shuu)
• I	わたし(Watashi)	わん(Wan)
• Who are you?	あなたは誰? (Anata ha dare?)	うらー たるよ? (Uraa Taruyo?)

• Typological characterization

⇒SOV

• Varieties(dialects)

⇒2 dialects(North and South)

Map



Overall grade of endangerment(UNESCO)

⇒3: Definitely endangered

Proportion of speakers within the overall population

⇒2: A minority speak the language

The population of that island is decreasing.

Kikai-Ryukyuan is spoken only in Kikai island.

Intergenerational language transmission

⇒2: Over 50-year-old people can only speak that language

Younger generation cannot understand and speak Kikai-Ryukyuan.

Domains of language use

⇒3: Dwindling domains

At school and government, people use Japanese.

Response to new domains and media

⇒1: Minimal, there are some books. And there is a radio which is broadcasting in Kikai-Ryukyuan.

Availability of material for language education and literacy

⇒3: Children sometimes have a class for learning Kikai culture. But I'm not sure whether there is a text or dictionary.

Governmental and institutional attitudes and policies

⇒3: Passive assimilation

At school, there are some classes for learning culture, history, and language of Kikai-Ryukyuan. However not many.

Community's member's attitudes

⇒2: Some elderly people are trying to support the language.

They are sometimes teaching at elementary or junior high school.

Example

よいすら節 (Yoisura bushi)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wJpJoFaGJVQ&index=1&list=PL28D7304F7918FB99>

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