

## JOY AND CHALLENGE OF TEXTBOOK WRITING

Fumiko Koide  
(Himeji Dokkyou University)

### Textbooks I have written

Of the two types of textbooks, i.e., for intensive teaching and for survival skills, I have written only the former type.

- ① 1963 Modern Japanese for University Students, Part I (ICU)
  - ② 1963-65 Let's Learn Japanese, vol.1-3 (Hitachi Co. Ltd.)
  - ③ 1973 Easy Japanese vol. I (Toppan Co. Ltd.)  
1975 Easy Japanese vol. II  
1985 Easy Japanese vpl. III
  - ④ 1985 日本語 (にほんご/にっぽんご) (開拓者)
- ① was the first of its kind for one-academic-year intensive university courses.  
② was for radio broadcasting. ③ had three volumes. This series was written for general learners, and so Japanese examples were rendered in Romaji script. While ② did not have any reading and writing exercises, I insisted that ③ contain these skills in addition to speaking and listening. The title for ④ exemplified two possible readings of the 日本語.

### Major Content of Elementary Japanese Texts

The syllabus design of these textbooks has been constant: a set of basic structures and vocabulary (1,200 - 1,500) and 500 Kanji, a combination of which appear in the model conversation series. Pronunciation aids such as accent and de vocalization markers were also added. Stylistic variation was presented, with emphasis on the desu/masu style variety.

Supplementary materials such as pronunciation and writing exercises as well as recorded tapes are necessary components of the textbook. I have tried my best to complete the set.

### Advice for Young Teachers

In retrospect, I would like to recommend that young teachers should wait before compiling textbooks until they have had enough teaching experience. I would recommend that they use the many textbooks on the market, comparing the pros and cons of each until they have established their own teaching style.

### Future Plans

I would like to study improved methods of presenting intermediate to advanced Japanese materials, and publish improved textbooks. I would also like to research audio-visual materials.