

## **LING250 / ENG250: EURASIAN LINGUISTICS (3 credits)**

Winter term, 2010 (Monday & Tuesday, 9:00-10:15, 10:30-11:45)

Instructor: KANNO Hiroömi

Office:

Office Hour: (Monday) 14:00-17:00

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### **Course Description**

This course is designated, in relation to the Korean, Chinese, Mongolian, Russian languages etc. taught in AIU as the courses for foreign language communication, on the basis of following facts:

Eurasian world situated in the north of Japan is formed on the background of Altaic, Sino-Tibetan, European languages.

Altaic languages containing Mongolian languages of which the Mongolian language is and was the most important as the official language of the Mongol Empire (Yuan 元 Dynasty of China belonged to this), Tungus languages spread chiefly in Siberia of which the Manchurian language was important as the official language of Qing 清 Dynasty of China, and Turkic languages spread in Central Asian countries which were separated from Soviet Union in 1991 and in Xinjiang 新疆 Uighur Autonomous Region in China and in Turkey. The Japanese and the Korean are adjacent to these languages. Altaic languages are the most popular in their linguistic structure.

Of Sino-Tibetan languages the most influential is the Chinese that deeply influenced Altaic languages, the Korean, the Japanese and the Vietnamese. The Chinese is the most popular for Japanese in cultural relations. The four languages: the Chinese, the Korean, the Japanese and the Vietnamese are the linguistic resources for Chinese character cultural area 漢字文化圈 though they belong to the different linguistic types.

In the south of Central Asia lies Iran, the language of which resembles the languages of Afghanistan and Tajikistan and influenced greatly many adjacent languages. Iranian languages along with Indian ones form the old layer of Indo-European linguistic family. These areas were deeply influenced by the Arabic, the language of Moslems and they form Persian and Arabic cultural areas.

The Russian language spread in so vast areas: Siberia, Altai, Ural, Russia, being affected by Altaic and Iranian languages, keeps well the features of Indo-European linguistic family as same as the essential languages in Europe: the English, the French, the German and so on. Europe is a great individual cultural area based on the classical languages: Greek and Latin. The English and other European languages contributed greatly to modernization of Japan: many neologisms in Chinese character created by

Japanese on the bases of Chinese logograms as the translations of European notions in Meiji Restoration were reimported to China, Korea and Vietnam. It means that Chinese character cultural area 漢字文化圈 is closely connected to the procedure of modernization of Far East.

This course gives an outline of these languages in the fields of basic linguistic units: phonemes, scripts, grammar etc. in connection to the cultures behind them.

### **Course Objectives**

1. To gain basic notions in general linguistics (traditional but not Chomskian) chiefly with the materials of the English and the Japanese.
2. To deepen understanding of Eurasian world closely connected mutually in linguistic and cultural relations.
3. To understand importance of many sociolinguistic problems in Eurasian world.

### **Prerequisites**

None.

### **Evaluation**

1. Final Examination : 70%.
2. Attendance: 30%.

### **Course Materials**

Lecturer will deliver materials.

### **Schedule**

Week 1 (12 Jan.): The languages of Eurasian world.

Week 2 (18, 19 Jan.): What is a language? The elements of a language.

Week 3 (25, 26 Jan.): Genealogy of languages. Typology of languages.

Week 4 (1,2 Feb.): Cultural Areas and languages.

Week 5 (8,9 Feb.): Phonemes. Phonological contrast of Eurasian languages.

Week 6 (15,16 Feb.): Chinese-Japanese-Korean correspondences of Chinese character phonetic representation 漢字音.

Week 7 (22,23 Feb.): Socio-linguistic problems (1).

Week 8 (1 March): Socio-linguistic problems (2).

(2 March): Final Test