

Tasaku Tsunoda

## **Japanese participation in the documentation and revitalisation of Australian Aboriginal languages**

The paper will look at a number of related aspects of my research experiences in Australia and Japan of Aboriginal languages. I will discuss the progression of my research engagement, beginning with my field work in Queensland and Western Australia as a Monash student, then my current fieldwork in Western Australia, leading up to my current involvement in the revival movement of the Warrongo language of Queensland.

What I can say is largely at the micro-level, i.e. my own individual and personal activities and thoughts. For example, it is due to the efforts of the relevant Aboriginal Australians that I was able to have an MA degree, a PhD degree, the job and income I have now. As another example, my research as a Monash student was enabled by a Monash graduate scholarship and grants from the then Australian Institute of Aboriginal Studies (Canberra) – all Australian taxpayers' money. That is, I owe Australia a great deal. It is my duty to do something in return. This may be a fine example of a good Australia-Japan relationship.

I will briefly compare the Australian Aboriginal language situation with the Ainu language situation. I must confess that I have no first-hand information about the Ainu language situation, and I will have to draw on work by other people.

I will briefly locate my work in the global context of language endangerment and revitalization – with reference to my book, Tsunoda, Tasaku, *Language endangerment and language revitalization*, Berlin: Mouton de Gruyter, 2005. With the permission from Warrongo people, I teach the Warrongo language at University of Tokyo. The School of Indigenous Australian Studies of James Cook University has been of great assistance to the Warrongo revival movement, and the school has appointed me as an Adjunct Professor.