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Author(s)	KUROIWA, Yasuhiro
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“Military Mail for a Linguist: Soldiers Who Support and Profit from the Language Studies of Masamichi Miyatake”

Yasuhiro KUROIWA

In this report, I will introduce the translations of military mail from the “South” addressed to Masamichi Miyatake (1912–1944), a linguist of the prewar period. Miyatake was born on “Shun-sho-en,” a long-established ink-manufacturing firm, and was an amateur linguist throughout his life. I have already reviewed Miyatake’s achievement in the study of Esperanto, Palauan, Malay, Javanese, and Tagalog in my work titled “Miyatake Masamichi, ‘A Dilettante Linguist’: The Life of a Highbrow in Imperial Japan” (The *Shirin* or The Journal of History vol. XCIV no. 1, January 2011). The materials cited below are letters from Indonesia (Java and Sumatra), and in them the senders discuss the Malayan language. Unfortunately, none of the letters have any postmarks, but we know that they were all posted after March 1942, when the Japanese Army put Indonesia under military rule; therefore, they would have been censored.

In general, military mail is sent from soldiers to their parents, relatives, and friends. However, I was not able to identify the relationships between Miyatake and the senders of the letters, which are preserved in Nara City Shiryo Hozonkan Museum. Judging from their content, it is likely that the senders are either graduates of the Tenri School of Foreign Languages, where Miyatake also studied, or students of the Malayan language workshops in Osaka and Nara, where Miyatake taught the language. Miyatake published his first work on Malay, *Study of Malay Modern Sentences and Dialects* (published by the Research Group on South Seas at the department of Malay, the Osaka School of Foreign Languages in March 1936). After this work, the following titles were published one after another until 1943, the year before his death:

- *A Sequel to Study of Malay Modern Sentences and Dialects* (Research Group on South Seas at the department of Malay, the Osaka School of Foreign Languages, July 1936)
- *Kamoes Bahasa Nippon-Indonésia (Japanese-Malay Concise Dictionary)*. Okazakiya

Shoten, June 1938)

- *Malay Dictionary of New Words* (Research Group on South Seas at the department of Malay, the Osaka School of Foreign Languages, October 1938)
- *The New Handy Guidebook of the Malayan Language* (Osaka Shogyo Hokoku Renmei, June 1941)
- *The New Concise Malay Dictionary* (Ko-a Kyokai, ed. Published by the Aikoku Shimbun Company, March 1942)
- *Daitoa Language Library: Malay* (The Asahi Shimbun Company, April 1942)
- *Standard Malay Course vol. I-III* (co-authored with Akiie Sonoda. Yokohama Shoko Kaigi-sho, from November 1942 to March 1943)
- *Advanced Studies on the Malayan Language: Dialects and Newspapers* (Okazakiya Shoten, February 1943)
- *Kamoes Bahasa Merajoe (Indonesia)~Nippon Jang Lengkap (Comprehensive Dictionary of the Standard Malay)*. Co-authored with Akiie Sonoda. Hakubunkan, July 1943)

The word “Japanese-Malay dictionary” in Letter 1, 2, and 10b probably means *Kamoes Bahasa Nippon-Indonésia*, and “two sets of Malay language studies” in Letter 1, the two volumes of *Study of Malay Modern Sentences and Dialects*.

As a whole, these letters tell us that the soldiers were trying their best to teach and diffuse Japanese using the Japanese textbook and other reading materials, as well as the fact that they were very grateful for the usefulness of Miyatake’s books, especially dictionaries. It should be noted, however, that they were not mere receivers of knowledge; Yamanaka and Azumi sent local newspapers and magazines to Miyatake, who strived to collect artifacts of “living Malayan.” Azumi, who sent most of the letters to Miyatake, also sent many newspapers, magazines and dictionaries published in Java, asking for the expansion of *Kamoes Bahasa Nippon-Indonésia*. He also introduced many new Malay words to Miyatake as materials for the extension. As we can see in Letter 14 to 19, these new words are related to military affairs, and some of them were originally in Japanese.

Azumi naively believed that the Japanese language was going to “prevail” in Indonesia and expel Dutch, the language of the former colonial power. In reality, however, according to *Kokugo no Kindaishi (Contemporary History of the Japanese Language)*. Toshiaki Yasuda, Chuokoron-Shinsha Inc., Dec 2006), the Japanese language did not prevail to any great extent in Indonesia, even in the field of elementary education, and Indonesians who spoke Japanese did not greatly increase in number. The fact is probably that Azumi did not realize that the Japanese military words, which he reported as the evidence of Japanese prevalence, were naturalized in Indonesia without difficulty under the Japanese military rule. Moreover, as to spelling in Malay, Azumi had never referred to the “Daitoa style,” which Miyatake devised, but ironically, employed the Dutch style instead.

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Despite a slight exaggeration such as that described above, this military mail is one of the most valuable examples of how the knowledge about “the South,” that is, knowledge about the Malayan language, was cultivated with the support of local voices.

Military Mail for Mr. Miyatake (different senders)

All letters were sent to Masamichi Miyatake at Nishi Mikado-cho 8 Nara City (only Letter 3 was sent to Masamichi Miyatake and everybody). They were sent by military post and were stamped with the censor’s seal. A and b of Letters 10–12, and 19 contain related information, and are therefore referenced with same numbers.

【Koichi Ito】

- Letter 1 (picture postcard)

The *Tomii* 富 4084th Troops of the Sumatra Expeditionary Force
Sugimura Squad Koichi Ito

(text)

It is the season of *koinobori* [carp streamers] swimming in the blue of the sky at home. Nara City is said to have changed a lot these days, though the transition of nature still shows vestiges of the previous era. Here, we have summer all year-round and *mandi* is done every day as usual.

Today, your Japanese-Malay dictionary and two sets of Malay language studies arrived, and I have already had a glance at them. I truly appreciate your kindness. In fact, now I have the Japanese-Malay dictionary in addition to your “Concise Malay-Japanese Dictionary” I bought several days ago. They will come in handy.

Studying superficially during my spare time does not improve my language ability as I wish. The senior soldier who is from *Tenri*, Mr. Nakahira, is teaching Malay to our troops here as well. My hat goes off to you, and I assume you continue success with the book you have published as a result of years of hard work. If you could add terms used in the newspaper and idioms in the new dictionary, I believe it will prove itself to be even more effective. I would like to again thank you for your courtesy.

How is Mr. Kawasaki? In recent news from Mrs. Iida, Iida has retired from *Nissen* 日染 and now operates his own business. I will write again, and I would be delighted to hear from you as well. Please send your reply to the *Tomii* 4050th Troops of the Sumatra Expeditionary Force Yamada Squad.

- Letter 2 (picture postcard)

The *Tomii* 4050th Troops of the Sumatra Expeditionary Force
Yamada Squad Koichi Ito

YASUHIRO KUROIWA

(text)

It was delightful to read your letter. My gratitude for the Japanese-Malay dictionary was sent in the previous mail. It has been useful. I offer my congratulations on your industriousness in recent days. I believe you are on the way to success because of your diligent work. I pray for your further effort.

I would like to know the name of the book published by *Tjerdas*. I saw your English-Malay dictionary. I heard Mr. Kawasaki had his book about Dutch published. How many of the “Daitoa Soshō” has Asahi published so far? I currently use Volume 1 to 3 of *Tadashii Nippon-go* (Standard Japanese). I don’t have enough time to progress as I desire.

Please take care of yourself during the changes in season.

【Masao Matsumoto】

- Letter 3 (picture postcard)

The *Yodo* 淀 4077th Troops of the Sumatra Expeditionary Force
Soroida Squad Masao Matsumoto

(text)

I would like to ask how everyone is doing. I have been striving as always, so you have no need to worry about me. Thank you so much for your kindness the other day. I have been pursuing my study in conversation with locals, and your dictionary is always in my pocket during my days off. My skill has improved significantly of late. I don’t really have any problems in daily conversation now, which I believe is due to your support. Please visit Matsuzuka when you have some time. Sachiko will be happy to see you all.

Just wanting to update my status.

【Shin Yamanaka】

- Letter 4 (All displayed in *katakana*)

Sumatra north region, care of State Department of the East Coast,
Railway Bureau Shin Yamanaka

(text)

I received a postcard dated March 2nd. Thank you as always for taking time for me in your busy schedule. I’ll ask Mr. Adinegoro to send a copy of the *Kita-Sumatera-Shimbun* [North Sumatra newspaper] as well. We have not yet received the *Kamoes Bahasa Merajoe (Indonesia)~Nippon Jang Lengkap*, the world’s largest Malay dictionary. There are many of your “*New Concise Malay Dictionary*”; however, there are only a few *Kamoes Bahasa Nippon-Indonésia*. Both the Japanese and Indonesians are having problems.

Especially for the Indonesians, I believe that a Japanese-Malay dictionary written only in *katakana* is preferable. I don’t see many newly printed books or magazines here. I will keep an eye out for them ... Using Malay in communication between my homeland and Malay has

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been permitted in recent days. Would you mind sending some materials to introduce Japan? My friends, Mwardi and Anwar, have already sent you a postcard.

Thank you for your support.

Best regards,

• Letter 5 (All displayed in *katakana*)

Sumatra north region, care of State Department of the East Coast,
Railway Bureau Shin Yamanaka

(text)

I am Indonesian.

My name is Anwar. I am in [Blacked out]. I like learning Japanese. But there are no good language books. Please send me various Japanese books in *katakana* and Indonesian. I will pay for the cost of the books when they arrive.

Indonesians know of you. And they know you speak Indonesian well. So, I am sending you this letter. My friends would also like to get many books.

Thank you for your help.

Goodbye.

Anwar [signature]

Autumn has arrived; the autumn sky is blue and clear, and horses grow fat and sturdy in autumn. I'm remembering the fall in the ancient capital of Nara, and I am praying for your health and prosperity.

As I informed you in the previous mail, we are starving for reading materials for Indonesians here. “Anwar”, who wrote this letter to you, is a friend of mine. He is a hardworking, respectable and progressive man. I would like to ask you to help make his wishes come true. Thank you in advance for your support.

The letter was typed by him. The letters of the [printing] machine were brought from Japan and replaced here.

• Letter 6 (All displayed in *katakana*)

Sumatra north region, care of the State Department of the East Coast,
Railway Bureau Shin Yamanaka

(text)

We received two postcards that were sent at the end of October. Thank you very much for taking time out of your busy schedule to write me. Since we have no reading materials for Indonesians here, we are hoping to receive them as soon as possible. Your dictionary has been very useful as it is the only “road-map” we have here. We have asked the newspaper

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publisher to send the *Melati* (Children's newspaper published by the Kita-Sumatera-Shimbun Publishing Company) since November. We would like you to look at the Katakana column we have set up.

We have been trying to make some changes to an unused Linotype so we can type *kana* characters. Also, the "Maraigo-no-kanagaki-an [Ideas to write Malay in *kana*]" published in the August issue of "Hikari" magazine was very helpful. It may be disrespectful to give you any advice, but from my experience in the reconstruction of the Linotype, I recommend to use "ラ°" [*ra* with the semi-voiced sound symbol] for the underlined characters of the "*ra* ラ" column of Japanese syllabary. When we revised the name of the train station, we decided to change "*ga* ガ" to "*n'ga* ンガ".

Good-bye.

【Kazuo Azumi】

• Letter 7

The *Osamu* 治 1602th Troops of the Java Expeditionary Force (*Fu* 付)

Kazuo Azumi

(text)

Since many books, such as Malay and Japanese reference books, have been published, I am planning to send them to you.

- Japanese-Malay-English 3-language dictionary was published in *Shonan* (Singapore).
- Also, there is Malay-Malay dictionary.

Other dictionaries are those for conversational level. I delivered three sets of new books issued here to someone who is returning home, so please get them from him. There are so many restrictions except for communication, so I really appreciate receiving nice goods from you.

Best regards,

• Letter 8

The *Osamu* 1602th Troops of the Java Expeditionary Force (*Fu*)

Kazuo Azumi

(text)

With an increase in enthusiasm to learn Japanese, demand for Japanese-Malay dictionaries seems to have been increasing among locals, especially the younger generation. There are similar books to the one written by Mr. Jūro Takei, but they sold out immediately.

I would like to request the publication of Japanese-Malay dictionaries with an increase in the number of words as much as possible. I would ask people who are returning to the mainland to take back any kind dictionary published here.

Best regards,

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• Letter 9

The *Osamu* 1602th Troops of the Java Expeditionary Force (*Fu*)

Kazuo Azumi

(text)

I expect that you have been increasingly busy these days. Are you able to obtain any local newspapers? I just wanted to ask. I will look for a person going back to the homeland as a convenient way of delivering them to you.

Have you enlarged the “Japanese-Malay Concise Dictionary”? Of course, words have been changing, since then, so I would like you to add many new words in the upcoming dictionary.

Professor Kunzō Uehara should have published a Japanese-Malay dictionary as well. If you have his new publication, please send me one.

Just for your information.

Best regards,

• Letter 10a

The *Osamu* 1602th Troops of the Java Expeditionary Force (*Fu*)

Kazuo Azumi

(text)

Thank you for your package dated March 17th. I would like to inform you of the receipt of your dictionary published by Hakubunkan and *Hoppo Gengo Gaisetsu* [The Northern Region Language Review] and the others. I send my deepest appreciation to you.

The writers for southern region language, such as Mr. Shizuo Matsuoka and a newly budding writer, Mr. Kunio Yanagita, (by the way, they are brothers) and I are from the same town; lived across the river.

I will take care of your request. I totally agree with your thoughts on self-study of Japanese and reference books so [continue into Letter 10b]

• Letter 10b

The *Osamu* 1602th Troops of the Java Expeditionary Force (*Fu*)

Kazuo Azumi

(text)

I would be happy if the Japanese-Malay dictionary (written by you) could be distributed to everyone.

There are a few linguistic texts and pronunciation reference books in Japanese, but they are too difficult for the locals. I went to visit and see the local theatre teams for the last few days, so I neglected writing to everyone.

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- Letter 11a

The *Osamu* 1602th Troops of the Java Expeditionary Force (*Fu*)

Kazuo Azumi

(text)

Dear Sir,

I thank you for your letter. I received it today. There is nobody except me who knows about your “Comprehensive Dictionary of the Malayan Language” in this region, so I suspect that they would be delayed in arriving.

It resembles *Saito’s Idiomatic English-Japanese Dictionary* (Hidesaburo Saito) closely in regard to the use of readable print and rich content. On the other hand, against this rapid progress of the Empire of Japan, [continue into Letter 11b]

- Letter 11b

The *Osamu* 1602th Troops of the Java Expeditionary Force (*Fu*)

Kazuo Azumi

(text)

there are many sentences that are hard to understand in the current Malay writings, and difficulties for those who work here are beyond imagination. The only thing that can satisfy our actual needs is your writing. I would like to congratulate you on your success as well as express my deepest gratitude.

Together with the *Study of Malay Modern Sentences and Dialects* issued in July 1936, you have no idea how satisfied I am.

Best regards,

- Letter 12a

The *Osamu* 1602th Troops of the Java Expeditionary Force (*Fu*)

Kazuo Azumi

(text)

Dear Sir,

I received the letter dated October 15th. I will send the *Pandji Poestaka* (magazine) with a person who is returning to the homeland. There is only one type of Huaqiao Newspaper (Malay version), and I will send it as well.

As long as circumstances permit, I would like to take the local newspapers and other writings back to the homeland as a reference for Malay language researchers, and people who need them; however, it is unfortunate that there are sometimes a few narrow-minded people. How joyful it would be for extensive research to be continually published. [continue into Letter 12b]

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• Letter 12b

The *Osamu* 1602th Troops of the Java Expeditionary Force (*Fu*)

Kazuo Azumi

(text)

I hear that *Kamoes Bahasa Nippon-Indonésia* now contains 12,000 words, so please send me the new version. The one by Mr. Uehara will be published for sure. I know that the lecture by Mr. Uehara will be popular.

I felt happy when I saw the way you wrote the date as 18.10.15. I always write 18 (year) 10 (month) 15 (day), but it was recently pointed out by one of the young men here said that it should be (year) (day) (month). I explained that there are many ways to write the dates, but it is hard to change old habits.

Did you know that Professor Bachee is the head of a Japanese language school? I will write you again.

Best regards,

• Letter 13

The *Osamu* 1602th Troops of the Java Expeditionary Force (*Fu*)

Kazuo Azumi

(text)

Dear Sir,

I received your letter dated November 30th. I believe you have hosted Mr. Sukarno. I gratefully received the book “Languages of the World” today. We cannot send any packages from here at this time, so I am very disappointed that I am unable to send you any newly published books.

I would like to ask you to provide your guidance to Mr. Yoshizawa. I believe that it is more valid and effective to study languages in Japan.

Again, thank you for your kindness.

Best regards,

• Letter 14

The *Osamu* 1602th Troops of the Java Expeditionary Force (*Fu*)

Kazuo Azumi

(text)

I wanted to ask a favour of a local nurse at a hospital the other day, but I was not sure what I should call her. The use of the word *zuster* (nurse) is outdated in view of the current situation. I thought of calling her a *baboe* (Some English dictionaries explain it as “nurse”), but it may have been impolite, so I called her *kangofu-san* in Japanese to which she responded cheerfully. I was told that they are proud to be called *kangofu*. I felt encouraged and happy.

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Best regards,

- Letter 15

The *Osamu* 1602th Troops of the Java Expeditionary Force (*Fu*)

Kazuo Azumi

(text)

I discovered the other day that “tōkeikikai sjoerisjo (statistic machine repair shop)” was the correct translation. The word *tokei* (watch) was shown on a large glass board, and the word *kikai* (machine) was on the next one. I was embarrassed when I asked for a watch repair.

The Japanese language has become very popular, and many words of the original European languages have been changed to Japanese ones. Children use *bertaiso* for the verb “exercise” with the word *ber* added.

This happened in the main street so I am sure that there are many similar mistakes and embarrassment at these shops.

- Letter 16

The *Osamu* 1602th Troops of the Java Expeditionary Force (*Fu*)

Kazuo Azumi

(text)

The new play called “Haroewanis [Haroem manis]” was shown on the stage. A couple gets into an argument because the girl doesn’t want to marry a man who does not want to be a soldier. But the man happened to be a cadet of the volunteer army, so the story ended happily.

They use the phrase, *tiga soudara monjet* (three brother monkeys), in one of their lines. This is a joke that means “see no evil, hear no evil, say no evil” as the three brothers. Although it is a counter-intelligence slogan, it may become a popular Malay phrase.

Best regards,

- Letter 17

The *Osamu* 1602th Troops of the Java Expeditionary Force (*Fu*)

Kazuo Azumi

(text)

The word *Tjoereido* 忠靈堂, which belongs in the neologism group, is used directly in the daily newspaper. However, there are some people who don’t understand the *Tjoereido* due to a lack of explanation and recognition. So, they have to memorise the entire Japanese word.

In case of neologism, I recommend adding the explanatory meaning, “Goedoeng Soetji

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tempat menjimpang [menjimpan] aboe pahlawan Nippon (Shrine to keep the remains of Japanese heroes)” below the word. Of course, this is just an idea of mine, and you may think it is not necessary.

Best regards,

• Letter 18

The *Osamu* 1602th Troops of the Java Expeditionary Force (*Fu*)

Kazuo Azumi

(text)

With regards to the word related to soldiers, the latest trend is shown as follows;

1. *Serdadoe*: this word was used by the former government and it means employees to provide services for their salary. This term is rarely used now.
2. *Peradjoerit*: similar to those of Japanese samurai; natives feel honoured to be called *peradjoerit*.
3. *Heiho* 兵補: Auxiliary troops. Similarly, natives feel the highest honour to be called *heiho* rather than *serdadoe*.
4. *Barisan soekarela*: Volunteer army
5. *Pembela Tanah Air*: Local guard) which are what they are most proud of

The word *serdadoe* meaning soldier seems to be fading out day by day.

Best regards,

• Letter 19a

The *Osamu* 1602th Troops of the Java Expeditionary Force (*Fu*)

Kazuo Azumi

(text)

In our daily conversation in a special community, there are many words that we no longer need to use in Malay. Instead of explaining to youngsters over and over, they seem to understand better in Japanese.

1. Exercise-*Kyōren* (*latihan*); Individual exercise-*latihan perseorangan*
2. Shooting-*Syageki* (*menembak*); Prone firing-*Neuti* [*Nemti*] (or *menembak tiarap*)
(continue [into Letter 19b])

• Letter 19b

The *Osamu* 1602th Troops of the Java Expeditionary Force (*Fu*)

Kazuo Azumi

(text)

Also, military words such as squad (*butai*), platoon (*syōtai*) company (*tyūtai*) are used quite comfortably by local guard volunteer army (*Bōei giyūgun*).

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The following rules are applied for spelling.

	Print A	Print B
Highest commander	<i>Saik<u>o</u> Sikikan</i>	Saik <u>oo</u> Sikikan
State	<i>Sj<u>oe</u></i>	<i>sy<u>u</u> or sy<u>uu</u></i>
The first ○ ○ ○	<i>Dai Ichi or Dai I</i>	<i>Dai-iti</i>
Light machine gun	I have not seen the Roman spelling until today.	<i>Kei Kikanzy</i>

You may be able to guess others from this.

Best regards,

Supplementary notes

- Letter 1
- * *Tom* is a character code for troops given to the 25th Army that occupied the whole Sumatra Island.
- * *Mandi* means bathing.
- * “Concise Malay-Japanese Dictionary” refers to the *New Concise Malay Dictionary*, which contains approximately 60,000 words, including thousands of modern Malayan words used in Indonesia, collected from newspapers and magazines.
- * “Mr. Kawasaki” is considered to be the Esperantist Naoichi Kawasaki, who is also referred to in Letter 2.

- Letter 2
- * *Tjerdas* is probably a publishing company in Medan, Sumatra.
- * The English-Malay dictionary, which in this letter is said to be written by Miyatake, is not known.
- * Naoichi Kawasaki translated *A Grammar of Modern Dutch* (Etsko Kruisinga, London: 1924) and published it in Japan (Sanseido, 1944).
- * The Japanese textbook *Tadashii Nippon-go* (Standard Japanese) was written by Prof. S. Oikawa of Taisho University and published in September 1942 by Gun Sendenhan (Propaganda Troops) in Kuala Lumpur (in one volume). In this letter, Ito says that there are three volumes, so the books he refers to here are probably *Nippongo* (The Japanese Language) vol. 1 and 2 (Dai Nippon Gunseibu, ed. Java: 1942) and *Nippongo* vol. 3 (Gunseikanbu, ed. 1943).

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- Letter 3

- * “Yodo 4077th” is the popular name for the 4th Fieldpiece Regiment (Shinodayama) of the Osaka 4th Division. The Osaka 4th Division was mobilized in September 1943 and incorporated into the 25th Army for the reinforcement of the defense of Sumatra.
- * “Matsuzuka” is probably a name of the town division in Takada Town, Kita-Katsuragi County, Nara prefecture (now Yamato-Takada City).

- Letter 4

- * State Department of the East Coast in Sumatra was located on Medan. Yamanaka, who then worked for the Railway Bureau in Japan as an engineer, visited there (Ikuhiko Hata, *Japanese Military Administration of South East Asia 1941–45: Organization and Personnel*. The Research Forum on the History of the Southern Military Administration, 1998).
- * Djamaluddin Adinegoro (1904–1967) is a writer and a journalist who was born in western Sumatra and served as chief editor for *Pewarta Deli* and *Sumatera Shimbun* (briefly called *Kita-Sumatera-Shimbun*).
- * *Kamoes Bahasa Merajoe (Indonesia)-Nippon Jang Lengkap* boasted the “world’s largest” vocabulary of 100,000 words, including translations of every available English, Malay and Dutch dictionary, plus 6,000 new modern words. It was recommended by the Foreign Ministry and the Daitoa Ministry.
- * *Kamoes Bahasa Nippon-Indonésia*, which was published at the request of the president of the publishing company, contains approximately 6,000 words of “living Malayan” used in newspapers and magazines of the time, not in classical writings.

- Letter 6

- * “Hikari” magazine refers to *Kana-no-hikari*, a journal of Kana-moji-kai, in which Miyatake published “Maraigo-no-kanagaki-an,” suggesting his version of *katakana* notation for geographical names in Malay, etc.
- * “The underlined characters of the ‘*ra*’ column” corresponds to syllables beginning with the letter “l.”

- Letter 7

- * “Osamu 1602th” is the popular name for the Gunseikanbu (Military Government) of the 16th Army, which exercised jurisdiction over the whole of Java Island. The Government was located in Jakarta.

- Letter 8

- * Jūro Takei (1881–1949), a researcher on Indonesia and an advocate for the Southern

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Expansion Doctrine, who had once lived in Java, published books on the Malayan language, including *A Quick Mastery of the Malayan Language* (Taiyodo-shoten, 1935) and *The New Japanese-Malay Dictionary* (Taiyodo-shoten, 1943).

- Letter 9

- * Kunzō Uehara was then a professor of the Japanese Army. He studied Malay at the Tokyo School of Foreign Languages and then acted as a Batavia branch manager of the Choya-Shokai, a resident officer in Java for Nanyo-Yusen, and a teacher for the Tokyo School of Foreign Languages and Takushoku University. “Japanese-Malay dictionary” by Uehara probably refers to *the New Japanese-Malay Dictionary by Uehara*, published by Seinansha in August 1944.

- Letter 10a

- * The younger brother, Shizuo Matuoka, is an ethnologist and a linguist who also served as a navy officer. He wrote many books on the local Micronesian languages, including *Study of the Chamorro Language* (Kyōdo-kenkyū-sha, 1926), *Study of the Palauan Language* (Kyōdo-kenkyū-sha, 1930), and *Study of the Yapese Language* (Kyōdo-kenkyū-sha, 1931). The elder brother, Kunio Yanagita, served as a member of the Mandate Committee of the League of Nations and expressed his opinion on mandates concerning the South Sea Islands. However, his specific writings on “the southern region language” have not been found. The brothers’ hometown was Tsujikawa, Tahara Village, Kanto County, Hyogo prefecture (now Nishitawara, Fukusaki Town, Kanzaki County).

- Letter 11a

- * *Saito’s Idiomatic English-Japanese Dictionary* by Hidesaburo Saito was first published in 1915, and then expanded and revised by Iwanami-shoten in 1936. It contains many idioms, as the title suggests.

- Letter 11b

- * “*Study of Malay Modern Sentences and Dialects* issued in July 1936” refers to the sequel to the title.

- Letter 12a

- * *Pandji Poestaka* is a biweekly magazine on the Malayan language published by *Balai Poestaka*, the Bureau for Popular Literature of the Dutch Administration.

- * Among the other leading Malayan newspapers for Chinese residents in Java, we can name *Sin Po* 新報, first published in 1910, and *Keng Po* 競報, first published in 1923. They advocated Chinese nationalism as their spiritual backbone.

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- Letter 12b

- * “The lecture by Mr. Uehara” probably means *Uehara’s Standard Malay* published by Seinansha in 1942 (in four volumes).
- * Bachee bin Wanchik was born in the Malay Peninsula and taught Malay at the Tokyo School of Foreign Languages from 1914 to 1921, and then from 1922 to 1938, taught the language at the Osaka School of Foreign Languages and the Tenri School of Foreign Languages. He is one of the teachers who taught Miyatake. (*The Fifty Years’ History of the Tenri University*, edited by the editorial committee of The Fifty Years’ History of the Tenri University, published by the Tenri University, 1975. p. 84.)

- Letter 13

- * The date when Miyatake served as an interpreter for Sukarno while he was visiting Nara was 25th November 1943.
- * *Languages of the World*, edited by the Keio Institute of Cultural and Linguistic Studies (published by Keio Publishing, October 1943), aimed to introduce beginners to the languages of various countries, especially those of the Great East Asia Co-Prosperty Sphere and the Axis. In the book, the Malayan language is expounded by Prof. Nobuhiro Matsumoto of Keio University, who was an advocate of the Southern Expansion Doctrine.

- Letter 14

- * *Zuster* is a Dutch word. *Baboe* means a maid in Javanese.

- Letter 17

- * *Tjoereido* probably refers to *Shonan Churei-do*, built in the Bukit Timah in Singapore in 1942.

- Letter 18

- * *Heiho* refers to soldiers consisting of unmarried Indonesian youth who were recruited and incorporated into various forces in order to fill the shortage of manpower for the defense of Java.
- * (*Pasoekan Soeka-rela*) *Tentara Pembela Tanah Air*, or *PETA* (literally the Volunteer Army for the Defense of Java), is the ethnic army organized to defend “the homeland” from the United States, the United Kingdom, and the Netherlands. The entire army, including military chiefs, consisted of Indonesian people (Aiko Kurasawa, *Nihon Senryo-ka No Jawa Noson No Henyo* [Changes in Javan Farming Villages under Japanese Occupation.] Soshisha, 1992).

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- Letter 19b
- * In the *PETA*, the words *Chū-dan* 中団 (directly translated as the middle group) and *Shō-dan* 小団 (the small group) were used as the substitutes for *Chū-tai* 中隊 (company) and *Shō-tai* 小隊 (platoon), respectively, in order to prevent confusion with the Japanese Army. (Kurasawa, op. cit.)