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「方言の価値が高まった」という言説を再考する

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Have Japanese Dialects been Valued Positively?

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This paper demonstrates that the current discourse regarding Japanese dialects, which has been valued positively, is overly optimistic and reflects only some superficial aspects such as the increased use of dialects in the media. In Japan today, Japanese dialects can be considered to be commodities; however, native speakers of these dialects do not necessarily have positive attitudes about them.

First, I review previous analyses by Japanese dialectologists who support the discourse and argue that their support is neither well-motivated nor persuasive. Second, I present my previous analyses of media representations of Tōhoku dialect in TV dramas, talk shows in entertainment programs, and Japanese translation of the novel, *Gone with the Wind*.

This paper concludes that we are still subject to Standard Japanese ideology, which forcefully marginalizes dialects, and especially Tōhoku dialect. In fact, Tōhoku dialect continues to be stigmatized by the media with the stereotypical image of poor peasants.