

Title: About WG2 N3528

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References: WG2 N3528, L2/08-257, L2/07-421 (WG2 N3388)

The Japanese national body expressed some concerns in WG2 N3528 about the Katakana character that I proposed in L2/07-421 (WG2 N3388). This document is intended to dispel suspicions that they pointed out.

1. Existence of Katakana Character

The Japanese national body said, “We see no reason we need set of hiragana and katakana for the purpose of the sound distinction.” However, the proposed character is already being used in modern scholarly books as a Katakana character. I think that it is the most important fact on this subject.

The examples below are from Ogura (2001). The proposed Katakana character is also found here:

<p>Example 1</p> <p>The proposed KATAKANA LETTER ORIGINAL E, along with エ.</p>	<p>なお、築島裕 (1969) で取り上げられた</p> <p>○ 950-015 妙法蓮華經玄贊 「取_エ(ヨ)」:「聞_エ」「肥(コ)エ壮なり」</p> <p>○ 951-1 石山寺本蘇悉地羯羅經略疏天曆五年点 「補桃菓_エヒノ大(キナ)ルソ」「求メ得_エ」:「見_エは」「超_エて」</p> <p>などの平安中期(天曆年間)におけるア行「衣」とヤ行「江」が区別されている</p>
<p>Example 2 (right side)</p> <p>It says here that E and YE had merged in the 10th~11th century, so the E letter was lined up with YA, YO, YU letters in some Kana chart.</p>	<p>を付たなりれはなつないて考ふる。</p> <p>¹⁴ 5。10世紀末ないし11世紀初頭の成 音図には「イヨヤ_エユ」とあって、 エーヤトは認められぬいからアエス</p>

This thesis can also be read at <http://ci.nii.ac.jp/naid/110002533669/>, by clicking [CiNii (PDF)] logo at the top-right of the page. In other words, the proposed Katakana character is found even on the web.

2. Intended Use

Regarding the intended use, there seem some misunderstandings in the Japanese national body. My proposal is never a challenge to the modern Japanese orthography. I expect that the proposed two obsolete Kana characters are used mainly in scholarly text concerning classical literature, to clarify original phonemes.

When some scholar uses エ (U+30A8, KATAKANA LETTER E) to represent its original phoneme /je/, it simply means that a syllable represented by the letter was originally /je/, not /e/. It never means that the corresponding syllable and/or KATAKANA LETTER E should be pronounced as [je] in modern Japanese.

The Japanese national body is mixing up these points. I have no intention to change any sounds that Kana characters represent today.

By the way, Example 3 is from Ootsubo (2005). In this book, he used the pair of the proposed KATAKANA LETTER ORIGINAL E and え (U+3048, HIRAGANA LETTER E) for syllables that were /e/ from the beginning; and the pair of エ (KATAKANA LETTER E) and the proposed HIRAGANA LETTER YE for syllables that were originally /je/. This use is completely the same as shown in L2/07-421. As the Japanese national body said, this “intended use” may not be widely accepted, but it is surely used in scholarly books.

I expect that those who actually need and use the proposed characters along with the already encoded HIRAGANA LETTER E and KATAKANA LETTER E are those who understand what sounds these characters represented in the past, like him.

3. Glyph

The Japanese national body said, “The shape Okumura proposed in his book for the letter is different from the one proposed in N3388.” I should have explained this point in L2/07-421.

The proposed glyph is the most dominant one in modern scholarly books. As shown in L2/07-421 and this document, the proposed glyph is found in books written by several authors. However the one that Okumura created and proposed appears only in his writings.

Okumura was the first person who discovered that the phonemes /e/ and /je/ were distinguished in the past, so I referred to his book in L2/07-421. However, since his glyph is not being received by others, I showed the dominant glyph in the examples section of L2/07-421 and proposed it (see also Appendix.)

4. Attachments

The author of attachment number 5 in N3528, Professor Katsuaki Numoto (沼本克明), used エ (KATAKANA LETTER E) for /e/ and 江 (Ideograph U+6C5F) for /je/ in that book, however, as I reported in L2/08-257, I already received approval from him for my proposal and informed the Japanese national body of it on May 31, 2008. I therefore expect that he will use both the proposed characters once they become available on computers.

In addition, please note that the author’s name of attachments 1 and 4 in N3528, Professor Hiroshi Tsukishima (築島裕), appears in Example 1 shown at the top of this document. In the part, the author of

Example 3

7 假名に混へて用ゐる特殊な重字・略符號は、平假名で表した
8 私意による補讀は、平假名を（ ）で包んで示した。
9 ア・ヤ兩行のエを區別する必要のある場合は、ア行のエには「**ウ・え**」を、ヤ行のエには「**エ・**ゑ****」を當てた。
凡 例

Example 1 in this document quoted from a book written by Professor Tsukishima. Id est, the proposed KATAKANA LETTER ORIGINAL E is also found in his at least one book, along with the proposed HIRAGANA LETTER YE (see Examples 4 below.)

月二日從七位上行大目阿閉臣」の年記が
 てゐる。従つて延喜よりは下つた時期の
 確定しないが、略々平安中期のものと思
 いとめつらしくとはせたまへる
 よろこひをなんきこほさせ
 いまはもはらたまはねはと
 きうらみなんたひとはか「は」の
 の□いの六條になんはんへり
 たまふく(る)まにものせさせた

Examples 4
 From Tsukishima (1969)

一九五三の加點したもので、天曆の卷米とこおてゐる。江形大目阿閉臣の年記に「ヤ行のエには「江」を區別して用ゐてゐる。更に951「石山寺本蘇悉地羯羅經略疏」補桃菓ラヒノ大(キナ)ルツ「求メ得エ」(ア行のエ)と「見エは」「超エて」(ヤ行のエ)のやうに寺の僧淳祐の弟子が、師の講述を書留めたものと考へられてゐるものであり、大がその用列を確認されてゐる。又、醍醐寺本976「法華經釋文は眞興(九三五―)

第一章 文 字

ア	イ	ウ	エ	オ
カ	キ	ク	ケ	コ
サ	シ	ス	セ	ソ
タ	チ	ツ	テ	ト
ナ	ニ	ヌ	ネ	ノ
ハ	ヒ	フ	ヘ	ホ
マ	ミ	ム	メ	モ
ヤ	リ	ル	レ	ロ
ラ	リ	ル	レ	ロ
ワ	ヰ	ヱ	ヰ	ヱ

第 2 表

ア	イ	ウ	エ	オ
カ	キ	ク	ケ	コ
サ	シ	ス	セ	ソ
タ	チ	ツ	テ	ト
ナ	ニ	ヌ	ネ	ノ
ハ	ヒ	フ	ヘ	ホ
マ	ミ	ム	メ	モ
ヤ	リ	ル	レ	ロ
ラ	リ	ル	レ	ロ
ワ	ヰ	ヱ	ヰ	ヱ

第 1 表

I infer that attachment 4 which the Japanese national body showed in N3528 is an example that shows that the proposed Kana characters' printing types were not available to him, rather than an example that shows that the proposed characters were not used by him.

Conclusion

Originally, while the Hiragana script was used mainly in Japanese poems and literature, the Katakana script was used mainly as phonetic symbols or inflectional suffix characters added to Kambun (漢文), classical Chinese literature including sutras (the right one of Examples 4 is just an example of this kind.) Therefore, scholars usually use both the scripts according to the kind of materials from which they quote.

I would like the UTC to accept both the proposed Kana characters at this meeting and to encode them in places near the already encoded obsolete Kana ゐ (U+3090, HIRAGANA LETTER WI), ゑ (U+3091, HIRAGANA LETTER WE), 𐄀 (U+30F0, KATAKANA LETTER WI) and 𐄁 (U+30F1, KATAKANA LETTER WE), or at least in the BMP.

Bibliography

1. Ogura, Hajime. (2001). *The Process of the Merger of 衣([e]) and 江([je]) in Old Japanese*, Kokugogaku Vol. 52, No.1. Tōkyō: The Society for Japanese Linguistics.
小倉肇 (2001) 『衣』と『江』の合流過程『国語学』第 52 卷 1 号, 国語学会 (現・日本語学会)
2. Ootsubo, Heiji. (2005). *Ishiyamaderabon Daichidoron Koten no Kokugogakuteki Kenkyū* Vol.1. Tōkyō: Kazama Shobō.
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Appendix

While the glyph of the proposed Katakana character came from the first three strokes of U+8863, Ideograph 衣 (blue parts of the character shown below); the one which Okumura created came from the last three strokes of the same character (red parts.)

