

1. Record Nr.	UNINA9910457541903321
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Titolo	TheMaking of Monolingual Japan : Language Ideology and Japanese Modernity / / Patrick Heinrich
Pubbl/distr/stampa	Blue Ridge Summit, PA : , : Multilingual Matters, , [2012] ©2012
ISBN	1-280-12093-2 9786613524799 1-84769-658-9
Descrizione fisica	1 online resource (212 p.)
Collana	Multilingual Matters
Disciplina	306.44/952
Soggetti	English language -- Japan Japan -- Languages Language and culture -- Japan Language and languages -- Study and teaching -- Japan Language and languages -- Variation Linguistics -- Study and teaching -- Japan Second language acquisition Language and languages - Study and teaching - Japan Second language acquisition - Variation - Japan Linguistics - Japan English language Language and culture Languages & Literatures East Asian Languages & Literatures Philology & Linguistics Electronic books.
Lingua di pubblicazione	Inglese
Formato	Materiale a stampa
Livello bibliografico	Monografia
Note generali	Description based upon print version of record.
Nota di contenuto	Frontmatter -- Contents -- Preface -- 1. Language Ideology as a Field of Enquiry -- 2. The Call of Mori Arinori to Replace Japanese -- 3. The Creation of a Modern Voice -- 4. The Unification of Japanese -- 5. The

Linguistic Assimilation of Ryukyans and Ainu -- 6. The Most Beautiful Language in the World -- 7. Language Ideology as Self-Fulfilling Prophecy -- 8. Current Challenges to Modernist Language Ideology -- 9. Language Ideology in 21st-century Japan -- References -- Index

Sommario/riassunto

Japan is widely regarded as a model case of successful language modernization, and it is often erroneously believed to be linguistically homogenous. There is a connection between these two views. As the first ever non-Western language to be modernized, Japanese language modernizers needed to convince the West that Japanese was just as good a language as the national languages of the West. The result was a fervent desire for linguistic uniformity. Today the legacy of modernist language ideology poses many problems to an internationalizing Japan. All indigenous minority languages are heading towards extinction, and this purposefully created homogeneity also affects the integration of immigrants and their languages. This book examines these issues from the perspective of language ideology, and in doing so the mechanisms by which language ideology undermines linguistic diversity are revealed.
