

1. Record Nr.	UNINA9910788051103321
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Titolo	The fall of language in the age of English / / Minae Mizumura ; translated by Mari Yoshihara and Juliet Winters Carpenter
Pubbl/distr/stampa	New York, [New York] : , : Columbia University Press, , 2015 ©2015
ISBN	0-231-16303-7 0-231-53854-5
Descrizione fisica	1 online resource (237 p.)
Disciplina	495.609/051
Soggetti	Japanese language - Social aspects English language - Influence on Japan
Lingua di pubblicazione	Inglese
Formato	Materiale a stampa
Livello bibliografico	Monografia
Note generali	Description based upon print version of record.
Nota di bibliografia	Includes bibliographical references and index.
Nota di contenuto	Front matter -- CONTENTS -- Preface to the English Edition -- Introduction / Yoshihara, Mari / Winters Carpenter, Juliet -- 1. Under the Blue Sky of Iowa: Those Who Write in Their Own Language -- 2. From Par Avion to Via Air Mail: The Fall of French -- 3. People Around the World Writing in External Languages -- 4. The Birth of Japanese as a National Language -- 5. The Miracle of Modern Japanese Literature -- 6. English and National Languages in the Internet Age -- 7. The Future of National Languages -- Notes -- Selected Bibliography -- Index
Sommario/riassunto	Winner of the Kobayashi Hideo Award, The Fall of Language in the Age of English lays bare the struggle to retain the brilliance of one's own language in this period of English-language dominance. Born in Tokyo but raised and educated in the United States, Minae Mizumura acknowledges the value of a universal language in the pursuit of knowledge yet also embraces the different ways of understanding offered by multiple tongues. She warns against losing this precious diversity. Universal languages have always played a pivotal role in advancing human societies, Mizumura shows, but in the globalized world of the Internet, English is fast becoming the sole common language of humanity. The process is unstoppable, and striving for total language equality is delusional-and yet, particular kinds of

knowledge can be gained only through writings in specific languages. Mizumura calls these writings "texts" and their ultimate form "literature." Only through literature and, more fundamentally, through the diverse languages that give birth to a variety of literatures, can we nurture and enrich humanity. Incorporating her own experiences as a writer and a lover of language and embedding a parallel history of Japanese, Mizumura offers an intimate look at the phenomena of individual and national expression.

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