

## Master's Thesis Abstract

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### Title

Studies on the decline of dialects and the lack of conversation  
associated with globalization and media evolution

It has become a social phenomenon that the lower age of ownership and use of media devices affects greetings and conversations at home and between friends. This thesis will clarify the reality that changes in social conditions and the evolution of media devices seem to have changed the "awareness and image of dialects and common languages, as well as the use and recognition of dialects" of people living in dialect-majority areas.

In Chapter 1, I will describe the transfers and the current situation by comparing the results of the main survey (conducted on junior high school students and their parents in Tsugaru City) on awareness of region, dialect, and common language, use and recognition of dialects, and the results of the same survey conducted by myself in 2008. In Chapter 2, I will discuss the impact of changes in society and family environment based on the results of the junior high school student's "consciousness and current situation regarding greetings" conducted as a supplementary survey 1. In Chapter 3, in order to find out the relationship between the realities of dialect usage accompanying changes in the social environment, etc., I recorded dialects from a collection of contributions (willow, tanka, and haiku) to Aomori Broadcasting's "Tsugaru-ben no Hi (Tsugaru dialect day)", and created documents on the contributor's region and the dialect vocabulary used frequently as a supplementary survey 2. Chapter IV reports on the actual conditions of media device retention and use from research studies on children's relationship with the Internet conducted by ministries and research organizations. In Chapter 5, I investigated the impact on the children's lives and language aspects and the concerns about the expansion of the media environment due to the new infectious disease measures investigated by the Hirosaki University Graduate School of Medicine and the city board of education.

The surveyed area, Kizukuri in Tsugaru city, is located in the center of the city, which was created in February 2005 through the merger of one town and four villages to form the ninth city in Aomori Prefecture. This area has a small disintegrating community, an aging population with a declining birthrate, and a shrinking population. Although dialect is the mainstream language here, the shift to a common language is spreading, especially among the younger generation. Furthermore, although there are dialect speakers and dialect bearers, it seems that the dialect has not been handed down. At the beginning of research, I had expected to see a decline in favorability toward regions, cultures, and dialects since 2008, and an extreme decrease in the use and recognition of dialects, with the trend being more pronounced among the younger generation. While the results of the previous survey showed that all age groups preferred dialects more than the common language, the current survey showed an increase in favorability of the common language among the younger age groups and those in their 50s and older. Regarding the use of dialect and common language, the proportion of young people who use dialect for everyone decreased by nearly 10% from the previous survey, and the proportion of junior high school boys who said they "never use dialect" was higher. As well as the younger generation, the parental generation also showed a decrease in the percentage using dialect for everyone, especially those in their 50s and older. The survey on dialect use and recognition showed an overall decrease in the percentage of use, and a comparison of "still in use" and "highly recognized dialect vocabulary" with the previous results showed a greater decline in use and recognition among the parents' generation than among the younger generation. Although the standardization of the language is gradual, it seems to be spreading to the areas surveyed this time. However, attachment to the region, culture, and dialects is still upwardly growing even after more than a decade, and the percentage of dialect use and use different language (common and dialect) depending on the situation was found to be high when compared to the national survey.

I would like to continue more careful research in the region so that the results of this survey will serve as a foothold for revising the dialect, preserving, and inheritance and helping to create the documents.