東京方言
Tokyo Dialect

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o Japanese dialect spoken in modern Tokyo

  ➢ Largely indistinguishable from the standard speech of Tokyo other than the phonemic difference

  ➢ Yamanote dialect (山の手言葉 *Yamanote kotoba*[2])

  ➢ Shitamachi dialect (下町言葉 *Shitamachi kotoba*[2])

山の手言葉
Yamanote Kotoba

❦

o Characteristic of the old upper-class from the Yamanote area

o This dialect created Standard Japanese during the Meiji era

下町言葉
Shitamachi Dialect

ⓒ

o Considered a more working-class dialect

o Preserves features of Edo Chōnin (Edokko) speech (see Early Modern Japanese)

o Also called Edo dialect (江戸言葉, 江戸弁)

o Primarily known for its lack of distinction between some phonemes

A few words are pronounced different pitch accent between Yamanote and Shitamachi. The following words are typical examples.

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- Bandō (another name of Kantō region): Accent on ba in Yamanote, Accentless in Shitamachi.
- saka ("slope"): Accent on ka in Yamanote, Accent on sa in Shitamachi.
- tsugi ("next"): Accent on gi in Yamanote, Accent on tsu in Shitamachi.
- sushi: Accent on shi in Yamanote, Accent on su in Shitamachi.
- suna ("sand"): Accentless in Yamanote, Accent on na in Shitamachi.
- asahi ("morning sun"): Accent on a in Yamanote, Accent on sa in Shitamachi.
- aniki ("big brother"): Accent on a in Yamanote, Accent on ni in Shitamachi.
- itsumo ("always"): Accent on i in Yamanote, Accent on tsu in Shitamachi.
- hanashi ("talk"): Accentless in Yamanote, Accent on na in Shitamachi.
- tamago ("egg"): Accent on ma in Yamanote, Accentless in Shitamachi.
- accentless word -sama (a honorific): Accent on sa in Yamanote, Accentless in Shitamachi.

ひょうじゅん語
Standard Japanese Language

- o Popular opinion of Japanese People

    - ❖ *via research & survey of Okayama University Students*

    - ➤ It as a dialect is considered the base standard for the language

    - ➤ It does not deter very far from the "standard" which creates the misunderstanding of it being a "non-dialect"