

## Application Form for Joint Research Project 2010

Applicant (Coordinator) : Kurebito, Tokusu

1. Project title	
Comparative Study on the Languages of the North from Typological Perspective	
2. Project term	April, 2010 ~ March, 2013 (3 years)
3. Coordinator	(Name) KUREBITO Tokusu (Role) Coordinator, collected papers volume editor (chief), study on Chukchi and Mongolian
Sub-coordinator	(Name) Watanabe, Honoré (Role) volume editor, study on Salishan
ILCAA member	(Name) Nakayama, Toshihide (Role) volume editor, research on Wakashan (Name) Shiohara, Asako (Role) volume editor, research on the languages in Indonesia (Name) Arakawa, Shintaro (Role) volume editor, research on Tangut Language
4. Number of project members	20
5. Research Field of joint researchers	Each joint researcher should participate in the seminars and international symposium and submit the papers on each specialized language to the collection of papers <i>Linguistic Typology of the North</i> at the end of the research period.
6. Summary of the project	
<p>This project will make comparative research on various grammatical phenomena of the languages distributed over the area from north eastern Siberia to North America (languages of the North, hereafter). This area which is also the route of mankind's movement from the Old to New World has attracted linguists' attention for the preeminent language density from different types and families. Typological diversity of these languages cover a broad variety of both morphological and syntactic matters such as synthesis and cohesiveness, morphological means, marking of grammatical relationship, word order, and grammatical category. The languages of both area, north eastern Siberia and North America have been so far studied separately from each other. However, there are a number of grammatical phenomena which show similarity beyond the Continents. Therefore, it is becoming more and more important to see the area from overall perspective. With cooperation from specialists from home and abroad, our institute is much expected to become a unique base for the typological study on the languages of the North.</p> <p>This project is a part of "Linguistic Dynamics Science Project" at ILCAA.</p>	
7. Aim of the project	
<p>This project aims to investigate various grammatical phenomena in the languages of the North, especially focusing on the morphological problems such as word synthesis and cohesiveness, word formation, definition of word class, and the syntactic problems such as case marking, valency, voice, and attributive construction. We will examine these phenomena in detail and from broad perspective beyond the demarcation of the New and Old Continent and will try to examine typological particularity and universality of the languages of the North. These grammatical phenomena show typologically great diversity and similarity. Therefore, this project aims to elucidate various problems behind this such as various typological problems, mechanism of language change.</p>	

8. Significance of the research , especially the significance of carrying out the project as a joint research
<p>There can be observed recent tendency for researchers to apply Grants-in-Aid Scientific Research (C), avoiding middle-sized grants such as (A) and (B) which can undertake joint research. This contains the potential hazard of isolation and separation of research. This is no exception to the study of the languages of the North. On the contrary, this project can be expected to fulfill an important function to enable broader cooperation and to avoid isolation of research.</p>
9. Research results expected
<p>In Japan full-scale typological study on the languages of the North started at the beginning of 1990s mainly at Hokkaido University. But after that the study has been interrupted for many reasons. Meanwhile, the number of the languages studied and their grammatical descriptions have considerably increased and typological theory has been more and more elaborated. If comparative study between the languages of the North becomes possible by sharing these research result, study of the languages of the North will not only show a big development, but also contribute to the elucidation of the general typological problems.</p>
10. Project plan
<p>This project will be fulfilled during 3 years from 2010 to 2012. The following is the plan of each year.</p> <p>(1) 2010: Conferences will be held twice mainly by Japanese joint researchers. According to the results of the conferences, we will discuss and decide on the specific theme and content of the international symposium in 2011.</p> <p>(2) 2011: Conference will be held once mainly by Japanese joint researchers and international symposium on the typology of the languages of the North will also be held. Prof. Haspelmath, a leading editor of WALS, Prof. Malchukov, specialist on Even, both of which are from Max Planck Institute, and Prof. Fortescue specialized in the languages of both North eastern Siberia and North America, will be invited.</p> <p>(3) 2012: Conferences will be held twice mainly by Japanese joint researchers. At the end of project period we will publish the collection of papers <i>Linguistic Typology of the North</i> and bulletin report for the symposium.</p>
11. Plans to make research results public
<p>At the end of project period we will publish the collection of papers <i>Linguistic Typology of the North</i> and bulletin report for the symposium.</p>
12. Documents needed from those applying for joint researchers
<p>- brief statement about your interest on the topic of this project (about 150 words)</p>