

Completion Report

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Subject of Research Project :

Jindai Moji and Linguistic Thought in the Early Modern Period

This research focused on Hirata Atsutane's *Kannahifumiden*(神字日文伝), which is considered one of the most significant texts in the history of *jindai moji*-a script believed to have existed prior to the introduction of Chinese characters or the establishment of kana, used for recording the Japanese language-. As a result, I revealed that the development of *jindai moji* during the early modern period unfolded in three distinct phases: the era of secret transmission, the era of historical verification, and the era of publication. Based on these findings, I published a paper titled "The Collection and Publication of *Jindai Moji* by Kokugaku Scholar Hirata Atsutane" (December 2023), which examined the transmission networks of *jindai moji* and elucidated the reality of human networks surrounding *jindai moji* in the late Edo period.

Additionally, I visited various libraries in Japan to investigate and collect old documents related to *jindai moji*. One unexpected outcome was the discovery of a series of texts presumed to have influenced the formation of *Kannahifumiden*, which I named the "*Kouwajindaijisyu*(皇和神代字集) Series."

During the research process, I realized that *Kannahifumiden* may not be Hirata's original work but rather a revised version based on *Kannahifumikou*(神字日文考) by his disciple Sato Nobuhiro. While previous research suggested that Nobuhiro had plagiarized *Kannahifumiden*, my analysis led to the opposite conclusion. Although this remains a hypothesis, if proven, it could significantly challenge the foundational assumptions of *jindai moji* studies. I have submitted a paper discussing the relationship between these two texts to an academic journal for review.