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I

This paper deals with the symptomatology of aphasia in the Japanese language. Because of the very unique language system used in Japan, we feel it is natural that most of the foreign aphasiologists encounter difficulties in correctly understanding aphasia in Japan. This is particularly true for alexia and agraphia due to aphasia. At the Ciba Symposium on disorders of language¹⁾ even authorities within this field such as Critchley, Bay and others did not give appropriate discussions of alexia of Chinese characters (Kanji). Recently, when one of the authors personally communicated with an American researcher, he found that that researcher also believed that alexia of Kanji was a form of visual agnosia. Imura's contribution to the study of aphasia in Japanese language¹⁰⁾ was introduced to Germany by Panse and Shimoyama in 1955²⁾, inevitably however, it was not emphasized by these authors.

II

In order to assist the reader to understand Japanese aphasia, it would be useful to make a brief comment on the Japanese language and to note some of the unique characteristics of the Japanese writing system.

As compared with most of the languages in the world, the Japanese language stands in a special position. It belongs to the small "Ural-Altai" language group which has a different grammatical structure from the Indo-European languages—the so-called "agglutinative" structure—on which in the absence of any inflections of nouns and verbs, uses special forms of post-positions and particles.

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