

## The new *Lighthouse* dictionary

Kaoru Akasu



**Kaoru Akasu** is Professor of English Linguistics at Toyo University in Tokyo, and has been President of the JACET (Japan Association of College English Teachers) Society of English Lexicography for the past six years. His most current publications include 'The first dictionary of English collocations in Japan' in *Research on Phraseology in Europe and Asia: Focal Issues of Phraseological Studies* (2012), and the chapter 'Methods in dictionary criticism' in *The Bloomsbury Companion to Lexicography* (forthcoming). He is co-editor of the *Lighthouse English-Japanese Dictionary* 6e and *Luminous English-Japanese Dictionary* 2e.  
kakasu@toyo.jp

The *Lighthouse English-Japanese Dictionary* (LHEJD) is targeted primarily at Japanese high-school students who are learning English in order to enter colleges and universities. The sixth edition of the dictionary came out, fully revised, in late October 2012. The first edition was published back in 1984, and each revision was made at regular intervals of six years until the fourth edition (2002). The publication dates of the fifth edition (2007) and this latest edition have a shortened interval of five years apiece. In fact, LHEJD's predecessor, Kenkyusha's *Union English-Japanese Dictionary*, had its very first edition in 1972 and the second in 1978: similar six-year intervals. *Union* was renamed *Lighthouse* in 1984, so this current edition constitutes virtually the eighth edition of the dictionary, which is thus more than forty years old. At the time, the *Union* was epoch-making in that it incorporated a grammar book into a learner's dictionary.<sup>1</sup> I remember the late Professor Emeritus Shigeru Takebayashi, one of the two original editors, telling me the name *Union* had a double meaning. On the one hand, it symbolized the concerted effort on the part of the editors and lexicographers involved or the union of the lexicographical work force, and on the other, it represented the union of grammar and the dictionary.

Nakao (1998: 42) observed that there are three different types of English-Japanese dictionaries: "full-sized comprehensive dictionaries having more than 100,000 entries and more than 2,000 pages"; "medium-sized ... editions of about 1,500 pages, containing from 50,000 to 100,000 entries"; and "E-J dictionaries for beginners". LHEJD belongs to the second category, and the market for this particular group has been, and still is, a fiercely competitive one in Japan. This situation is fairly comparable to that seen among British publishers concerning monolingual dictionaries for advanced learners of English. For this reason, editors and lexicographers of English-Japanese dictionaries at each and every publishing house have been making every effort to invent and innovate new features and new designs with each revision. As

illustrated by Nakao (1989), the grading of headwords, of meanings, and of grammatical information, a dual system of presenting meanings combining historical changes with the logical links of semantic flow, and modifications of verb patterns, among others, are just a few of the features employed.

As all these features are already included in LHEJD6, I will touch here only upon two new ones that we have introduced in this edition: 'Keys to Communication: Politeness' and 'Collocation Plus One'. As regards the former, we made an attempt to integrate into the dictionary a certain type of pragmatic information, which we believe will help Japanese learners use English in a more appropriate manner. 'Keys to Communication: Politeness' columns are provided to entries such as **actually, can, could, great, let's, maybe, sorry, suggest, Thank you, want, and why**, dealing with matters of complimenting, asking for permission, advising, apologizing, and the like.

Take a look at the entry for **possible** in the excerpt, where you will find a box with a [coloured] key symbol at the beginning. This is a case of a downtoner. What it says, translated into English, is basically as follows: 'Would it be possible for you to *do*? is a polite expression of request, less obtrusive by asking the interlocutor about their convenience or availability. This expression has an indirect ring to it and is most often used when you are not sure that they will accept (ie, when you are asking some big favour or when you don't know the interlocutor very well) ((For expressions of asking someone to do something → **could B 1 (4)**): "I need to go to ...").

Another 'Keys to Communication: Politeness' box appears in the entry **possibly**. Japanese natives find it very difficult to use English in terms of politeness because English has its own different system of polite language. We do have the so-called *keigo*, or honorific language in Japanese, which works very differently from English. Information of this kind is, therefore, of great practical use as well as of special significance to Japanese learners who wish to use the English language appropriately in actual contexts.

The other newly added feature,

<sup>1</sup> See Nakao (1989: 303-309) for further details.

‘Collocation Plus One’, is a supplementary gadget, since collocation information is already provided primarily by way of collocation boxes that were introduced in LHEJD3 (1996). Examples of ‘Collocation Plus One’ appear in the entries for **possible** and **possibly** beginning with the [coloured] symbol ‘C+1’. What it says in the former and in the latter is: ‘The following adverbs are often used to modify *possible*: technically *possible* / humanly *possible* / theoretically *possible*’ and ‘The form *A* and [or] *possibly B* expresses the stronger possibility of *B* than of *A*: We could predict the problem and *possibly* prevent it’, respectively.

In this revision we reviewed all illustrative sentences and phrases in the dictionary to make them more readable and easily accessible to the users, and expanded the number and coverage of ‘Remember Words’, a feature introduced in LHEJD3 to help learners to better remember certain sets of associated words by drawing attention to the original meaning of root forms. For example, **arrive**, **derive**, **river**, and **rival** are given in a box at the entry for **arrival**, with an explanation of the meaning of the root RIV.

It goes without saying that print dictionaries like LHEJD6 are now facing an increasingly difficult time.<sup>2</sup> Our firm belief, however, is that there is still not just a need, but a definite benefit, for those learners who choose to use print dictionaries when studying English because they have advantages over *denshi-jisho*, or hand-held electronic dictionaries, which are the most popular form of dictionary and reference books in Japan. These devices are now so sophisticated and packed with an astonishing variety of information, which is good in itself, that they have reached a point where a user might need, so to speak, more than two hands to use it. They have become too complex a tool to handle, rather than just an electronic version of a dictionary, while a print dictionary is fairly simple to use, with no restriction of small screen size.

We seek to make the most of the clarity and lucid organisation of print dictionaries by providing plenty of visual information or visually-orientated features, including charts, pictorial illustrations and

<sup>2</sup> The *Luminous English-Japanese Dictionary*, another learner’s dictionary by Kenkyusha, which may be deemed an advanced version of LHEJD, can be accessed online for free at the following site: [http://www.kenkyusha.co.jp/modules/08\\_luminous/index.php?content\\_id=1/](http://www.kenkyusha.co.jp/modules/08_luminous/index.php?content_id=1/).

the like, in producing our dictionaries.

It seems to me that, in the UK in particular, bilingual lexicography is not such a major issue and does not attract due attention among learners as well as lexicographers, at least not to the extent that it does here in Japan. I have my own speculations that there are some plausible reasons behind this, mainly related to the marked difference in the English proficiency attained by average Japanese learners and their European counterparts, which promote the creation of bilingual dictionaries for English learners in Japan rather than the use of monolingual dictionaries.

Nakao (1998: 36) states that “[t]he development of dictionaries in Japan is heavily indebted to lexicographical scholarship in China, and subsequently in Europe and America”, while Cowie (1998) writes that “the monolingual EFL dictionary is in various respects indebted to the Japanese bilingual tradition”. I am of the opinion that both statements are true. We have had so much to learn from each other in the past, and, in view of the fact that we have much more dialogue and exchange between Japan and the rest of the world today, we will be more interdependent and our ties will be closer than ever in the future, too. I believe that, as far as bilingual lexicography is concerned, we have so much to offer.

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#### Lighthouse English-Japanese Dictionary, Sixth Edition

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in possession of ... [前] (格式) ...を所有して: He is in possession of confidential information. 彼は機密情報を所有している.

in the possession of ... = in ...'s possession [前] (格式) ...に所有されて: The island is in the possession of a rich businessman. その島はある金持ちの実業家が所有している. (動) possess

pos-ses-sive /pəzészv/ ① 所有の; 所有欲[独占欲, 支配欲]の強い; (自分の物を)人に使わせたがらない(of): She's possessive about her car. 彼女は車を他の人に使わせない. ② [文法] 所有の, 所有格の(⇒巻末文法3(1)). (動) possess

— ① [the ~] [文法] 所有格. ② [C] [文法] = possessive pronoun.

possessive pronoun [名] [C] [文法] 所有代名詞 (⇒巻末文法3(1)).

pos-ses-sor /pəzész- /-sə/ [名] [C] (格式) または [こっけいに] 持ち主, 所有者 (of).

pos-si-bil-i-ty /pə:szəbələtɪ | pəs-/

— ① (-ties /-z/) ① [C,U] 可能性, 起こり[あり]うること; 実現性 [⇒ impossibility]: a strong [definite] possibility 大きな[はっきりとした]可能性 / the possibility of success 成功の可能性 / [言い換え] There's no [some] possibility of his winning the election. = There's no [some] possibility (that) he'll win the election. [⇒ that] 彼が選挙に勝つ見込みは全然ない[少しある]. [用法] to do は後に来ない // There's only a remote possibility that an earthquake will hit this town. この町に地震が起こる可能性はまずない / Agreement is still within the realms [bounds] of possibility. 合意の可能性はまだ残っている.

② [C] [しばしば複数形で] やれること, 考えられること, チャンス (for): explore the possibilities 可能性 (やれることを) さぐる / exhaust all the possibilities やれることはみなやってみる / Take all the possibilities into consideration. 考えられることはすべて考慮に入れない.

③ [複数形で] 発展[改良]の可能性, 見込み: possibilities for growth 成長する可能性 / This invention has wonderful possibilities. この発明にはすばらしい将来性がある. (形) possible

pos-si-ble /pə:szəbl | pəs-/

— ① ① 可能な; 実行できる [⇒ impossible]: Is it possible for him to get there in time? 彼はそこへ間に合うように着くことができるだろうか / Would it be possible for you to lend me your office keys? 事務所の鍵を貸していただけませんか. [依頼] / The new technology has made it possible to repair the bridge within a week. 新技術のおかげで1週間以内に橋を修理することができた. / There's only one possible solution. 実行可能な解決法はたったひとつしかない. [C+H] 修飾する副詞には次のようなものが多い: technically possible 技術的に可能な / humanly possible 人間の力でできる / theoretically possible 理論的には可能な.

[用法] 「人が...できる」という場合に ×He is possible to get there. のような言い方はできない. He can't get there. や He is able to get there. のように言う.

Would it be possible for you to do? は, 相手の都合や可能性を聞くことにより, 押しつけを弱める丁寧な依頼の表現. 間接的な響きがあり, 相手が応じるとは予測できない場合(負担の大きいことを頼んだり, 親しくない人にお願する場合など)に使われることが多い(依頼の表現については ⇒ could B 1 (4)): "I need to go to L.A. this weekend. Would it be possible for you to lend me your car?" "Again? Why don't you rent a car?" "週末にLAに行かなきゃならないんだけど, 車を貸してもらうことはできるかな" "また? レンタカー借りたら?"

② 起こり[あり]うる, (もしかしたら) ...になりそうな[...かもしれない] (⇒ 類義語): a possible danger 起こりうる危険 / In this region snow is possible even in April. この地域では4月にも雪が降ることがある / It's possible that the roads will be crowded. 道路が混んでいるかもしれない (⇒ that A 2) / This tiny melon costs 5,000 yen. How is it possible? この小さなメロン5000円だなんて, こんなことである?

③ [最上級, all, every などとともに用いその意味を強めて] できる限りの, できるだけ...で: the worst possible situation 考えられる最悪の状況 / She spoke with all possible calmness. 彼女はできるだけ落ち着いて話した / The doctors made every possible attempt to save the patient. 医師たちはその患者を救おうとできる限りの手を尽くした.

as ... as possible [副] できるだけ... [言い換え] Try to exercise as often as possible (= as often as you can). できるだけ多く運動するようにしなさい / Read as many books as possible. できるだけたくさん本を読みなさい // ⇒ as soon as possible (soon 成句).

if possible [副] [文修飾] 可能なら (⇒ 依頼や許可を求めるときに使われる緩和表現; 「可能なら」という条件をつけることにより押しつけを弱め, 相手が断わりやすい配慮を示す): "When should I come to discuss it with you?" "If possible, I'd like to do so today. Could you drop by about 3 o'clock?" "いつ打ち合わせに伺えばいいですか" "できれば今日がいいのですが, 3時ごろに来ていただけますか"

whenever [wherever] possible [副] 可能な限りいつでも[どこでも]. (名) possibility

類義語 possible は論理的に可能であるか, あるいは起こりうることを意味するのに対して, probable は確実ではないにしても, 統計上, あるいは状況から判断して大いにありそうなことをいう: Rain is possible but not probable before evening. 晩までに雨の可能性はあるが, まず降らないでしょう. likely は possible と probable の中間, 単に可能で起こりうるというだけではなく, ある程度の可能性はあるが, 確実性がそれほど高くはない場合に用いる: His horse is likely to win. 彼の馬が勝ちそうだ.

— ① [C] ふさわしい[もの]; 適任者, 有力候補.

pos-si-bly /pə:szəblɪ | pəs-/

— ① [文修飾] ことによると, もしかすると, あるいは (⇒ likely 表): "What caused the accident?" "Possibly, the driver fell asleep." "事故の原因は何ですか" "もしかすると運転手が眠っていたのかもかもしれません" / "Do you think Ken will marry her?" "Quite possibly [Possibly not]." "ケンとは彼女と結婚するのかな" "十分ありうるね[しないかもね]" (⇒ not (5) (ii)). [C+H] A and [or] possibly B の形で, Aより程度の高い可能性Bを表わすことができる: We could predict the problem and possibly prevent it. 我々はその問題を予測できるだろうし, もしかすると防ぐこともできるのではないかな.

could や can を使った依頼や許可を求める疑問文で, 押しつけを弱めるために possibly が挿入されることがある. 「ひょっとして...できませんか」という意味になり, 内容・状況的に難しいことをお願する場合には, 「相手が依頼に応じるのは当然」という態度を避け, 遠慮がちな姿勢を示す (⇒ could B 1 (4), (5), can 2 (1), (2)): "Could you possibly spare me a few minutes before the meeting?" "Sure, No problem." 「会議の前にできれば数分お時間をいただくことはできませんか」「いいですよ」/ Could I possibly ask you to give me a ride? もしできたら車で送っていただけませんか.

[肯定文で can とともに] できる限り, 何とかして; [否定文で can とともに] どうあっても...できない, とても...でない; [疑問文で can や could とともに] いったい...できるだろうか: I'll come as soon as I possibly can. できるだけ早く参りましょう / I can't possibly come tomorrow. 私はどうしてもあすは来られません / How could you possibly speak to me like that? 私に対してよくもそんな口がきけますね.

pos-sum /pə:szəm | pəs-/ [名] [C] (略式, 主に米) = opossum. play possum [動] [名] (略式) 死んだ[寝た]ふりをする.

post /pə:st/ [発音]

— ① (posts /pə:stz/)

語義の展開 イタリア語で「替え馬の置いてある宿場」の意 → (早飛脚, 早馬) → 「郵便(物)」の意となった; post 2 と同語源.

① [U] または the ~ (英) 郵便, 郵便制度 [(米) mail]: put ... in the post ...を郵送する / Your parcel possibly got lost in the post. あなたの小包は郵送中に紛失したのかもしれない.

② [普通は the ~] (英) 郵便物(全体); (1回に配達される)郵便物; 郵便の集配[配達](時間) [(米) mail]: "Has the post come yet this morning?" "No, not yet." 「けさはもう郵便が来ましたか」「いいえ, まだです」 / There's an unusual amount of post today. 今日は郵便物がやけに多い / I caught [missed] the last post. 最終便に間に合った[間に合わなかった]. ③ [P-; 新聞名で] ...ポスト: ⇒ Washington Post.

by post [副] (英) 郵便で [= by mail]: I'll send the book by post. その本を郵送します. (形) postal

— ① (posts /pə:stz/; post-ed /-ɪd/; post-ing) ② (英) (...)を郵便で出す, 郵送する (off); (人に)(...)を郵送する; (手紙)を出す, 投函[送る] [(米) mail]: Post this letter, please. この手紙を出してください / [言い換え] I posted John that book this morning. [V+O+to+名] その本はけさ[今]に郵送した. keep ... posted [動] ③ ④ (人)に最新の事情[情報]を絶えず知らせる.

post /pə:st/ [発音]

— ① (posts /pə:stz/) ① [C] (格式) 地位; 職 (⇒ job 類義語): the post of personnel manager 人事部長の地位 / a teaching post 教職の口 / The authorities relieved her of her post as professor at the university. 当局は彼女をその大学の教授の地位から