

聲明文・

改正憲法の文字遣は

國語正書法によるべし

國語問題協議會

昭和二十一年十一月三日に公布された現行憲法が、占領下において、國家主權を奪はれた状態の中で、占領軍權力の強制によつて生れたことは周知のことである。今日、憲法改正の議が安倍政權によつて提起されてゐるのは、あらゆる觀點から當然の事である。ただ、占領下といふ不自然な状況下に生れた現行憲法が、現代假名遣の告示よりわづか二週間に公布されたため、歴史的假名遣によつて表記されたことは、我々にとつて幸ひであつた。この僥倖を、改正憲法において、我々は自覺的に保守すべきである。

現在、官府のみならず、學校教育、一般報道機關においておこなはれてゐる現代假名遣は、昭和二十一年十一月十六日に時の政府によつて告示されたものである。この告示が拘束力をもつのは各官府だけの筈であつたが、その後、新聞ジャーナリズム、出版界、やがては一般國民にまでひろまつて今日にいたつてゐる。

この國語問題の背後にGHQの意向がはたらいてゐたことは確かであるが、それが唯一の要因ではない。さかのぼれば、その淵源は遠く明治期の文明開化の進展とともに生れた國語改良論にある。

これに對し、當時我が國に遺されてゐた膨大な古典文獻からその標準となし得る正則を抽出する作業が明治四十年代にほぼ完成してゐた。これを正書法といふ。正書法とは洋の東西を問はず語源にもとづく表記であつて、これが歴史的假名遣である。日本語が國語になるのは正書法による。正書法を拋棄した民族と國家は國語を拋棄したのも同じであり、國語を拋棄した日本人は日本人とは言へない。

現行憲法の發想法が、近代歐米憲法思想の恣意的適用によつて歴史としての日本をみえなくしたやうに、正書法を拋棄した現代假名遣は歴史としての日本語をみえなくするのである。歴史としての日本を取戻すのが憲法改正であるから、改正憲法の文章は現行憲法のそれを踏襲して、すべて正書法によつて綴られなければならない。

右宣言し、博く國民各位に訴へる。

平成二十五年十月

(英文は次頁に)

DECLARATION

It is well known that the present “Constitution of Japan” was promulgated under American occupation on November 3, 1946, the twenty-first year of Showa. In other words, Japan was forced by the Occupying Army to reluctantly establish a new constitution while it was deprived of the sovereignty as a nation. It is no wonder from every point of view that an amendment of the constitution is now suggested by the Abe Cabinet.

Although Japan had no choice but to accept the humiliating national organic law sixty seven years ago, it was one consolation in sadness that it was born, though under an unlucky star, in the nick of time. Two weeks later, the so-called “modern regulation for the use of *kana*” was enacted. (*Kana* is the system of Japanese phonetic symbols, each of which stands for a syllable.) If the constitution had been issued later than the regulation, its preamble and provisions would have had to be written in obedience to this absurd rules for the spellings of the Japanese language. As it was, Japan was fortunate enough to have the nation’s most important law written in the authentic historical *kana* orthography by a hair’s breadth. Now we should take advantage of the fluke to lay a foundation for the revival of the authentic historical *kana* orthography. Above all, we should make every effort to propose to those concerned that the new suggested constitution be drafted in the authentic orthography.

The “modern regulation for the use of *kana*”, which is today generally in use in the government offices, educational institutions and the media, was notified by the then government on November 16, 1946. According to the pledge given at first by the authorities, this notification was only supposed to be applied to the formal documents drafted by the government offices. It was a pity that the media, including newspapers and publishing companies, jumped at the unreasonable reform. Even the public at large had the meanness to readily accept it, until at last the false way of expressing the mother tongue swept over the whole of the country, an irreparable loss to the Japanese culture.

Certainly, it was the GHQ that pulled the strings from behind. And yet, there were many Japanese who were to blame for currying favor with the Americans of power and trading on their sinister motive and ignorance. In fact, such Japanese had been thinking of destroying all manner of Japanese traditions handed down from our ancestors and the origin of this deterioration can be traced back to the argument of the reformed Japanese, which came into existence with the development of “Civilization and Enlightenment” during the Meiji period (1868~1912).

While the deterioration was in progress, those eager to maintain the culture and traditions of the nation were trying to extract the standard from an inexhaustible stock of our classical literature. Based on this extraction, they had been, in the forties of the Meiji era (around 1910), almost successful in establishing the regular system in accordance with which to express our mother tongue. This is what is called the “orthography.” The “orthography” is the way of expressing languages, alike in places, on the basis of the word origin. In Japan, it corresponds to the authentic historical *kana* orthography, into which the established regular system developed. It is this *kana* orthography that makes Japanese the national language of Japan. It is not too much to say that whatever nation or race has given up their orthography has at the same time given up their national language. If the Japanese have given up the national language, they are no longer worth calling as Japanese.

When they drafted the present constitution after the war, they adopted the theory of social contract, which by that time had gained ground in modern Europe. Unfortunately, this ideology has made us blind to Japanese as a historical existence. Now that we are going to amend the constitution, it is necessary that the text of the new constitution be worded in the authentic orthography as was that of the present constitution.

We hereby declare as above-mentioned and appeal to the people of Japan in general.

October, the twenty-fifth year of Heisei (2013)