

Alveolar/alveo-palatal obstruents in Japanese, part (I)

- If we consider *only* the data in this data set, what would we conclude about the distribution of the alveolar and alveo-palatal obstruents (stops, fricatives, and affricates) in Japanese? How many distinct phonemes would we want to set up?
- Are there any other alveolar or alveo-palatal obstruents in Japanese that are not exemplified (much) in this data set? What are they? It might be interesting to make predictions about their behavior.

(1) [(d)z] vs. [d͡z̥] vs. [z]

[(d)zembu]	‘all’	[izen]	‘before’
[kaḁzi]	‘fire’	[kuḁzira]	‘whale’
[kazoku]	‘family’	[(d)zannen]	‘regrettable’
[kuɰzu]	‘kudzu, J. arrowroot’	[idzi]	‘maintenance’
[tozan]	‘mountain climbing’	[kezuru]	‘sharpen, scrape’
[meḁziro]	(place name)		
		• Remember also: [sandzen]	‘three thousand’

(2) [ç] vs. [s]

[sakura]	‘cherry blossom’	[kesa]	‘this morning’
[aḁita]	‘tomorrow’	[osoi]	‘late, slow’
[çimasu]	‘do-FORMAL’	[muçi]	‘insect’
[kusaru]	‘spoils’	[keçiki]	‘scenery’
[ase]	‘sweat’	[içi]	‘stone’
[miso]	‘miso, soybean paste’	[toçi]	‘year’

(continued)

(3) [t] vs. [t̚] vs. [ts]

[atami]	(place name)	[tsukau]	‘uses’
[tokei]	‘clock’	[uta]	‘song’
[tatsu]	‘stands’	[heta]	‘unskillful’
[tetsudau]	‘helps’	[koto]	‘thing’
[katsu]	‘wins’	[utsusu]	‘reflects’
[tateru]	‘builds’	[setomono]	‘pottery’
[itsu]	‘when’	[utsu]	‘hits’
[kita]	‘came’	[oto]	‘sound’
[t̚ikaku]	‘near’	[ot̚iru]	‘falls’
[tatari]	‘spell’	[ita]	‘board’
[ket̚i]	‘stingy’	[satori]	‘realization’
[ut̚i]	‘house’	[otoko]	‘man’
[tabete]	‘eating’	[ak̚i]	‘empty land’
[mot̚i]	‘rice cake’	[kat̚i]	‘value’