

Journal of Universal Language 13-1

March 2012, 125-167

The Representation of Korean and Other Altaic Languages in Artificial International Auxiliary Languages

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Abstract

Korean and other Altaic languages are generally not well represented in artificial international auxiliary languages: the best known such languages (such as Esperanto and Ido) have borrowed almost nothing from them, instead almost exclusively using Indo-European languages as sources. In this paper I will present some auxiliary languages which have taken words and/or parts of their grammar from Altaic languages, looking at which items have been borrowed and in some cases what percentage of the vocabulary they account for. The languages discussed (most of which were created relatively recently) include Ardano, Dousha, Dunia, Konya, Kosmo, Kumiko, Lingwa de Planeta, Neo Patwa, NOXILO, Olingo, Pan-kel, Sambahsa-mundialect, Sona, and Unish. In the cases of most of these languages only a small

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Received January 30, 2012; Revised February 26, 2012; Accepted March 6, 2012.

proportion of the total vocabulary comes from Altaic languages. Further, some of the words said to have been taken from an Altaic language originally came from an Indo-European language.

In addition, I will compare the proportion of Korean items to those taken from the other languages of the Altaic family. Overall Korean has been drawn upon less than Japanese, but (not surprisingly) more than Mongolian, Azerbaijani, and Uzbek. Most conclusions are tentative because the vocabularies of most of the auxiliary languages examined have not been fully developed and because often information about sources of words is not given.

Keywords: auxiliary language, Altaic, Korean, Japanese, Turkish, vocabulary

1. Introduction

Most artificial international auxiliary languages (henceforth AIALs),¹ and the most successful among them, have been based on one or more natural languages. However, the set of languages which have been drawn on has been rather limited, usually being from the Indo-European family, and only from a few branches of it. However, in recent years, some attempts at AIALs have made use of a broader range of languages. In this paper I shall examine the extent to which members of one non-Indo-European family, the Altaic languages, are represented in AIALs. I will also compare the representation of Korean to that of other Altaic languages.²

Artificial languages have been created for many purposes,³ but,

¹ I use AIAL rather than IAL (International Auxiliary Language) because there can be, and indeed are, international auxiliary languages which are not artificial, e.g., English.

² Not all scholars consider Korean and Japanese to be part of the Altaic language family; my treatment of them together with Turkish and so on should not be interpreted as any kind of statement about classification.

as in my previous research, I am restricting my survey to those created for a serious purpose (as opposed to those created for fun or personal enjoyment), and in particular to those created to improve international communications, and those which may not have had this as their primary function, but whose designer saw it as a possible function. Such a purpose in part determines the form of artificial languages designed with it in mind, which in my view makes them more interesting for theoretical study (while a language created e.g., in connection with a work of science fiction could be much more unlike natural languages). However, although the purpose of the languages discussed here is serious, some of the actual languages may not be completely serious, at least in the sense that the designer does not really expect his language to have a chance of seeing widespread use as an AIAL. For example, Dana Nutter has designed not one but several AIALs, some of which are meant for use in particular regions of the world; it is extremely unlikely that any of them will see much use, and we might regard his AIALs as experimental creations rather than as practical solutions, or as examples of language play (but arguably of a more serious kind than e.g., science fiction languages). Nevertheless, designers of such AIALs have considered issues such as ease for potential learners and (perhaps most importantly for the purposes of the present paper) neutrality of an AIAL with respect to natural languages, and in my opinion they are worth examining.

One should bear in mind that I am reporting on the sources of words and other features as given by my sources on languages (usually the designer of the language); this does not necessarily correspond to the actual source, or at least not to the original source, as we shall see. I have not discussed every AIAL which has drawn upon the Altaic family, but I believe that I have covered the majority of them, which may give a very general

³ See for example Gobbo (2008).

picture of the extent way in which this family is represented among AIALs.

2. Investigation of AIALs

In this section I shall examine individual AIALs to determine how many words and grammatical features they have taken from Altaic languages.

2.1. Major AIALs

As already mentioned, the most popular AIALs, e.g., Esperanto, have taken very little from languages outside of the Indo-European group. As far as I know, the only words from Altaic languages which appear in such AIALs are those for items that come from the cultures in which those languages are spoken, with the exception of Esperanto *cunamo* ‘tsunami.’ For example, Esperanto has the words *kimcio* ‘kimchi’ and *kimono* ‘kimono,’ originally from Korean and Japanese respectively. However, one might suspect that these words were not taken directly from Korean or Japanese but were borrowed from English or another European language. I only know of one Esperanto word borrowed from Japanese which could not have come via English, *haŝio* ‘chopstick’ (which has not been accepted as an official word of the language, as shown by its absence from the *Akademia Vortaro* of the Akademio de Esperanto (n.d.)). Ido and Interlingua⁴ both also have the word *kimono* ‘kimono,’ and again it may well not have come directly from Japanese (I do not know whether it has official status in the former language).

⁴ By *Interlingua* I mean the language created by the International Auxiliary Language Association, not the language of the same name designed by Giuseppe Peano.

2.2. Ardano

Elhassi (2008: 2) states that Ardano “contains words from every natural language in the world.” This work does not contain a very large number of Ardano words, and certainly not enough so that every language is represented; further, Elhassi (ibid.: 10), in a section on etymology, says, “Only one example of a language the word is derived from” [sic], which could mean that if a word was taken from several languages, only one of them is mentioned (and I do not know of any other work on the language which contains more etymological information). In any case, Elhassi (ibid.) does not give etymological information on all the Ardano words which appear in this work, and when I give comparative figures below, it should be borne in mind that I am only comparing the number of words stated to come from particular languages, not the total number of words from those languages (which could be larger). There are some words said to be from Altaic languages: *txah* ‘tea’ from Korean, *sananal* ‘white’ from Manchu, *marul* ‘lettuce’ from Turkish, *gem* ‘boat’ from Turkish, and *tutmaco* ‘to hold’ from Azerbaijani. It will be noticed that there are no words said to be of Japanese origin, which is rather surprising; however, the prefix *o-* creates “respectful” questions; Elhassi (2008: 53) says that “The idea is taken from Japanese.” One of his examples is below:

- (1) a. Hal ti posna aiutiie min? = Can you help me?
- b. Ohal ti posna aiutije min? = Could you help me?

Presumably if a full vocabulary for Ardano were created, there would be more words of Altaic origin. (The same holds true of other AIALs with only partly developed vocabularies to be dicussed below.) If we look at the number of Ardano words said to come from some other languages, Elhassi (ibid.) has nine words from English (plus three from Tok Pisin and one from “Pitcairn-Norfolk” (p. 10)), one from French (and one word from

“Morisyen” (p. 36), i.e., Mauritian Creole), two from German (and two from Bavarian), one from Spanish, nine from Chinese (presumably meaning Mandarin, and not including words from Hakka and Wu Chinese), including the word for ‘Chinese,’⁵ 17 from Arabic, and ten from Italian (plus one from Calabrese). The relatively large figures for Arabic and Italian may be due to the fact that Ardano’s designer is Libyan.

2.3. Dousha

Dousha dates from 2002 and was created by Almir U. Junior from Brazil. (To my knowledge no publicly available source on Dousha gives his full surname.) Almir U. (2008) says, “It is an agglutinative language, developed from the Japanese grammar and with an assorted group of vocabulary sources. It is proposed for several uses, including to be used as an auxiliary language.” According to Almir U. (n.d. a) the following Dousha cardinal numerals come from Japanese (the original Japanese word is given in parentheses): *sa* ‘three’ (*san*), *go* ‘five’ (*go*), *so* ‘six’ (*soku*), *ste* ‘seven’ (*shichi*),⁶ *ku* ‘nine’ (*ku*), and *ju* ‘ten’ (*ju*). Some other cardinal numerals come from English or Portuguese, and no etymology is given for the words for ‘zero’ and ‘one.’ Almir U. (n.d. b) indicates that the source of the following prefixes is Japanese: *ai-/ay-* ‘posição intermediária, entre’ (‘intermediate position, between’), *ga^-/ga(t)-*⁷ ‘com’ (comitativo) (‘with’

⁵ The word for ‘China’ also appears to come from Chinese, though its etymology is not given. The word for ‘Japan,’ *Nipon*, appears to come from Japanese, though again this is not stated. The terms for ‘South Korea’ and ‘Turkey’ are *Yugo Corea* and *Turçya* respectively; no etymological information on them is provided, but the second word of the former presumably comes (although perhaps indirectly) from Korean, while the latter might come from Turkish.

⁶ It seems odd to say that *ste* was derived from *shichi*, but this is what is stated in Almir U. (n.d. a).

⁷ To my knowledge the meaning of the symbol or diacritic <^> is not explained

(comitative)), *hiki-* ‘extrato de’ (‘extract from’), *mot-* ‘por meio de’ (instrumental) (‘by means of’ (instrumental)), and *o^*- ‘posição superior, sobre, em cima de’ (‘superior position, on, on top of’).

2.4. Dunia

Robertson (n.d. a) states, “Dunia draws its grammar and lexical material from the most widely spoken languages throughout the world, for example: Chinese, Hindi/Urdu, Spanish/Portuguese, English, Malay/Indonesian, Arabic, Russian, Japanese, and German. However, it does this in such a way as to permit the learner to know in advance where to expect words to come from.”

Dunia is basically an SVO language. This is not the only permitted order, but another type of allowed order requires a word borrowed from Japanese; Robertson (n.d. a) says, “If the object does not follow the verb, it is marked by the preposition *o*, e.g., ‘it is curry that they are eating,’ *o tarkari tamen komer . . .* Note that although *o* is a postposition in the source language, Japanese, Dunia always uses prepositions.” Robertson (ibid.) then comments on his choice of this word: “Although there is a word in Mandarin which would have fulfilled the same purpose (ba-3rd tone), it cannot be used because it conflicts with the word *ba*, also from Mandarin (neutral tone), which we have already allocated as the suggestive mood particle, and the Japanese equivalent is used instead.”

Dunia has other Japanese function words. Robertson (ibid.) says:

In addition to the subject-predicate sentence structure most used in Western languages, Dunia also provides for a topic-comment structure with the topic end being marked by *wa* (from Japanese—there is no word used for this in Mandarin): ‘as for my sister, she is coming on

in any publicly available material on Dousha.

Monday,' *woski soror wa, ta yao venir getsuyobi.*"

San does not seem to have exactly the same function in *Dunia* as in Japanese: Robertson (n.d. a) states that it "may be useful for marking personal names when placed after them."

Concerning word classes Robertson (ibid.) states:

There are four fundamental parts of speech in *Dunia*: nouns, verbs, adjectives, and 'everything else.' The 'everything else' category includes grammatical/structural particles, modal particles, time expressions, prepositions, case and sentence structure markers, conjunctions, interjections, personal and correlative pronouns, articles, numerals, and primitive adverbs. These are drawn mostly from the Chinese, Japanese, Malay/Indonesian, Arabic, and Russian languages.

Robertson later says, "The correlatives in *Dunia* are mostly taken from Japanese, but with some regularities imposed." (Malay/Indonesian and Russian are the source languages for conjunctions and underived adverbs respectively and the personal pronouns seem to have come from Chinese; Spanish and Hindi/Urdu are the main sources for verbs and adjectives respectively.)

Robertson (ibid.) makes the following remark about vocabulary: "Where a word is particularly associated with a particular place or language, there is room in *Dunia* for a LIMITED number of these: these might include *kuaizi* (chopsticks) from Chinese, *zeit* (oil) from Arabic, *jidosha* (automobile) from Japanese, *konyak* from French, and *kanikchak* (snow) from Inuit." One might say that at least one of his examples, the Japanese one, is somewhat odd: while chopsticks are strongly "associated with" Chinese, or at least East Asian, culture, the connection between automobiles is arguably not as strong—while a large number of the world's cars

have been made by Japanese companies, the early history of the development of automobiles is probably connected with Europe and/or the United States in many people's minds.

As far as I know, there is no publicly available *Dunia* dictionary. However, Robertson (n.d. b) gives a list of words (with English glosses) occurring in the *Dunia* version of the "Babel Story." The words in this list said to come from Japanese are (in addition to *o* and *wa*): *dono* 'who, which,' *dore* 'what,' *dotoki* 'when,' *kore* 'this,' *kotoki* 'now,' *mina* 'wholly, completely,' *minadore* 'everything,' *onajidono* 'same,' *soko* 'then,' and *sore* 'that.'

Thus while *Dunia* has borrowed a fair amount of material from Japanese, to my knowledge it has not made use of any items from other Altaic languages.

2.5. Esperadunye and Pasifika

As already noted, Dana Nutter has created several artificial languages, one of which is Esperadunye. Nutter (2012a) says that this language is "[b]asically Esperanto relexified with a mixed vocabulary from major world languages rather than just European ones, and some grammatical reforms which make the language more isolating to accom[m]odate a wider range of speaking habits." The *Esperadunye Dictionary* (Nutter 2012b) lists a relatively small number of words and affixes in the language (93⁸); a (partly) Altaic etymology is attributed to two of them: *dunye* 'world' (from Turkish *dünya*, Hindi *duniyā*, Indonesian *dunia*, Arabic *dunyā*) and *qine* 'person' (from Japanese *jin*).⁹

Pasifika is another language designed by Dana Nutter, who says:

⁸ There are two cases of three words derived from the same root being listed as separate entries, e.g., *bove* 'ox, bovine,' *bovine* 'cow,' *bovule* 'bull,' and *ve* 'you,' and *vei* 'your' are also listed separately.

⁹ The letter <q> is pronounced [dʒ].

Pasifika is designed to be an auxiliary language for regional use around the Pacific Rim by drawing from the major languages of East Asia, Western Americas, Australia, Indonesia, and other parts of Oceania: Malay-Indonesian, Japanese, Korean, Vietnamese, Javanese, Mandarin, Spanish, English, Wu, and Cantonese, but also adding small influences from less popular languages such as Tagalog, Ilocano, Thai, Quechua, Aymara, Maori, and Hawaiian. The goal of Pasifika is to construct a language which is easy for speakers of all the source languages to pronounce, with a much simpler and more regular grammar, and a small but still powerful core vocabulary using words found in the diversity of the source languages (Nutter 2012c).

The *Pasifika-English Dictionary* (Nutter 2012d) gives etymological information, but only contains 16 Pasifika words, of which two are said to come from an Altaic language, *jin* ‘person’ (from Japanese *jin*) and *xima* ‘island’ (from Japanese *shimá*). Thus 12.5% of the Pasifika vocabulary on this webpage has an Altaic origin. Recall that the Esperadunye word for ‘person’ is also derived from the Japanese word *jin*. The Pasifika word for ‘world,’ *dunia*, is similar to that of Esperadunye, but only Indonesian is given as a source for it (namely the word *dunia*).

2.6. Euransi

Euransi was designed by Libor Sztemon of the Czech Republic. He was working on the language from at least 1998 to 2002 (he died in 2002). Sztemon (n.d.) contains a table giving the sources of 42 Euransi words, along with their “original meaning” (i.e., the meaning in the source language), including the following from Altaic languages (I only give the original meaning when it is different from the meaning in Euransi): *bahce* (from Turkish

bahçe ‘garden’), *kaze* ‘wind’ (N) (from Japanese *kaze* ‘wind, cold’), *bayrami* ‘holiday’ (from Turkmen *bayram* ‘festival’), *yorgân* ‘chasm’ (from Azeri *yorgvan*). Other words in this table are stated to come from English, Dutch, Latin, Hebrew, Tajik, Chechen, Indonesian, Swahili, and so on. (In fact each word comes from a different language, except that one word is said to come from Arabic and another from Egyptian Arabic; also one word comes from Hindi and one from Urdu.) Thus it can be seen that Sztemon drew upon quite a range of languages, but there is no evidence that Korean was used.

2.7. Jigwa

Jigwa was an (apparently abandoned) attempt to create an AIAL which was not “Euro-centric” (Jigwadx Jungdwei n.d.). The currently available sources on Jigwa do not mention or list very many of its words, but Jigwadx Jungdwei (ibid.) gives several of the cardinal numerals, including *sam* ‘three,’ which is “from Korean and Cantonese, cognate with Mandarin *san*1 and Japanese *san*.” Jigwadx Jungdwei (ibid.) says, “The demonstratives, all borrowed from Asian languages, are *na* (what? which?), *jx* (this), *so* (that), *mai* (each, every), and *mu* (no, not any).” Of these *na*, *so*, and *mai* appear to come from Japanese, and *mu* from Korean and/or Japanese.

The document Jigwa (Jigwadx Jungtim 1995), which is no longer available online,¹⁰ has “etymological information” on the origins of most words, although, given the fact that in most cases several source words are mentioned, it is not clear what this information means—is the Jigwa word a synthesis of the words cited, or have some of the words cited simply reinforced the idea

¹⁰ Even the Jigwa materials mentioned in the previous paragraph, which I called “currently available,” are not obtainable from the webpage where they were first posted.

of borrowing a particular word (because they sound like it)? The Jigwa words in relation to which words from one or more Altaic languages are listed below, along with the “etymological information”:

- (2) a. du ‘two’—English: two, dual; Italian: due; Korean: tul; Nepali: dui
 b. dung ‘east(ern)’—Cantonese: dung; Mandarin: dong1; Korean: tong(-jjok); Vietnamese: Dōng
 c. chx¹¹ ‘seven’—Mandarin: qil; Cantonese: chat; Japanese: shichi
 d. dou ‘bean, pea’—Mandarin: dou4; Vietnamese: dāu; Japanese: tō
 e. gwa ‘language’—Italian: linguaggio; Japanese: go; Cantonese: wa
 f. jung ‘middle, center’—Korean: chung-ang; Cantonese: jung; Mandarin: zhong1
 g. nam ‘south(ern)’—Korean & Vietnamese: nam; Mandarin: nan2; Cantonese: naam
 h. nen ‘year’—Mandarin: nian2; Cantonese: nin; Japanese: nen; Korean: nyon
 i. nung ‘agriculture’—Cantonese: nung; Vietnamese: nong; Korean: nong
 j. pal ‘eight’—Korean: pal; Mandarin: bal; Cantonese: baat
 k. sam ‘three’—Korean & Thai: sam; Cantonese: saam; Japanese: san, sam-
 l. wan ‘10,000’—Mandarin: wan4; Cantonese: maan; Japanese: man

Since such information is only given on less than one third of the Jigwa words in the “wordlist” in Jigwadx Jungtim (1995), it is impossible to know the extent to which Korean and Japanese

¹¹ The letter <x> stands for schwa.

have been drawn upon in creating the vocabulary (which in any case is presumably not to be the full lexicon of the language). However, based on the words given above, it appears that both Korean and Japanese are fairly well represented in the Jigwa lexicon (12 out of 24 words for which “etymological information” is given involve Korean and/or Japanese), or at least they have had an influence (in case the Korean and Japanese words only reinforced the choice of a word). This figure may be misleading, as some of the words in the “wordlist” for which information about sources is not given seem to have been taken (only) from Mandarin, e.g., *bei* ‘northern.’ On the other hand *ba* ‘place, location’ and *zen* ‘whole, all entire’ appear to have a Japanese origin; at least the former does not seem to involve Mandarin at all.

2.8. Konya and Iomi

Sulky (2005) says the following about “influences” on his language Konya:

Q: What are Konya’s influences?

A: There is a sizable handful. But they are only influences. For example, the marking of major clauses is something we see in Japanese, so Japanese could be considered an influence; but even if Japanese didn’t exist, I would still have used the concept in Konya, because it’s a good idea in the overall framework of the language.

English is an influence on the vocabulary, but then, so are the Romance languages and many others. The heavy use of compounding is something we see in Mandarin and other Sino-Tibetan languages, as well as in English. The syllable structure is influenced by Indonesian and Japanese. The limited phoneme set is

influenced by a now-dormant constructed language initially called Kalim. The self-segregating morphology is influenced by Loglan and its step-child Lojban.

He then cites the artificial language Ladekwa as “a major influence,” and brings up another artificial language, Ceqli, so it may have contributed to his ideas for Konya. The Konya dictionary (Sulky n.d.) does not contain any etymological information, so I cannot say whether and to what extent words were borrowed from Altaic languages. In any case, the language apparently remains incomplete.

A later language designed by Sulky is Ilomi; to at least some extent it can be seen as a development of Konya. Sulky’s (2006a) remarks about the “influences” for this language are quite similar to those just quoted, in fact the first paragraph is identical (with “Ilomi” substituted for “Konya”), as is the second paragraph, except that “Malayo-Polynesian languages” is added after “the Romance languages.” The dictionary of Ilomi (Sulky 2006b) does give what appear to be sources for some words, two of which are said to have Altaic etymologies (as well as one proper noun); the entries for these words are (with minor modifications):

- (3) a. *afito* ‘person (not implicitly adult), human, people’
 [Japanese *hito*]
 b. *amanka* ‘cartoon, comic’
 [Japanese *manga*, Korean *manhwa*]

2.9. Kosmo

Kosmo was designed by G. Schröder, who apparently never published anything on his language, and dates from approximately 1949. According to Monnerot-Dumaine (1960: 176) it “[a]ppartient à la meme catégorie que l’Esperanto, mais n’est pas un espérantide” (‘belongs to the same category as Esperanto, but is

not an Esperantido [a language derived from Esperanto]’). I cannot say anything about the sources of the vocabulary of this language, as to my knowledge there is no publicly available information on it, but the system of case marking was taken from Japanese; Monnerot-Dumaine (1960: 54) says:

Peu de langues ont emprunté la déclinaison analytique du japonais. Celui-ci marque le cas au moyen de particules détachées: *ga* (ou *wa*) pour le nominative, *no* pour le génitive, *ni* pour le datif, *wo* pour l’accusatif. Ces particules suivent le substantif. Schröder s’en inspire pour son Kosmo qui marque le nominative par *ga*, le génitif par *no*, le datif par *ni*, l’accusatif par *vo*. Les particules *ga* et *vo* ne s’emploient que dans le mode emphatique, ou lorsqu’il est utile de préciser. Toutefois, le Kosmo laisse le choix pour le génitif, entre la préposition romane *de* et la postposition japonaise. Ex.: *le livre de la tante* peut se dire *la libra de la tanta* ou *la tanta no libra*. Schröder estime la seconde forme plus harmonieuse. Pour le datif, meme choix entre la préposition *a* et postposition *ni*.

(‘Few languages have borrowed the analytic declension of Japanese. It marks the cases by means of detached particles: *ga* (or *wa*) for the nominative, *no* for the genitive, *ni* for the dative, *wo* for the accusative. These particles follow the noun. Schröder was inspired by it for his Kosmo, which marks the nominative with *ga*, the genitive with *no*, the dative with *ni*, the accusative with *vo*. The particles *ga* and *vo* are only used in the emphatic mode, or when it is useful to clarify. However, Kosmo allows the choice with respect to the genitive between the Romance preposition *de* and the Japanese postposition. E.g., ‘the aunt’s book’ can be said *la libra de la tanta* or *la tanta no libra*. Schröder considers the second form

more harmonious. With respect to the dative, [there is] the same choice between the preposition *a* and the postposition *ni*.’)

2.10. Kumiko

Kumiko was created by Ming Tang, who was 17 in 2010 and a “Chinese immigrant living in Canada” (Tang 2010). Tang (2011a) says that “Kumiko is the newest installation of logical languages,” i.e., it is a language of the type of Loglan and Lojban. While its main purpose was not to be an AIAL, Tang (2011b) states, “Kumiko is a candidate for the next international auxiliary language.” According to Tang (2011a: 2), “Kumiko is a phonetic language, and the syllable structure is based on Japanese, which is clear and easy to pronounce.” On the same page Tang says, “Kumiko’s main source languages for its vocabulary are Chinese, Japanese, and English.” He then (*ibid.*: 3) gives more information about what Kumiko has taken from various sources:

- (4) Kumiko attempts to incorporate the advantages [of] many other languages
 - a. Japanese
 - Vocabulary
 - Sounds
 - Syllable structure
 - Loan word system
 - Mixing of writing systems
 - b. Korean
 - Featural alphabet

The other languages mentioned here are Chinese, English, Lojban, Ceqli (another artificial language), “Mathematical programming language,” Perl 6, APL, and J (the last three of these are computer languages). Tang (*ibid.*) mentions katakana in the section entitled

“Alternative Writing Systems [for Kumiko]”; in fact it is the only system brought up there.

Below is a list of the 86 Kumiko words which come from Japanese, according to Tang (2011c):¹²

- (5) *aki* ‘autumn,’ *ama* ‘sweet,’ *ame* ‘rain,’ *ao* ‘cyan,’ *aR* ‘exist,’ *aso* ‘play,’ *au* ‘meet,’ *cuQ* ‘soil,’ *dai* ‘large,’ *daki* ‘hug, embrace,’ *eR* ‘obtain,’ *Fyu* ‘winter,’ *gacu* ‘month,’ *hae* ‘fly (insect),’ *haJ* ‘first,’ *hana* ‘flower,’ *haR* ‘spring,’ *ika* ‘squid,’ *iku* ‘go,’ *iro* ‘color,’ *iu* ‘say,’ *kami* ‘paper,’ *kani* ‘crab,’ *kao* ‘face,’ *kara* ‘spicy,’ *kasa* ‘umbrella, parasol,’ *kiku* ‘listen,’ *kiR* ‘wear,’ *ku-* ‘long time,’ *kumi* ‘grouped,’ *kuQ* ‘mouth,’ *kuro* ‘black,’ *kyo-* ‘capital city,’ *macu* ‘wait,’ *mi-* ‘beautiful,’ *mi+* ‘ear,’ *miku* ‘future,’ *mise* ‘store,’ *Mne* ‘chest,’ *mo* ‘peach,’ *mocu* ‘hold’ (V), *moe* ‘moe’ (anime term), *MX* ‘insect,’ *nacu* ‘summer,’ *naW* ‘rope,’ *neko* ‘cat,’ *neM* ‘rest,’ *neN* ‘year,’ *niN* ‘person,’ *noM* ‘drink,’ *nue* ‘nue,’¹³ *omo* ‘think,’ *oni* ‘oni,’¹⁴ *qa-* ‘tea,’ *qo-* ‘butterfly,’ *Qsa* ‘small,’ *re-* ‘example,’ *sake* ‘sake (wine),’ *saku* ‘cherry blossom,’ *sasu* ‘point’ (V), *seka* ‘world,’ *sora* ‘sky,’ *su-* ‘number,’ *sui* ‘water,’ *suki* ‘like,’ *suru* ‘do,’ *sute* ‘throw,’ *suW* ‘sit,’ *suX* ‘sushi,’ *tabe* ‘eat,’ *tacu* ‘stand,’ *taki* ‘waterfall,’ *tama* ‘egg,’ *teR* ‘come out,’ *tomo* ‘friend,’ *uqo* ‘outer space,’ *usa* ‘rabbit,’ *uta* ‘song,’ *XB* ‘news,’ *Xma* ‘island,’ *Xnu* ‘die,’ *Xo* ‘salt,’ *Xro* ‘white,’ *Xzu* ‘quiet,’ *Yma*

¹² Some of the orthographic symbols of Kumiko require explanation: <-> indicates that the final vowel of a word is to be pronounced twice (e.g., *mi-* is pronounced [mi]), <+> indicates that the last final syllable of a word is pronounced twice (e.g., *mi+* is pronounced [mimi]). Most capital letters stand for sequences of sounds, e.g., <F> stands for [fu]; <N> stands for a syllabic nasal which can be pronounced in various places of articulation. The letters <q> stands for [tɕ] or [tʃ].

¹³ I do not know what this gloss means, or whether it is an error.

¹⁴ Once again I do not understand the meaning of this gloss.

‘mountain,’ *yu-* ‘soup’

This dictionary also has words said to be from Chinese, English, Latin, and several other languages (though no other Altaic ones). The total number of words in it is 377, and thus the words with a Japanese etymology make up approximately 23% of them.

2.11. Lingwa de Planeta (LdP, Lidepla)

According to Ivanov (2011):

Lingwa de Planeta is a neutral international auxiliary language based on the most widely spoken languages of the world, including English, German, French, Spanish, Portuguese, Chinese, Russian, Hindi, Arabic, and Persian. We attach much importance to psychology: elements of one’s own native language in a constructed language evoke positive emotions and increase greatly one’s motivation to learn it. And we hope that the bulk of the planet’s population may perceive Lidepla not only as neutral, but as a common language with a certain smack of their native tongues.

The *LdP-English Dictionary* (Ivanov 2009) has words built from 1,500 roots (according to Ivanov 2011), a fairly large number of which said to be from an Altaic language, although in many cases the Altaic language is clearly not the original source of the language (although Ivanov does not say this). (On the other hand one might imagine that *tsunami* was taken from English, not directly from Japanese, though again Ivanov does not state this.) Ivanov (ibid.) does say, “Word etymologies are given sparingly, and usually only one source language is indicated. However you should bear in mind that we have often adopted roots that are

widely spread across languages. For example, the word ‘kitaba’ is originally from Arabic, but the root is also present in Turkish, Hindi, and many other languages.”¹⁵ Below is a list of words said to be constructed from Altaic roots,¹⁶ with glosses and explanations from Ivanov (2009), occasionally modified:

- (6) a. Azeri (3): *divan* ‘divan (sofa),’ *gitara* ‘guitar,’ *vulkan* ‘volcano’
 b. Crimean Tatar (1): *bagaja* ‘luggage’
 c. Turkish (69): *aida* ‘let’s go, come along,’¹⁷ *aksham* ‘evening,’ *albatross* ‘albatros,’ *algoritma* ‘algorithm,’ *banka* ‘bank (financial institution),’ *barut* ‘gunpowder,’ *bavul* ‘suitcase,’ *bitum* ‘bitumen,’ *buton* ‘button (fastener; device meant to be pressed; bud),’ *chapa* ‘hoe, mattock,’ *depo* ‘depot, store, storehouse,’ *dialoga* ‘dialogue,’ *dilim* ‘slice, clove,’ *dolar* ‘dollar,’ *ekran* ‘screen (viewing area),’ *ekvator* ‘equator,’ *etiket* ‘etiquette,’ *fenomen* ‘phenomenon,’ *fitil* ‘wick, fuse,’ *fok* ‘seal (animal),’ *gargari* ‘gargle,’ *garson* ‘waiter,’ *general* ‘general (commander),’ *gol* ‘goal (sports),’ *grip* ‘flu, grippe, influenza,’ *gubra* ‘dung, manure, muck,’ *gunah* ‘sin’ (N), *harem* ‘harem,’ *idris* ‘bird cherry,’ *juri* ‘jury,’ *kalamar* ‘squid,’ *kamion* ‘lorry, truck,’ *kapak* ‘lid (cover),’ *karpus* ‘watermelon,’ *kazan* ‘boiler,’ *leleka* ‘stork,’ *maimun* ‘monkey,’ *mat* ‘checkmate, mate’ (N), *ochak* ‘hearth, fireplace; (fig.) hotbed, seat, breeding ground, focus, center,’ *omlet* ‘omelette,’ *orak* ‘sickle,’ *palto* ‘coat, overcoat,’ *paragraf* ‘paragraph,’ *parola* ‘password,’ *patlajan* ‘eggplant, aubergine,’ *radyum* ‘radium,’ *rejim*

¹⁵ There are many words for which no etymological information at all is given.

¹⁶ Ivanov (2009) lists words, not roots, and so the list below also contains words (but only headwords).

¹⁷ Ivanov (ibid.) gives the etymology of this word as “Turkish, Slavic.”

‘regime, regimen,’ *rejisor* ‘director (in a show or film),’ *rekor* ‘record (unsurpassed measurement),’ *shorta* ‘shorts,’ *soxis* ‘sausage,’ *soya* ‘soya,’ *tapa* ‘spigot, tap, plug, stopper,’ *tavan* ‘ceiling,’ *tel* ‘wire,’ *tirpan* ‘scythe,’ *topale* ‘lame,’ *topuk* ‘heel (part of the foot),’ *tuman* ‘fog; mist,’ *turk* ‘Turkish (relating to ethnicity, language, or country); Turkish (person of Turkish ethnicity); Turkish language’ (N, A),¹⁸ *tuvalet* ‘toilet (grooming or dressing),’ *uf* (an exclamation expressing tiredness or relief, appeasement), *uniforma* ‘uniform (distinctive outfit),’ *uranyum* ‘uranium,’ *ya*₁ (exclamatory particle) ‘yes’ (e.g., *oo ya!* ‘oh yes!’), *ya*₂ (grammatical particle) ‘you see, really’ (emphatic particle), *yash* ‘age (stage/time or duration of life),’ *yok* ‘there is no, not available, no,’ *yoksuni* ‘deprive, bereave,’ *yurta* ‘yurta, yurt, ger’

d. Uzbek (3): *akvarium* ‘aquarium,’ *surma* ‘antimony, stibium,’ *tuhmat* ‘slander, calumny’

e. Mongolian (1): *roman* ‘novel’

f. Korean (2): *onlain* ‘online,’ *tampon* ‘tampon’¹⁹

g. Japanese (11): *bandana* ‘bandana,’ *bekon* ‘bacon,’ *fuki* ‘blow’ (V), *kiba* ‘fang,’ *mango* ‘mango,’ *nihon* ‘Japanese’ (N, A),²⁰ *pay* ‘pie,’ *tana* ‘shelf,’ *tawa* ‘tower,’ *tsunami* ‘tsunami,’ *yuma* ‘humor’

The vast majority of these words are not particular to an Altaic culture; an exception is *harem*.²¹ Given the already noted fact that

¹⁸ The word for ‘Turkey’ is *Turkiye*; its etymology is not given in Ivanov (2009).

¹⁹ The words *Chosen* ‘North Korea’ and *Hanguk* ‘South Korea’ were almost certainly taken from Korean, but Ivanov (ibid.) does not state this.

²⁰ The word *Nippon* ‘Japan’ presumably comes from Japanese, but its origin is not given in Ivanov (ibid.).

²¹ Another LdP dictionary, Ivanov & Lysenko (2007), has far more headwords (3,733 as of January 28, 2012), but the same number of words stated to be from Azeri, Crimean Tatar, Turkish, Uzbek, Mongolian, Korean, and Japanese.

many of those supposedly Altaic words are obvious (and relatively recent) borrowings into the source Altaic language (e.g., *akwarium*, *omlet*, *onlain*, *roman*), the linguistic representation of Altaic languages in LdP is considerably less than one might think when simply looking at the numbers of words from Turkish, and so on in LdP. One might wonder why Ivanov did not simply state that *roman* was taken from French, *bekon* from English, and so on. It might have been that he wanted to give a fairly high level of representation to Altaic (and other non-Indo-European) languages, but found it easier to choose some words which he was already familiar with due to their originally English, French, and so on origin. Of course it would also be easier for learners who speak English and French, but the result is an AIAL which is not as “neutral” as might be claimed. On the other hand there are more truly Altaic words, or at least words which are not recent borrowings from Western languages,²² than in Esperanto, Ido, or Interlingua, including some for concepts or items not particular to one or more Altaic cultures, e.g., *yash* ‘age.’

However, what appears to be an earlier version of this dictionary (also © 2007, but downloaded on April 28, 2010) has some differences with respect to etymological information, attributing a (partly) Altaic origin to some words which are not said to be from an Altaic language in the current version. (There is a significant difference between the two versions: although they are both supposed to be “multilingual,” the current version only has LdP and English.) For example, in the earlier version the origin of *chay* ‘tea’ is given Turkish and Hindi, while in the current version only Hindi is mentioned. In the earlier version *chinara* ‘plane tree’ is said to be from Turkish, but in the current version Armenian is given as the source. According to the earlier version of this dictionary *adres* ‘address’ came from Turkish; in the current version no etymological information on it is given. On the other hand we also find the opposite type of situation: in the current version *divan* ‘divan (sofa)’ is said to be from Azeri, while in the earlier version there is no etymological information about this word; according to the current version *palto* ‘coat, overcoat’ came from Turkish, while in the earlier version (where it is glossed as ‘overcoat, paletot’) a Russian origin is attributed to it.

²² For example, Turkish has borrowed many words from Arabic and Persian.

2.12. Neo Patwa

Wilkinson (2010a) states that “Neo Patwa is a pidgin-like international language that is used by people around the world to communicate when they do not share a common language.” As for the vocabulary, “the words [of New Patwa] appear to be chosen from real languages, such as English, Chinese, Hindi, Swahili, Spanish, Arabic, Russian, Indonesian, Korean, and Japanese. So learning Neo Patwa means learning words that are already in use by people from different cultures around the world.” (ibid.).

Below are the words to which the *Neo Patwa-English Dictionary* Wilkinson (2010b) attributes an Altaic origin:

- (7) a. Turkish (1): *kanun* ‘law, rule, regulation’²³
- b. Mongolian (1): *altai* ‘gold, metal’²⁴
- c. Korean (7): *acim* ‘morning,’ *anda* ‘sit, at, located,’ *babo* ‘fool, foolish, stupid,’ *ban* ‘evening, afternoon,’ *dalida* ‘run, flow, happen, current,’ *pal* ‘eight,’ *ulda* ‘cry, weep’
- d. Japanese (13): *cika* ‘near, close, approach, soon,’ *genki* ‘health, healthy, vigorous,’ *kabe* ‘wall, obstacle, hinder,’ *kaki* ‘write, scratch,’ *kona* ‘powder, flour,’ *mada* ‘still, yet, again,’ *mo* ‘also, too, neither, and, even,’²⁵ *nige* ‘escape, avoid,’ *oci* ‘drop, fall,’ *samwi* ‘cold,’ *si* ‘four,’ *tate* ‘stand, vertical, position,’ *tomo* ‘accompany, with, friend, together, mutual, mix’
- e. Korean and Japanese (1): *kaci* ‘price, value’

There is an older *Neo Patwa-English Dictionary*, Wilkinson (n.d.), which is much longer (approximately 24 2/3 pages,

²³ Wilkinson (2010b: 3) gives the origin of this word as “Turkish, etc.”

²⁴ Wilkinson (ibid.: 1) says “from mountains,” i.e., from the toponym *the Altai mountains*.

²⁵ Wilkinson (ibid.: 4) gives the origin of this word as “Bislama [sic]/Japanese.”

compared to the approximately 6 1/3 pages of Wilkinson (2010b) and contains many more words. The words in it to which Wilkinson attributes an Altaic etymology are:

- (8) a. Turkish (11): *balina* ‘whale,’ *bati* ‘west,’ *cati* ‘roof, top, lid,’ *kanca* ‘hook,’ *kanun* ‘law, rule, regulation,’²⁶ *mide* ‘stomach,’ *sakal* ‘beard, moustache,’ *sane* ‘stage,’²⁷ *somon* ‘salmon,’ *sosisu* ‘sausage,’ *yesil* ‘green’
- b. Korean (15): *acim* ‘morning,’ *anda* ‘sit, at, located,’ *babo* ‘fool, foolish, stupid,’ *ban* ‘evening, afternoon,’ *gwi* ‘ear,’ *hyomo* ‘yeast, ferment,’ *misu* ‘smile,’ *mogi* ‘mosquito,’ *nuwe* ‘brain,’ *pada* ‘dig,’ *pal* ‘eight,’ *paseli* ‘parsley,’²⁸ *ulda* ‘cry, weep,’ *usan* ‘umbrella,’ *yunipom* ‘uniform (clothes)’
- c. Japanese (46): *ali-dudu* ‘ant,’ *aspara* ‘asparagus,’²⁹ *budo* ‘grape,’ *cika* ‘near, close, approach,’ *cinami* ‘incidentally, by the way,’ *coco* ‘butterfly,’ *ebi* ‘shrimp,’ *egaki* ‘draw, describe,’ *fuki* ‘blow, puff,’ *genki* ‘health, healthy, vigorous,’ *gili* ‘in-law,’ *gulam* ‘gram,’ *haci* ‘bee,’ *ilasto* ‘picture,’ *ima* ‘now, present,’ *kame* ‘turtle,’ *kami* ‘bite,’ *kamome* ‘seagull,’ *kasumi* ‘mist, fog, steam,’ *kataci* ‘shape, form, appearance,’ *kicune* ‘fox,’ *kime* ‘decide, choose,’ *kona* ‘powder, flour,’ *kuxi* ‘comb,’ *mada* ‘still, yet,’ *mate* ‘wait,’ *mo* ‘also, too, neither, and,’³⁰ *momo* ‘peach,’ *muda* ‘waste,’ *nami* ‘wave,’ *nige* ‘escape, avoid,’ *numa* ‘swamp,’ *oci* ‘drop, fall,’ *sakura* ‘cherry,’ *sango* ‘coral,’ *sase* ‘cause, make, compel,’ *selori* ‘celery,’³¹ *sumi*

²⁶ Wilkinson (n.d.: 10) again gives the origin of this word as “Turkish, etc.”

²⁷ Wilkinson (ibid.: 2) gives the origin of this word as “Japanese-English.”

²⁸ Wilkinson (ibid.: 18) gives the origin of this word as “Korean-English.”

²⁹ Wilkinson (ibid.: 20) gives the origin of this word as “Persian/Turkish.”

³⁰ Wilkinson (ibid.: 15) again gives the origin of this word as “Bisllama [sic]/Japanese.”

³¹ Wilkinson (ibid.: 20) gives the origin of this word as “Japanese-English.”

‘corner, angle,’ *taikun* ‘business leader,’ *tate* ‘stand, vertical,’ *tawa* ‘tower,’ *tobi* ‘fly, jump,’ *tomo* ‘accompany, with, together, mutual,’ *toyo* ‘fertile, bountiful, abundant,’ *xi* ‘four,’ *yagi* ‘goat’

d. Korean and Japanese (1): *kaci* ‘price, value’

Wilkinson (n.d.: 20) also has the word *sasa* ‘sudden, suddenly,’ the origin of which he states as “Hindi. Close to Japanese.”

There are many words from Altaic sources in Wilkinson (n.d.) which are not in Wilkinson (2010b). On the other hand, although it is much shorter, the latter has some words not present in the former: from Mongolian *altai*, from Korean *dalida*, from Japanese *kabe*, *kaki*, and *samwi*. Wilkinson (n.d.) had Neo Patwa words with the meanings of these words, but they were different words, e.g., *xita* ‘winter’ (from Arabic), *sona* ‘gold’ (from Hindi), and *metal* ‘metal’ (from English). In the case of the last two words the later dictionary has given two meanings to one word, while in the earlier dictionary there was a different word for each meaning. (Wilkinson (2010b) has no other word for ‘metal.’)

Aside from the differences in items included in the two dictionaries, the glosses for some items are different, e.g., in Wilkinson (2010b) *cika* (from Japanese) has one additional meaning in its gloss (i.e., which was not in the gloss for this word in Wilkinson (n.d.)), ‘soon,’ *mada* has the additional meaning ‘again,’ and *mo* has the additional meaning ‘even’ (both also from Japanese)). Wilkinson (n.d.) has words for ‘again’ and ‘even,’ *lagi* (from Singlish-Malay) and *ance* (from Italian) respectively, while these words are not in Wilkinson (2010b), nor are any other words which only mean ‘again’ or ‘even.’ This is thus one way in which one could reduce the size of a vocabulary of an artificial language, by assigning additional meanings to a word already present, and getting rid of words which only have those meanings. On the other hand, in Wilkinson (n.d.) there is no word with the meaning ‘soon,’ so a new meaning has been added to the language. Perhaps

the most notable addition to meaning involves *tomo*, which in Wilkinson (2010b) has the new meanings ‘friend’ and ‘mix,’ along with its older meanings of ‘with,’ and so on. There are no other words for ‘friend’ or ‘mix’ in Wilkinson (ibid.), while the words for ‘friend’ and ‘mix’ in Wilkinson (n.d.) are *ami* (from French) and *mixen* (from German; it also means ‘combine, blend’).

In the case of the word for ‘four,’ the pronunciation and spelling have changed, from *xi* to *si*.

This is presumably due to the fact that the letter <x>, which in the earlier version of the language stood for [ʃ], was removed from the 2010 version, although the sound [ʃ] still exists in the language as a possible pronunciation of <c> (while <s> stands for [s] in both versions).

If we look at how many Neo Patwa words in Wilkinson (2010b) are said to come from other languages, we find 20 words from Mandarin, two words from Vietnamese, 21 words for which French is given as the source, or one of the sources, also 21 words for which English is the source or a source, and 5 words from German. These figures, as well as those for words from Altaic languages, do not include compounds containing a word from one or another of these languages.

2.13. NOXILO

Sentaro (2012) states:

NOXILO (pronounced ‘NOSHILO’) is a truly equal and easy-to-use international auxiliary language, which was made in Japan for Asians, Europeans, Africans, and North/South Americans. Unlike most other international auxiliary languages, NOXILO allows most users (American, Chinese, French, German, Indian, Korean, Japanese, Malaysian, Russian, Spanish, Thai, and so on) to write and speak in the word order of their native

tongue or in a similar word order.

There is also a considerable degree of freedom with respect to the vocabulary:

NOXILO vocabulary consists of *two* types of words, which are *Basic Words (BW)* and *International Standard Words (ISW)*. Basic Words are mandatory to use. Except for the BWs, NOXILO users can freely choose proper words from ISWs, or any words from their mother language such as English, French, Spanish, Russian, Arabic, Chinese, Korean, Japanese, Swedish, Thai (Sentaro 2012).

As far as I know the sources of most NOXILO words are not given in any publicly available materials on the language in English, but there is etymological information on some words. The cardinal numerals *NI* ‘two’ and *MAN* ‘10,000’ come from Japanese, while *SAM* ‘three’ and *OK* ‘100,000,000’ are from Korean.³² NOXILO had two other cardinal numerals with a Korean provenance, *QO* ‘one trillion’ and *KyOn* ‘10,000,000,000,000,000,’ but Sentaro (2011b) says that they were discarded (and words from Greek and Chinese respectively used instead) as “한국어가 너무 많다는 비판을 고려했습니다” (‘criticism that there was too much Korean [in NOXILO] was taken into consideration’). The word for ‘decimal point,’ *TEn*, is of Japanese origin.

There are two ways of saying ‘thank you,’ one of which, *KAMSA*, has a Korean etymology (the other is from Swahili). Another word of Korean origin is *XI* ‘hour.’ The word *KAn* ‘for’

³² There is a NOXILO alphabet, but one may write NOXILO in capital letters of the Roman alphabet, with two lower case letters: <y> indicates that the preceding consonant is palatalized and <n> stands for a nasal: bilabial, alveolar, or velar, depending on its environment.

comes from Japanese; it appears to be a postposition and to mark extent of time, e.g., *25NE KAn* ‘for 25 days’ (Sentaro 2011a). One of the words for ‘autumn,’ *AKI*, was also borrowed from Japanese. It is among the words which “are originally Friendship Nouns (now part of ISWs)” (ibid.).³³

2.14. Olingo

Olingo was designed by R. Stewart Jaque, who writes (1944: 24) that this language “is basically Neo-Latin and Anglo-Saxon with roots and words selected from all of the major languages of both the Western and Eastern Hemispheres.” He then (ibid.: 24-25) gives some Olingo words from various languages which “show the worldwide language coverage of the Olingo vocabulary” (ibid.: 25). Four of these words are from Japanese: *qimono* ‘kimono,’ *quchiqo* ‘destroyer (ship),’ *sampo* ‘trench,’ and *seqajo* ‘patrol.’ No words from other Altaic languages are given there, though there are words from Arabic, Chinese, English, French, German, Greek, Italian, Latin, Malay, Portuguese, Russian, Sanskrit, and Spanish, and one word from Hawaiian. Jaque (ibid.) contains an Olingo-English Vocabulary and an English-Olingo Vocabulary, each with more than 1,000 words, but since no etymological information is given it is impossible to state the percentage of words from Japanese.

Globaqo is a revision of Olingo. I only have secondary sources for this language; Monnerot-Dumaine (1960: 172) describes its vocabulary as follows: “Racines romano-anglaises peu déformées et quelques racines arabes, chinoises, japonaises, malaises, russes, sanskrites” (‘Slightly changed Romance-English roots and some Arabic, Chinese, Japanese, Malay, Russian, [and] Sanskrit roots’).

³³ To my knowledge, in the currently available English materials on NOXILO there are no explanations of what “Friendship Nouns” or “Friendship Words” are.

2.15. Pan-kel

Pan-kel is an artificial language of the mixed type, i.e., made up of both *a priori* material and material taken from one or more natural languages. Its designer was Max Wald of Gross-Beeren (near Berlin). There were several editions of his book presenting the language, the first one published in 1906. (I have used the fourth edition (1909) here.)

One of Wald's concerns was with the brevity of words, and he drew upon a wide range of languages for his vocabulary, as the following quotation shows (Wald 1909: 11):

Für pan-kel sind aus *allen* Kultursprachen die kürzesten Wörter mit möglichster Vermeidung von Verstümmelung entnommen worden. Weil das Englische am verbreitesten ist, so muss auch der Wortschatz hauptsächlich dem Englischen entliehen werden, danach kommt dann das Deutsche und das Französische in Betracht. Doch finden Vertreter anderer Völker auch eine Menge Wörter in pan-kel, die völlig mit ihrer Muttersprache übereinstimmen . . . So sind ausser allen Sprachen Europas, z.B. noch Arabisch, Chinesisch, Japanisch, Malaiisch, und Persisch berücksichtigt.

(‘For Pan-kel the shortest words from *all* civilized languages have been taken with the greatest possible avoidance of mutilation. Because English is the most widespread, the vocabulary must be borrowed mainly from English; after it German and French come into consideration. However, representatives of all peoples will find a quantity of words in Pan-kel which completely correspond to [words in their] mother language . . . Thus, e.g., Arabic, Chinese, Japanese, Malay, and Persian are considered, in addition to all the languages of Europe.’)

Wald does not give etymological information in the “Dictionary” in his (1909) work (although the first part of it is “Wörter, die in Deutsche und pan-kel gleich sind” (‘Words which are the same in German and Pan-kel’)), so it is difficult to determine precisely how many words came from Japanese or other languages. Couturat & Leau (1907: 21-22) cite one Turkish word in Pan-kel, *at* ‘horse.’

2.16. Sambahsa-mundialect (Sambahsa)

The designer of Sambahsa-mundialect (or Sambahsa) is Olivier Simon. The oldest webpage presenting it dates from 2007. Unlike some of the languages discussed in this paper, Sambahsa has an extensive vocabulary and a large amount of learning and reference material. Simon (2010a) says the following about where the words of his language Sambahsa-mundialect came from:

The first source of inspiration for the vocabulary has been reconstructed Indo-European, but words from dialectal areas covering languages from different linguistic families (ex: sprachbünde) play a prominent role too. The technical and scientific vocabulary comes from the Greco-Latin roots common to most European languages. Generally, Sambahsa-mundialect tries to include words common to at least two different languages. The chosen languages are in general European ones (and above all English and French), but the spectrum stretches from Iceland to Japan, therefore including words from Turkish, Arabic, Persian, Swahili, Sanskrit, Indonesian, and Chinese.

There is not much information on the origin of non-Indo-European-based Sambahsa words, but there is a webpage entitled *Origine du vocabulaire sambahsa* (‘*Origin of the Sambahsa Vocabulary*’) (Simon 2010b). It only gives data on 703 words, but

it might give some idea of the extent to which different languages were drawn upon. Simon (2010b) says, “L’origine retenue a été l’étymologie la plus ancienne connue, ou du moins celle à laquelle le mot en question avait acquis le même sens qu’en Sambahsa” (‘The origin which was kept [i.e., given on this page] was the oldest etymology known, or at least that in which the word in question had acquired the same meaning as in Sambahsa’). The percentages for different sources are: Indo-European 44.28%, Latin 15%, Germanic 9.5%, French 6.21%, Greek 4.64%, Romance 3.95%, Arabic 3.42%, English 1.45%, Slavic 1.28%, Italian 1%, Persian 0.92%, German 0.78%, and Chinese 0.71%. It can be seen that no Altaic language is even mentioned here; however, in the list of Sambahsa words on this webpage there are three words to which a Turkish etymology is attributed: *cofie* ‘coffee,’ *murdar* ‘dirty,’ and *khap* ‘tablet.’ Turkish thus accounts for 0.43% of the words in this list and no other Altaic languages are represented at all.

2.17. Sona

Kenneth Searight, the designer of Sona speaks of its “*a priori* basis” (1935: 21). However, it appears to be *a posteriori*, at least to some extent, as he also says (ibid.: 11), “There is no reason why we should not borrow, assimilate, and methodize many of the radical elements of many languages, such as I.G. [Italian German]: PA (feeding), C. [Chinese]: TA (great), A. [Arabic]: RU (go), J. [Japanese]: TE (hand), T. [Turkish]: SU (water), and so on, provided they fit in to the general scheme.” That is, not only does Sona draw upon natural languages, but it is one of the earlier AIALs to take material from Altaic languages. Searight (1935) does not give etymological information on most of the roots of Sona, so it is impossible to say what percentage of its vocabulary is Altaic.

The influence of Japanese can also be seen in the grammar of

Sona. Consider the following remarks by Searight (1935: 10-11), which also show his attitude toward using natural languages as sources:

Any national or dead language is unsuitable for our purpose if adopted complete, while at the same time recognizing the necessity for borrowing, assimilating, and even improving upon their choicest gifts. For instance, we should adopt the logical word-order of English and Chinese (almost identical) in preference to those of German or Japanese, while from the latter we may conveniently borrow the structure wherein one verb only in a clause, or series of clauses, shows the time of action. In Japanese it is the last verb; but we improve upon the idea by making it first, thereby anticipating the sense. We find that Italian, in company with Chinese and Japanese, often suppresses the personal pronouns without loss of clarity.

Searight (ibid.: 35) discusses an “article” of Sona which is of Japanese origin:

Sona has a special form of Article called the Honorific, borrowed from J. This is the vowel *o*; cf. J. *o mimosa san*, *o kodomo shu*. It is used before names, words of address, and verbs as an expression of politeness. Thus we have: *o ra*, ‘(honorable) man, gentleman,’ *o hara* ‘sir,’ *o tu jiko* ‘your (honour’s) children,’ *o toru* ‘please pass,’ *o min* ‘(please) come in!’

I do not think that it would generally be regarded as an article, but in any case it is an interesting example of a borrowing of an item from Japanese into an AIAL.

2.18. Unish

Unish is, as far as I know, the only AIAL created in Korea and the only one created by Koreans. Choo (2001: 8) says the following on which languages Unish has used as sources:

‘Unish’ . . . is an efficient composition of 16 languages: 13 natural languages spoken by a population [of] more than 70 million people, the root of European languages, Greek and Latin, and the most prominent internation[al] language, Esperanto . . . English accounts for 85 percent [of the vocabulary] as a result of the fact that English has more borrowed words than any other language. European languages such as Spanish, Italian, and German account for 50-60 percent. Among oriental languages, Chinese, Korean, Japanese, and Hindi account for 5-15 percent of Unish.

This adds up to over 100%, which “is due to the fact that a considerable amount of Unish words has [sic] overlapping common roots” (ibid.).

To my knowledge no currently available material on the language gives details on the etymology of particular words, but Alexander (2005) “hazarded a guess at the origin of a number of words—probably wrongly in some cases.” He continues, “Many are obviously Chinese, Japanese, Korean, and so on.” In his list there is only one word to which he attributes a Korean etymology, *buzai* ‘absence’ (and in fact there is another Unish word for ‘absence,’ *absens*), and only one to which he attributes a Japanese origin, *ana* ‘hole.’ Kupsala (2005) mentions another Unish word which (apparently) comes from Japanese: *kao* ‘face.’

I know of no features of the grammar of Unish which clearly came from Korean (or any other Altaic language), and in fact Unish grammar closely resembles English grammar in some

respects.

2.19. Other AIALs

I shall briefly mention some other AIALs which apparently took material from one or more languages but about which I have very little information.

Albani & Buonarroti (1994: 269) say that Gagne-Monopanglotte (or Monopanglotte), whose designer was Paulin Gagne, “è composta di parole prese da venti lingue (tedesco, inglese, arabo, cinese, danese, spagnolo, francese, greco, ebraico, indostano, italiano, malgascio, persiano, polacco, portoghese, russo, sanscrito, svedese, turco) proporzionalmente all’importanza dei popoli che le hanno parlate o le parlano” (‘is composed of words taken from twenty languages (German, English, Arabic, Chinese, Danish, Spanish, French, Greek, Hebrew, Hindustani, Italian, Latin, Malagasy, Persian, Polish, Russian, Sanskrit, Swedish, Turkish) in proportion to the importance of the peoples who spoke or speak them’). Gagne (1843), a work presenting this language, says nothing explicit about Turkish (or about most of the languages listed by Albani & Buonarroti), though he does say (p. 5) that “La langue universelle sera formée de la réunion ou mélange *radical* des principales langues mères, mortes ou vivantes” (‘The universal language will be formed by the collection or mixture of roots of the main mother languages, dead or living’). Perhaps in his later works on his language, none of which I have, he gives the full list of the languages from which he took material.³⁴

³⁴ Gagne wrote a book entitled *Monopanglosse, langue universelle*, which was published in 1858. Note that the title of this book begins *Monopanglosse*, and Monnerot-Dumaine (1960: 184) and Duličenko (1990: 81) refer to Gagne’s language by this name, rather than as *Monopanglotte*, perhaps because they may not have been aware of Gagne’s earlier work (both give *Monopanglosse* a date of 1858 and do not mention Gagne (1843)). One might assume that despite the minor change of name Gagne thought of *Monopanglotte* and

According to Monnerot-Dumaine (1960: 182), Charles Menet's *Langue Universelle* (from 1886) had "[r]acines monosyllabiques empruntées a l'arabe, au turc, au Volapük etc." ('monosyllabic roots borrowed from Arabic, from Turkish, from Volapük, and so on.')

Pei (1968: 137) says, "There is unconfirmed mention of a New Chino-Japanese which blends the two great Far Eastern Languages." I do not know anything further about this possibly existing language.

Veltparl was designed by Wilhelm von Arnim, whose first book on it was published in Silesia in 1896. Couturat & Leau (1903: 204) mention various sources of its vocabulary [in addition to Latin, Greek, Volapük, and so on]:

On en emprunte même aux langues non-aryennes: non seulement des mots devenus internationaux comme *algèbre, gong, islam, pacha, caravane, . . .* mais des mots magyars comme *kert* ('jardin') et *tys* ('feu'), des mots hindoustani comme *seb* ('pomme'), chinois comme *tael* ('D. thaler'), japonais comme *tok* ('horloge'), annamites comme *tam* ('huit').

('One even borrows [words] from the non-Aryan languages: not only words which have become international like *algèbre, gong, islam, pacha, caravane, . . .* but Hungarian words like *kert* ('garden') and *tys* ('fire'), Hindustani words like *seb* ('apple'), Chinese words like *tael* (German 'thaler'), Japanese words like *tok* ('clock'), annamite words like *tam* ('eight').

I do not have the primary sources on this language and so I cannot say how many words of Japanese origin are in Veltparl.

Unolok was the creation of Hector Wilshire (1957, Brisbane).

Monopanglosse as the same language.

Monnerot-Dumaine (1960: 198) says that its words come from various languages, including Japanese, as well as English, German, French, Italian, Spanish, and Russian.

Yazu (also called Ya-zu and Ya-za Huo) is the only AIAL that I know of whose designer, namely Tsegmedin Bold, was Mongolian. My only sources for this language are several webpages on the Internet, and none of them gives much information on it. Wen (2000) says, “Dek jarojn antaŭe mi ricevis libron de Yazu. Yazu estas lingvo kreita de mongolo Bold. Gxi havas pli da radikoj el aziaj lingvoj kiel la cxina, mongola, japana, korea ktp. Sed ecx en Azio gxi ne havas uzantojn!” (‘Ten years ago I received a book about Yazu. Yazu is a language created by a Mongolian, Bold. It has more roots from Asian languages like Chinese, Mongolian, Japanese, Korean, and so on. But even in Asia it does not have users!’). Don Harlow, as quoted in anonymous (2005), states, “‘Ya-zu’ or ‘Yazu’ is a proposed pan-Asian language invented by the Mongolian Ts. Bold.”

Abdullayev (2010) writes about волланджо (Vollanjo), which was designed by Niyameddin Kebirov, an Azerbaijani “teacher-linguist” (“преподаватель-языковед”). This language has Azerbaijani, Korean, and Japanese among its sources, along with Latin, English, French, German, Russian, Chinese, and “Indian” (“индийский”).

3. Discussion

I have already given some figures on the percentages of the vocabulary of some AIALs accounted for by words taken from Altaic languages. The following table shows the number of words/roots of three other languages (with relatively large vocabularies) said to come from Altaic languages, and the percentages (in parentheses) that they form of the total number of words/roots in a lexicon of the AIAL.

Table 1. Numbers and Percentages of Words from Altaic Languages in Three AIALs

	Ardano	LdP	Neo Patwa Wilkinson (2010b)
Total words/roots	457 ³⁵	1,500	356 ³⁶
Azerbaijani (Azeri)	1 (.2%)	3 (.2%)	–
Crimean Tatar	–	1 (< .1%)	–
Turkish	2 (.4%)	69 (4.6%)	13 ³⁷
Uzbek	–	3 (.2%)	–
Mongolian	–	1 (< .1%)	1 (.3%)
Manchu	1 (.2%)	–	–
Korean	1 (.2%)	2 (.1%)	7.5 ³⁸
Japanese	–	11 (.7%)	13.5 (3.8%)
Total Altaic words/roots	5 (1%)	90 (6%)	23 (6.5%)

If we consider this table, and the representation of the Altaic languages among AIALs in general, it is clear that it is rather low in most languages, not even considering the very many AIALs which have no or almost no words from Altaic languages. Jigwa and Kumiko are notable exceptions to this: Kumiko has taken a relatively large proportion of both its grammar and lexicon from Japanese, while Japanese and Korean have at least influenced the choice of a large percentage of the (admittedly small number of) Jigwa words whose etymology has been explicitly given. The

³⁵ This only includes words for which etymological information is given.

³⁶ This (admittedly approximate) figure does not include compounds. It was arrived at by multiplying the number of Neo Patwa words on one page (p. 2), multiplying it by 5, then adding the number of words on pp. 1 and 7 and subtracting the number of compounds.

³⁷ Recall that the origin of this one word, *kanun* ‘law’ was given as “Turkish, etc.”

³⁸ The .5 in this figure and the one below are due to the fact that the origin of *kaci* ‘price, value’ is said to be “Korean and Japanese.”

AIALs which do have some representation of Altaic languages do not give equal representation to all of these languages, which is no surprise. There are some Altaic languages which have not, to my knowledge, been used as a source by any AIALs, e.g., Evenki and Chuvash.³⁹ Some other Altaic languages are represented, but only in a minimal way and only in a small number of AIALs; these include Crimean Tatar and Manchu. Compared to all these languages, Japanese is a relatively large contributor, and if an AIAL draws upon only a single Altaic language, one might predict that it will probably be Japanese. Korean and Turkish stand between Japanese on the one hand and Azerbaijani and Uzbek, on the other; the latter languages are poorly represented in AIALs. Words from Korean and Turkish are present in some AIALs, but usually they are not as numerous as Japanese words. LdP is an exception to this; it has far more Turkish roots than roots from either Japanese or Korean. Ardano, or rather the part of the Ardano vocabulary for which information on sources has been given, is also an exception—it has words from Korean and Turkish, but not from Japanese. However, if Ardano indeed includes (or will include) words from all the world’s languages, then there is (or will be) at least one Japanese word in its lexicon.

Also, while some AIALs have borrowed elements of, or been influenced by, Japanese grammar, this is not obviously the case for Korean or Turkish. (Recall however, that Kumiko “attempts to incorporate” the “Featural alphabet” (Tang 2011a: 3) of Korean.) Even Unish, an AIAL created by Koreans, has no clear instances of grammatical borrowing from Korean.

These facts are probably due to the relative prominence of languages, either in the western world or in general, and this

³⁹ Even the relatively well known Altaic languages Kyrgyz and Kazakh have little representation in AIALs; to my knowledge the only auxiliary language which draws on them is Jalpi Türk Tili, which is meant as a sort of pan-Turkic language. It thus not surprising that it uses these languages as sources, as well as Azerbaijani, Turkish, Turkmen, Uyghur, and Uzbek.

prominence depends on political, economic, cultural, and historical factors. The vast majority of AIAL designers have come from the western world, and in this cultural-political sphere the Altaic people who have had the most impact in recent centuries are the Japanese, followed by the Turks and Koreans (while until recently Uzbeks and Azerbaijanis have barely been noticed by the west). One might then wonder whether, if Korea becomes more politically salient in the coming centuries, the Korean language will be used more as a source for AIALs. This might be the case, but the overall representation of Korean, and of Japanese and Turkish, in AIALs will probably not change much in the future. This is due to the dominance of Esperanto, which, as we have seen, has very little material from Altaic languages—it is very unlikely that any present or future AIAL which does have more substantial representation of Altaic languages will take the place of Esperanto as the most used AIAL (nor is it probable that the positions of Ido, Interlingua, and so on as the next most popular AIALs, will be taken over by e.g., Ardano). The same remarks apply to most other non-Indo-European languages as well: for example, Uralic languages have little representation in AIALs and it is unlikely that any AIALs which do have a substantial number of Uralic items will replace Esperanto.

One might ask whether any particular Altaic words were particularly popular sources for AIAL words (leaving aside the obvious possibilities, i.e., words for items or actions specific to a culture). That is, do any Altaic words appear as sources in several AIALs? The word for ‘sausage’ in both LdP and Neo Patwa is said to come from Turkish, and a word for ‘blow’ in both languages comes from Japanese, and has the form *fuki* in both. The word for ‘tower’ in both LdP and Neo Patwa is *tawa* and in both cases Japanese is given as the source language. Such occurrences could be coincidences, or perhaps the designer of one AIAL was influenced by another AIAL—i.e., one might think that such words were borrowed into one AIAL from another, rather

than being taken directly from Japanese or some other natural language. To fully answer the question posed at the beginning of this paragraph we might need more etymological information on AIALs than is currently available; in fact this is true for the analyses presented in this paper in general—a clearer picture of the extent of representation of Altaic languages in AIALs would emerge if designers gave more detailed information on the sources of words.

4. Conclusions

The representation of Altaic languages in AIALs is generally small, even in most of those AIALs which (claim to) strive for a less Eurocentric vocabulary. However, there may be a trend towards the creation of AIALs using a broader base of source languages, since most of the languages which are discussed in this paper, i.e., which do take some material from Altaic languages, are relatively new—if this trend continues we may eventually see more Altaic (and other non-Indo-European) material in AIALs.⁴⁰ This does not mean that Altaic words and grammatical features will necessarily become much more prominent among AIALs overall, since it appears unlikely that any of these more recently designed auxiliary languages will displace the most successful AIALs such as Esperanto.

In addition, as we have seen with respect to LdP (note also the Neo Patwa words *somon* ‘salmon’ and *sosisu* ‘sausage’), not all supposedly Altaic words in AIALs are really Altaic; rather some are fairly recent borrowings from a Western language (or perhaps Esperanto), and do not have any Altaic “feel” to them. Thus, using

⁴⁰ It would be interesting to do the same kind of research as in this paper on words from other non-Indo-European language families in AIALs, e.g., from Uralic and Dravidian.

a wider range of source languages for an AIAL does not guarantee greater internationality, unless one avoids such borrowings.

Taking all of this into consideration, one would say that Altaic languages have not played a major role in AIALs, and are unlikely to do so in the near future. The same is true of most other non-Indo-European languages.

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⁴² This means Jigwa Central Team.

⁴³ This article appeared in the *Journal of Planned Languages* and is currently available in a PDF file (with two other articles from the same journal) at <<http://www.oocities.org/athens/5383/jigwa.pdf>>. However, nothing in the file indicates when this particular article was published, though it was probably in the mid-1990s, and definitely after 1993.

⁴⁴ This is not a personal name, but a name of the group of people who created Jigwa.

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⁴⁵ The 2008 “revision” of this page was apparently done by someone other than Almir U. However, the original version of the page was created by Almir U., who was also responsible for some of the revisions (though not all of them), and I have listed him as the author of this page. The original version of the page, and the first three revisions, were in Portuguese, while more recent revisions are in English; it seems that Almir U. was not the person responsible for the first revision in English. Recall that Almir U.’s full last name is not given in material on Dousha.

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