A Japanese Typeface Designed for Dyslexic Readers

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Outline

- 1. Introduction
- 2. Study 1: Characteristics of Latin Typefaces for Dyslexic Readers
- 3. Study 2: Requirements for Japanese Typefaces for Dyslexic Readers
- 4. Study 3: A Japanese Typeface for Dyslexic Readers
- 5. Conclusion and Discussion

1. Introduction

- 1.1. Background
- 1.2. Problems
- 1.3. Research Objectives

Reading is important

- Reading is important
- Typeface: design of letters

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- Typeface: design of letters

Times New Roman

- Reading is important
- Typeface: design of letters



- Reading is important
- Typeface: design of letters
- Standard typefaces may not be the best solution for everyone

 Developmental dyslexia is a specific learning disability that is characterized by difficulties with accurate and/or fluent reading (International Dyslexia Association, 2002)

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- 5–17% of the population in English-speaking countries, 5-10% of the population in Sweden and 3–5% of the population in Japan have developmental dyslexia (Shaywitz & Shaywitz, 2007; Karita et al., 2010)

- Visual symptoms of dyslexia include
 - letter reversals
 - letter distortion and blurring
 - o letter superimposition (Stein, 2008; Kato, 2016)

あのイーハトーヴォのすきとおった 風、夏でも底に冷たさをもつ青いそ ら、うつくしい森で飾られたモリーオ 市、郊外のぎらぎらひかる草の波。

- It is essential to provide dyslexic readers with assistive environments
- The assistive tools for dyslexic readers can be diveided into
 - Auditory assistive tools
 - e.g. text-to-speech software, audio books
 - Visual assistive tools
 - e.g. rulers, colored overlays, adjustments to typographic elements
- Typefaces (an elements of typography)

- Typefaces have significant impacts on dyslexic readers in languages using the Latin alphabet
- Several Latin typefaces for dyslexic readers have been created (Rello & Baeza-Yates, 2013)

Dyslexie Lexie Readable OpenDyslexic

- Dyslexic readers are either able to read with less errors or more comfortable reading with dyslexia typefacs (De Leeuw, 2010; Pijpker, 2013; Hillier, 2006)
- Typefaces have impacts on Japanese dyslexic readers (Tani et al., 2016)
- The possible effectiveness of Japanese typefaces for dyslexic readers is implied

1.2. Problems

- However, Japanese typefaces for dyslexic readers are yet to be created because
 - 1. The characteristics of typefaces for dyslexic readers have not been clarified,
 - Japanese typefaces contain a large number of complicated characters which makes them difficult to create,
 - 3. It is not easy to create a universal typeface for dyslexic readers because they do not have universal symptoms.

1.3. Research Objectives

- We aim to solve the first and second problem by
 - Study 1: extracting the characteristics of Latin typefaces for dyslexic readers (Problem 1),
 - Study 2: mapping the characteristics to Japanese typefaces to define the requirements for dyslexic readers in Japan (Problem 1),
 - Study 3: creating a Japanese typeface for dyslexic readers through programmatical manipulation based on an existing typeface (Problem 2).

2. Study 1: Characteristics of Latin Typefaces for Dyslexic Readers

- 2.1. Methods
- 2.2. Results

• The characteristics of a typeface are visible as the elements of typefaces (Lupton, 2010)



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 Comparing the elements of typefaces of dyslexia typefaces to those of standard typefaces

- Two groups of typefaces
 - 3 dyslexia typefaces
 - 6 standard typefaces

Dyslexie

Lexie Readable

OpenDyslexic

Arial

Calibri

Century Gothic

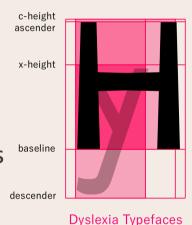
Comic Sans

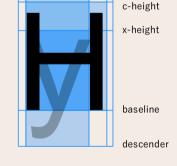
Trebuchet

Verdana

- 1. Larger letters in the same size
- 2. Extremely large uppercase letters
- 3. Larger difference between cap height and x-height
- **4.** Rounded sans serif typefaces
- 5. Bolder strokes
- 6. Larger height/width ratio
- 7. Weighted strokes at the bottom
- 8. As for letters with similar shapes
 - **8.1.** Larger counters
 - **8.2.** Manipulated shapes of letters
 - 8.3. Slanted or rotated to opposite direction
 - 8.4. Replaced with alternative letterforms

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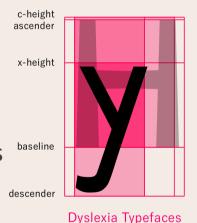


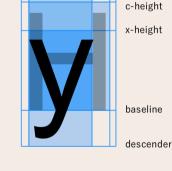


ascender

Standard Typefaces

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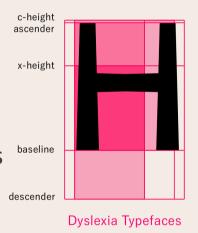


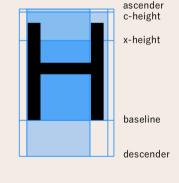


ascender

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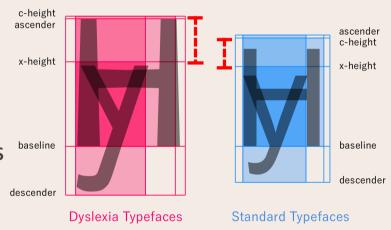
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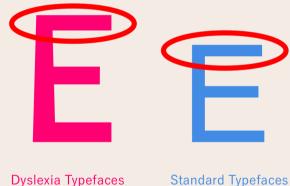
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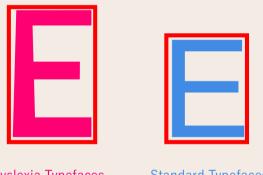


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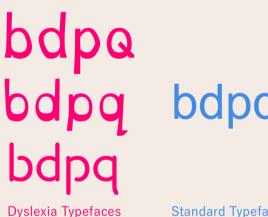
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Standard Typefaces

3. Study 2: Requirements for Japanese Typefaces for Dyslexic Readers

- 3.1. Methods
- 3.2. Results

- The character recognition process across the languages is similar (Dehaene, 2009)
- The visual symptoms of dyslexia in English and
 Japanese are similar (Stein, 2008; Kato, 2016)

- The character recognition process across the languages is similar (Dehaene, 2009)
- The visual symptoms of dyslexia in English and
 Japanese are similar (Stein, 2008; Kato, 2016)
- Mapping the characteristics of Latin typefaces for dyslexic readers to Japanese typefaces to define the requirements for Japanese typefaces for dyslexic readers

- Two steps to map the characteristics
 - 1. Associating the elements of Japanese typefaces with those of Latin typefaces
 - 2. Summarizing Japanese characters with similar shapes

1. Association of elements of Latin and Japanese typefaces (Sato, 1964, 1965, 1966, 1973, 1976; TR X 0003:2000, 2000; Koizumi, 2012; Kobayashi, 2005;

Middendorp, 2012; Beier, 2012)





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Middendorp, 2012; Beier, 2012)

Elements of Latin Typefaces	Elements of Japanese Typefaces
cap height/x-height	jiko (字高)
width	jihaba (字幅)
stroke	gasen (画線)
contrast of weight	senhaba no haibun (線幅の配分)
counter	futokoro (ふところ)
serif	uroko (うろこ)

3.2. Results

2. Japanese characters with similar shapes

(Sato, 1965, 1966, 1976; Kuwayama, 1969; Matsubara & Kobayashi, 1967; Okada, 1970; Imada & Yodogawa, 1983)

Hiragana	Katakana	Kanji
あいうえおかきくけこ	アイウエオカキクケコ	一右雨円王音下火花貝
さしすせそたちつてと	サシスセソタチツテト	学気九休玉金空月犬見
なにぬねのはひふへほ	ナニヌネノハヒフへホ	五口校左三山子四糸字
まみむめもやゐゆゑよ	マミムメモヤヰユヱヨ	耳七車手十出女小上森
らりるれろわをん	ラリルレロワヲン	人水正生青夕石赤

3.2. Results

2. Japanese characters with similar shapes

(Sato, 1965, 1966, 1976; Kuwayama, 1969; Matsubara & Kobayashi, 1967; Okada, 1970; Imada & Yodogawa, 1983)

Hiragana	Katakana	Kanji
い, こ	リ, ハ, ソ, ン	1-A: Kanji characters that share the same radicals and the rest of the strokes are very simple (e.g. '方 and 万', '王 and 玉', '体 and 休', '太 and 大', and '貨
^, <	ウ, ワ, フ, サ	
は, ほ	ユ, エ	and 貸')
3, 3	マ, ア	1-B: Kanji characters that share the same radicals and the rest of the strokes are very similar (e. g. '官 and 宮', '校 and 枝', '動 and 勤', '陛 and 陸', and '和 and 積')
め, ぬ	テ, チ	
わ,ね	ツ, シ	
わ,れ	ソ,ン	B: Kanji characters that have similar outlines
め, あ	ム, マ	(e.g.'支 and 友', '草 and 革', '銅 and 飼', '丈 and 文', and '専 and 車')
あ, お	ニ, リ	and \mp /
3 , ら, う	フ, レ	

3.2. Results

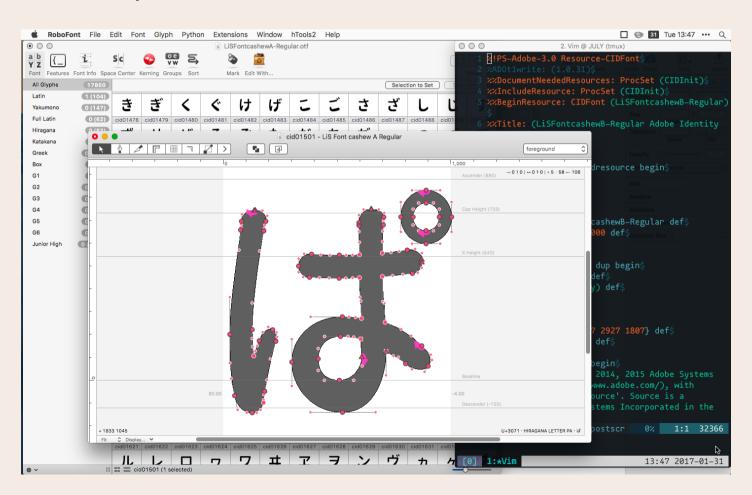
- 1. Larger characters in the same size
- **2.** *Maru gothic* typefaces
- 3. Bolder gasen
- 4. Larger jiko/jihaba ratio
- **5.** Contrast in the width of gasen
- 6. As for Kana characters with similar shapes
 - 6.1. Larger futokoro
 - **6.2.** Manipulated shapes of characters
 - **6.3.** Slanted or rotated to opposite direction
 - **6.4.** Replaced with alternative characters
- 7. As for Kanji characters with similar shapes
 - 7.1. Larger futokoro
 - **7.2.** Manipulated shapes of characters
 - 7.3. Slanted or rotated to opposite direction
 - 7.4. Replaced with alternative characters
- 8. An option to apply additional lines to Kanji characters with radicals

4. Study 3: A Japanese Typeface for Dyslexic Readers

- 4.1. Creation
- 4.2. Evaluation

- Applying the requirements to an existing typeface through programmatical manipulation to create a Japanese typeface for dyslexic readers
 - Tools: RoboFont, Glyphs, Python, AFDKO (Adobe Font Development Kit for OpenType)
 - Base font: Source Han Sans JP Medium
 - Character collection: 2778 characters
 - Font name: LiS Font

Creation process



- Two prototypes (274 characters)
 - LiS Font walnut
 - LiS Font cashew

LiS Font walnut

、。?!--「」『 ラリルレロヮワヰヱヲンヴ 』 ぁ あ ぃ い ぅ う ぇ え ぉ お か ヵ ヶ 一 右 雨 円 王 音 下 火 花 貝 がきぎくぐけげこごさざし 学気九休玉金空月犬見五口 じすずせぜそぞただちぢっ 校左三山子四糸字耳七車手 つづてでとどなにぬねのは 十出女小上森人水正牛青夕 ばぱひびぴふぶぷへべぺほ 石赤千川先早草足村大男竹 ぼぽまみむめもゃやゅゆょ 中虫町天田土二日入年白八 よらりるれろゎゎゐゑをん 百文木本名目立力林六□□ ァアィイゥウェエォオカガ キギクグケゲコゴサザシジ スズセゼソゾタダチヂッツ ヅァデトドナニヌネノハバ パヒビピフブプヘベペホボ ポマミムメモャヤュユョヨ

LiS Font cashew

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Source Han Sans

イーヨーは、地面においてある三本の棒をながめていました。二本は、かたほうのはしでぶつかっていて、もう一方のはしでは、はなれていました。そして、その二本の上に、もう一本の棒がのっていました。コブタは、きっとこれは、なにかのわなだろうと思いました。

「あのイーヨー。」と、コブタはもういちどいいました。「ぼく、ちょっと――」 「コブちゃんかな?」イーヨーは、まだ棒をながめながら、いいました。

「ええ。イーヨー。ぼくね――」

「おまえ、これ、なんだか知っとるか?」

「いいえ。」

「これは、Aの字じゃ」

「ああ。」と、コブタがいいました。

LiS Font walnut

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LiS Font cashew

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Source Han Sans, again

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4.2. Evaluation

- Framework of the preliminary evaluation
 - Participants: Children from elementary who have been assessed to be dyslexic or have symptoms of dyslexia
 - Typefaces: LiS Font walnut, LiS Font cashew,
 Hiragino Maru Gothic, Hiragino Mincho
 - Materials: A Japanese article of 320 characters and a sheet of 50 random Kana characters
 - Tasks: Rapid reading tasks and an oral question
 - Measures: Time of reading, numbers of errors and self-corrections, preference

5. Conclusion and Discussion

- 5.1. Conclusion
- 5.2. Discussion

5.1. Conclusion

- The characteristics of Latin typefaces for dyslexic readers are clarified
- The requirements for Japanese typefaces for dyslexic readers are defined
- Two prototypes of a Japanese typeface for dyslexic readers are created
- A framework for evaluation is proposed

5.2. Discussion

- Evaluation to be conducted
- Quality of typefaces to be improved
- Effectiveness of typeface creation process to be improved

Thank you!

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