

**A Review of
Nichiei Taishoo Giseigo (Onomatope) Jiten
by Yuichi Mito, Hisao Kakehi, et al.**

Ikuhiro Tamori
Kobe University of Commerce

It appears that onomatopoeias are generally used more frequently by children than by adults in English. This may be one of the reasons why few linguists have shown keen interest in onomatopoeic words. In Japanese, however, onomatopoeic words are indispensable to furnish minute and vivid descriptions of various actions or physical and psychic states. Therefore, they are not only used by children but are quite commonly used by adults and are also found in literary works, thus constituting an essential part of the language. Today, as more and more people abroad including scholars and students are beginning to show a strong interest in the Japanese language and Japanese literature, the present dictionary—'A Contrastive Dictionary of Japanese and English Onomatopoeic Expressions'—is indispensable for those who want to fully grasp and understand the language, and to appreciate the delicacy of Japanese literature.

To the best of my knowledge, this is the first Japanese-English dictionary ever published which specifically deals with onomatopoeias. The dictionary contains a fairly extensive number (about 1,100) of Japanese onomatopoeic words with rich examples, giving the user a clear picture as to how each word is to be used. It must have been an extremely hard and time consuming job to have edited a dictionary of this sort due to big lexical gaps between the two languages; tremendous efforts have been made by the editors to minimize the gaps. Their endeavor, therefore, must be highly praised.