

# JAPANESE GIVEN NAMES

A WINDOW INTO CONTEMPORARY JAPANESE SOCIETY

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## Romanization system used for the transcription of Japanese and typographical conventions

There are two major systems of romanization of Japanese used at present: the Hepburn system and the Japanese system (*kunrei-shiki*). Since this book is in English, the Hepburn system has been chosen for the transcription of Japanese, as it follows English pronunciation. Long vowels are transcribed using the macron, with the exception of *i*, which is standardly transcribed by doubling the grapheme, i.e. *ā*, *ū*, *ē*, *ō*, but *ii*. An apostrophe is used for the moraic nasal /n/ before *y* or a vowel (cf. *kinen* ‘memory’ vs. *kinèn* ‘no smoking’).

Names of Japanese authors in English bibliographical references that are written without length indication are kept as published, but those transcribed from Japanese indicate the length. Japanese names are written in the surname – given name order, in accordance with Japanese convention.

In order to make the text easier to read, the following conventions were also used: *Kanji* readings and phonological forms of names are written in *italics*. /Slashes/ for phonemic transcription and [square brackets] for phonetic transcription are used only sparingly, especially in the Introduction where the Japanese inventory of vowels and consonants, and characteristics of different types of words, are provided. Inflections, written in *hiragana*, are in transcription indicated by parentheses, e.g., 大きい *ō(kii)*. *Italics* are also used for Japanese words such as *kanji* and *kana*. The meanings of words are written in single quotation marks. Examples from the corpus are numbered throughout the book and *italicized*.

### A note on the terminology

There exist various terms for the name that is bestowed to a child at birth, such as the given name, the personal name, the first name, the forename and the Christian name. The term **personal name** may also refer to a person’s full name. The term **Christian name** would not be culturally appropriate and the **first name** and **forename** are not suitable either because in Japan the family name comes first. Thus the term **given name** is used throughout the work as it seems to be the most appropriate for Japanese names received at birth. The term **personal name** will in this work refer to the full name, i.e. the combination of the family name and the given name.



# INTRODUCTION

*“Recently, children’s names can really surprise you. The names of exchange students from Waseda University are quite different from the time when we named our son.”*

(A 60-year old Japanese language teacher living overseas)

Given names are an important aspect of our identity but more than about ourselves they tell us about our name givers and their priorities at the time when they were choosing the name – whether they honored family tradition, preferred established names, or were influenced by contemporary fashion. Only when I started researching Japanese names did I realize that I did not actually know what my own name meant. *Ivona* means ‘yew bow’ or ‘archer with a yew bow’ (Knappová 2010, 401), but I do not think my parents knew this meaning or even considered looking it up. Most names bestowed in this country, the Czech Republic, have or had at some time in the past a specific meaning, but many of them are so thoroughly conventionalized that their original meanings are usually overlooked or known only to etymologists. My parents just liked the sound of the name and the fact that it was not particularly common. They would have preferred *Yvona*, but they were told that this version was not on the list of commonly accepted names.

In contrast, Japanese given names are not selected from a closed stock of names but are, in fact, created based on a number of various criteria, providing great room for self-expression. They are almost always semantically meaningful, and many of them at first glance show what kind of person the named individual is expected to be.<sup>1</sup> Through the selection of particular Chinese characters (*kanji* in Japanese), the name givers can convey the desired meaning and/or evoke various images and associations. Some names

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<sup>1</sup> As Plutschow points out, contemporary Japanese names still exhibit an animistic quality in that parents choose names for their children hoping that they would become what is implied in the name. Still at present, people sometimes change their name in the expectation of a change in fortune (1995, 198). This change is usually “unofficial”, as the official change in the Family Registry is permitted only in exceptional cases.

are quite straightforward in their meanings, but, as will be shown, it is often not possible to completely discern the true motivation for selection, or all the meanings ascribed to the name. These usually remain hidden and are shared only among the narrow family circle.

Although the selection/creation of a particular name depends on personal preferences, education and other individual factors, given names also reflect the period in which they were bestowed, revealing the social attitudes and values of that time, including the hopes and aspirations parents at that time generally had for their children, as well as various fashion trends. A hundred years ago it was not uncommon to have ten children and give them names signifying their order of birth, but nowadays families have one or two. With the decreasing birthrate and influenced by various external factors, the selection of a name has become a very careful and rather complicated process, which is driven by the desire to choose a name perfect in all respects, custom-made to fit the personality of the child and distinguish him or her from other people. Comments like the one above concerning the given names of current students are nothing unusual these days. Contemporary Japanese names bear witness to the growing emphasis on individualism and uniqueness, a revolutionary trend encouraged by maternity magazines and books on name selection over the past three decades. After half a century during which the majority of Japanese female names typically ended in *ko* (*Akiko*, *Yukiko*, *Keiko*, *Hiroko*, *Yōko*) and most male names followed one of several common patterns, the 1980s brought significant changes in the phonological, morphological and semantic aspects of given names, and now, more than three decades later, many names look and sound quite different. For example, according to the annual survey by Meiji Yasuda Life Insurance Company, the most popular female names in 2014 were *Mei*, *Yui*, *Rin*, *Koharu* and *Rio* (Meiji Yasuda 2014), combining various *kanji*, many of which had not been commonly used (the top ranking *Mei* appeared with 16 different *kanji* combinations, and some popular names have even more).

The changes in name selection and emergence of new names especially in the last decades of the twentieth century are now widely discussed in the media and increasingly in academic literature. In recent years a number of books and articles have been published, addressing issues such as the role of given names in contemporary society, legal issues and language policy concerning name selection and *kanji* use in names (e.g., Atsuji 2005, Enmanji 2005a, 2005b, Ienaga 2006, Watanabe 2007), the phenomenon of unique and

hard-to-read names, the reasons for their bestowal and its consequences (e.g., Satō 2007, Kobayashi 2009, and Makino 2012), and various others.

## Objective of the study

The aim of this present study is to provide a comprehensive analysis of currently bestowed names in the context of contemporary society and also in the context of their development, pinpointing current trends in name selection.<sup>2</sup> The approach taken here is both linguistic and sociolinguistic, examining the language development as a reflection of social changes. Through an analysis of a corpus of currently bestowed names, including the reasons for their selection, the following questions will be explored: What choices do the name givers make and which criteria are the most important in the current name selection process? How have currently bestowed names changed in terms of their orthography, length and structure, and in their *kanji* selection? What hopes and aspirations do current parents have for their children and how are these expressed?

## Organization of the chapters

**Chapter One** discusses various culture-specific aspects of Japanese given names and naming practices. After a brief explanation of the establishment of the modern name system in the second half of the nineteenth century, it describes the basic characteristics of Japanese family names and the essential function of Japanese names to distinguish individuals. It demonstrates that although most Japanese have very common surnames, together with given names they create unique combinations. The subsequent sections present the formal limitations to name selection, which concern especially the graphic form, provide an explanation of special readings of *kanji* when used in names, and discuss various factors that may influence the selection of a given name, and also various name selection criteria and methods.

**Chapter Two** provides an overview of the development of Japanese given names since the second half of the nineteenth century and the main changes in their graphic and phonological forms, their structure and meanings. The changing selection of *kanji* in names throughout the examined periods re-

<sup>2</sup> Some aspects of the research included in this book have been published separately (see Barešová 2013a, 2013b, and 2015).

flect the society, its changing values, priorities, wishes and aspirations for the new generations.

The analysis presented in **Chapter Three**, based on a sample of 8,386 names of children born 2008–2014, provides a description of currently bestowed names, showing the impact of the changes in name selection that started in the 1980s. The names are examined from the point of view of their orthography, length and structure. The various types of discordance in the character-sound relationship identified in the corpus are also discussed, explaining why many current names have unanticipated readings.

In **Chapter Four** the fifty most frequently used *kanji* in male names and fifty in female names in the corpus are examined from the point of view of their meanings and motivation for their use, revealing the most recent aspirations of parents for their children as well as other priorities within the names, which are further discussed in **Chapter Five** in the context of current society.

Finally, **Chapter Six** briefly summarizes the various aspects of current names.

The text is accompanied by numerous authentic examples of name selection, illustrating the motivation for the selection of the particular name, the various choices the name givers had to make, their interpretation of its meaning, etc.

## Description of the data

The data used in this book comes from several sources. A valuable source of information about the most frequent names is the survey by Meiji Yasuda Life Insurance Company, which lists names for every year since 1912 (the first year of the Taishō era). This survey, frequently cited in works by Japanese authors, lists the top ten ranking male and female names of each year for more than a century, and provides a wider range of information about names bestowed in the current year. Although it is limited to children insured by this company, which might have influenced the results in the earlier periods when insurance was not as common as today, it nevertheless provides valuable data. The 2013 results were based, for example, on the given names of over 10,000 children born that year. Another limiting factor is that it provides only the graphic forms but not their readings. One graphic form with several readings is listed as one name, i.e. the name

幸子, read as *Sachiko*, and 幸子, read as *Yukiko*, are grouped together as one name. However, one phonological form written in different characters is considered to be different names, i.e. *Yukio* written as 幸雄, 幸男, and 幸夫 are counted as three names. This explains, for example, why, throughout the Taishō period (1912–1926), we find among the most popular male names 一郎 *Ichirō* (‘one’ + ‘son’, i.e. ‘first-born son’) and 三郎 *Saburō* (‘three’ + ‘son’, i.e. ‘third-born son’), but not ‘second-born’, *Jirō*. This is because this name was written with two *kanji* variants, 二郎 (‘two’ + ‘son’) and 次郎 (‘next’ + ‘son’), and therefore neither of these ranked so high (cf. Honda 2005, 55). The tables of the top ten ranking male and female names for each year between 1912 and 2015, adopted from Meiji Yasuda, are provided in Appendix 1.

A much wider source of names, but limited only to 1989–2003, is the online name database *Heisei namae jiten* [Dictionary of Heisei era names]. It contains several hundred thousand names for each year (male names, female names, and also the full names of children born in each of those particular years), but also provides only their graphic forms without any additional information. This source was used in Chapter One for the purpose of demonstrating the very low frequency of occurrence of the same combination of a family name and a given name in contemporary Japanese society. Statistics concerning Japanese family names come from the *Myōji yurai net* [The origin of family names net], which, in addition to the information about the origin of family names, also provides their rankings.

The analyses of currently bestowed names in Chapter Three and Chapter Four are based on the data collected from the Internet name-related database *Akachan no namae ranking* & *namaezuke episōdo – happī mama.com* and through an additional survey conducted between 2010 and 2015 especially for the purpose of this work. Each of the 8,386 entries of names of children born 2008–2014 (4,108 male and 4,278 female names) includes the graphic and phonological forms of the name, the year of birth and gender of the child, and the parents’ motivation for selecting the particular name, their interpretation of its meaning, the main criteria for their selection, etc. Most of the examples of names and naming practices from earlier periods, used throughout the work to illustrate the particular issue under discussion, also come from the additional survey.

## A brief description of the types and structure of words in Japanese

Before the analysis of the given names, a brief description of the organization of the Japanese lexicon in general and the characteristics of the different types of words, differences in their phonological patterns and morphological structure is appropriate. Japanese vocabulary has been significantly influenced by borrowings from other languages. A great number of words came from Chinese over a long period of time, and more were created from Chinese roots following Chinese patterns. Many loanwords come also from Indo-European languages, especially English. Thus words in Japanese can be classified in three basic categories: 1) Japanese or native words, 2) Sino-Japanese words and 3) loanwords (from other languages than Chinese). The three types of words display various differences in linguistic structures and patterns, as well as in orthography.

Modern Japanese has five short vowels – /a/, /i/, /u/,<sup>3</sup> /e/, /o/ and a corresponding number of long vowels, as vowel length is phonemic. Long vowels frequently appear especially in Sino-Japanese words and loanwords. In Sino-Japanese words, however, they are limited to /o:/, /e:/ and /u:/, the first being by far the most common (Kubozono 2015, 4). In addition, modern Japanese has three diphthongs, /ai/, /oi/ and /ui/.<sup>4</sup>

Consonants include /p/, /b/, /t/, /d/, /k/, /g/, /s/, /z/, /h/, /m/, /n/, /r/, /w/ and /j/ and some consonants have several allophones. For example, /s/ has two allophones distributed in a complementary manner in native words: [ʃ]<sup>5</sup> appears before /i/, while [s] before other vowels. Similarly, /t/ has three allophones: the affricate [tʃ]<sup>6</sup> appears before /i/, the affricate [ts] before /u/ and the dental stop [t] before other vowels. This is also true for /h/: the palatal fricative [ç] appears before /i/, the bilabial fricative [ɸ] before /u/ and glottal fricative [h] anywhere else. However, some of these allophones that are in complementary distribution in native words are not allophones in Sino-Japanese words (cf. *ta* [ta] ‘other’ vs. *cha* [tʃa] ‘tea’) or loanwords (cf. *chizu* [tʃi:zu] vs. *pāti* [pa:ti]). Basically, each of these consonants ap-

<sup>3</sup> Phonetically represented as [u].

<sup>4</sup> Kubozono (2015, 5–6) points out that “*[t]* here is some dispute in the literature as to which vowel sequence constitutes a diphthong as opposed to hiatus, or vowel sequences across a syllable boundary”.

<sup>5</sup> More precisely [ç].

<sup>6</sup> More precisely [tʃ].

pears (with some limitations) as an independent phoneme in the consonant system of modern Japanese (Kubozono 2015, 7).

The inventory of Japanese syllables, as a result of the limited combinations of Japanese sounds, is rather simple. The only consonant clusters allowed within a syllable consist of one of a subset of the consonants plus /j/. Consonant length (gemination) is also phonemic.

The three types of words in Japanese also differ in their phonological length. Sino-Japanese morphemes are the shortest, being one or two morae long by mora count<sup>7</sup> and one or two syllables long by syllable count. Only a few Sino-Japanese morphemes form independent words (e.g., /hon/ ‘book’, /fuku/ ‘clothes’, /eki/ ‘station’), but mostly they form two-morpheme compounds (e.g., /sen-sei/ ‘teacher’, /dai-gaku/ ‘university’). Native morphemes may be longer, but they are usually up to three morae long (e.g., /hi/ ‘day’, /tsuchi/ ‘earth, soil’, /tsukue/ ‘desk’). In comparison, loanwords are at least bimoraic (/basu/ ‘bathtub’, ‘bus’), but can be much longer (/komyunike:shon/ ‘communication’).

The most common length of words in the Japanese vocabulary is four morae. Kubozono (2015, 30) cites two different studies of the frequency of words in Japanese dictionaries (Yokoyama 1979 and Hayashi 1957), which both showed that four-mora long words are most common (accounting for approximately 50 percent of the vocabulary in Yokoyama and 40 percent in Hayashi), followed by three-mora words and five-mora words.

## The Japanese system of writing

The modern Japanese writing system makes use of a combination of adopted logographic Chinese characters (*kanji*) and two phonographic syllabic alphabets (*hiragana* and *katakana*), collectively known as *kana*. In addition, it makes use of the Latin alphabet (*rōmaji*, lit. ‘Roman letters’) and Arabic numerals. In general, content words of native or Sino-Japanese origins, including verbal and adjectival stems, are written in *kanji*, function words, such as case particles, and inflectional endings are written in *hiragana*, and non-Chinese loanwords and sound-symbolic (mimetic) words, as well as the names of some plants and animals, are usually written in *katakana*. This

<sup>7</sup> Mora is generally considered the basic phonological unit of spoken Japanese (e.g., Kubozono, 2002, 2015). While in native words morae and syllables usually overlap, in many Sino-Japanese words and loanwords this is not the case. For example, the Sino-Japanese compound [to:kjo:] (Tokyo) has four morae /to.u.kjo.u/ but only two syllables.

mixed use of three different sets of symbols is a consequence of the initial adoption of Chinese characters, at a time when the Japanese had no script of their own, and the subsequent developments of *hiragana* and *katakana* based on those characters<sup>8</sup> (Iwasaki 2013, 20). The Latin alphabet is used mainly for abbreviations, company names and various logos. Arabic numerals are commonly used for numbers, in addition to traditional Sino-Japanese numerals written in *kanji*.

## The character-sound relationship

*Kana*, being a phonographic script, has a consistent character-sound correspondence: each *kana* character represents one syllable, more precisely one mora, of spoken Japanese. In contrast, *kanji* are not tied to any particular size of phonological unit (Fushimi et al. 1999, 383) and have various degrees of character-sound correspondence. As a result of historical development, each *kanji* usually has one or more Sino-Japanese readings, *on-yomi* or *on-doku* (from here on referred to as *on* reading) and Japanese readings, *kun-yomi* or *kun-doku* (*kun* reading).<sup>9</sup>

Seeley (2000, 1) explains the difference between *on* reading and *kun* reading, starting with the latter:

[T]he *kun* reading of a character represents the associated Japanese morpheme which corresponds, more or less closely, to the meaning of the character in Chinese. Thus, the Japanese word *umi* ‘sea’ is associated with the Chinese character 海 (Ch. *hai* ‘sea’), and similarly Japanese *kokoro* ‘heart, mind’ is associated with the character 心 (Ch. *xin* ‘heart, mind’). The *on* reading (...) of a character represents the result of the Japanese attempt at an earlier period, to imitate the pronunciation of the associated Chinese morpheme. Thus, *kai* is the Sino-Japanese reading for 海, based on (an earlier form of) Ch. *hai*, and *shin* is the Sino-Japanese reading for 心, based on (an earlier form of) Ch. *xin*.

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<sup>8</sup> *Hiragana* was created by simplifying Chinese characters as a whole, while *katakana* was created from parts of Chinese characters. Compare 呂 (*ro*) → ㇇ (*ro*; *hiragana*) and 呂 (*ro*) → ㇈ (*ro*; *katakana*).

<sup>9</sup> As Coulmas (1989, 122) points out, “under the hands of the Japanese, Chinese characters were transformed to become what is often said to be the most intricate and complicated writing system ever used by a sizeable population.”

Some characters have multiple *on* readings and even multiple meanings as a result of having been introduced to Japan at several different times in history and from different parts of China. Based on their origin, the *on* readings are classified into three types: *goon* (吳音, ‘Wu sound’),<sup>10</sup> *kan’ōn* (漢音, ‘Han sound’),<sup>11</sup> the most significant variant for the Japanese system, and *tōsōon*, (唐宋音, ‘Tang and Song sound’),<sup>12</sup> which are rather rare compared to the previous two types (Miller 1967, 102–112). In addition, there are so-called *kan’yōon* (慣用音, ‘customary sound’) readings, which are mistaken or changed readings that have been accepted into the Japanese language. 珠 (‘pearl’) is a good example of a character which has all the listed *on* readings: *shu* (*goon*), *shu* (*kan’ōn*), *ju* (*tōsōon*) and *zu* (*kan’yōon*).

According to Coulmas (1996, 242, and also 2003, 182), a sample of the 1,945 *Jōyō kanji*, or ‘Chinese characters for common use’ (in 2010 their number was increased to 2,136), includes a total of 4,087 readings, on average two readings per *kanji* (cf. Taylor 1997, 306). Among these, 737 have only an *on* reading, 40 only a *kun* reading and the remaining *kanji* have multiple readings.

The phonological rendering of a *kanji* is highly dependent on the intra-word context (Kess and Miyamoto 1999, 69). The general rule that single-character words utilize *kun* reading, while *kanji* used as constitutional components of character compounds utilize *on* reading, cannot be applied to all cases. For example, the character 日 (‘the sun, sunlight, day’) can be read as *hi* (*bi*), *-ka* (*kun* reading) and *nichi*, *jitsu* (*on* reading). In the word 日曜日 (*nichiyōbi*, ‘Sunday’), the initial 日 is read *nichi* and the final one *bi*.

Some more examples:

1. 日録 *nichiroku* (‘daily record, journal’)
2. 平日 *heijitsu* (‘ordinary, work day’)
3. 日月 *jitsugetsu* (‘the sun and the moon; time, days, years’)
4. 日傘 *higasa* (‘parasol’)
5. 今日 *kyō* (‘today’)

While in the first compound the *goon* reading is utilized, in the second and third compounds the *kan’ōn* reading is employed, and in the fourth it is the

<sup>10</sup> This type most likely came from the Wu dialect of southern China during the fifth and sixth centuries.

<sup>11</sup> From the Tang Dynasty, seventh–ninth centuries.

<sup>12</sup> From the Hangchow dialect during the fourteenth–sixteenth centuries.

*kun* reading. The last compound is an example of an even more complex case. The word is pronounced as a whole, with the pronunciation not corresponding to the sounds of individual *kanji*. The two characters are related to the meaning ('now' and 'day'), but not to the sound of the compound. Such special readings are called *jukujikun* (熟字訓, 'kun reading of a *kanji* compound'). As is apparent from the above examples, the position of the character within the compound does not help determine its correct reading either.

Furthermore, there are several hundred two-*kanji* compounds that have two or more possible readings, usually associated with different meanings (Coulmas 1989, 127). Thus, the ability to read a particular word depends, to a certain degree, on the reader's knowledge of the word as well as the context.

The *on* readings and *kun* readings are phonologically unrelated, but they are linked graphologically, through the given *kanji*. Since they are closely related in meaning, their connection is also semantic. The graphic form of a compound therefore makes its meaning quite transparent. Tamaoka and Hatsuzuka (1998, 139) demonstrate the comprehensibility of Japanese compounds with the following example: the English word euthanasia (from Greek *eu* 'easy' and *thanatos* 'death') is in Japanese expressed in a 3-*kanji* compound, 安楽死 ('peaceful' + 'comfort' + 'death'). Children, after three years of school education, know all three characters, so even if the word is new to them, they have some idea as to its meaning.

## The character-meaning relationship

Whereas phonographic *kana* characters have no meaning, *kanji* are mostly morphographic, i.e. they represent morphemes that convey a particular meaning. Most words written in *kanji* are two-*kanji* compounds, followed by three-*kanji* compounds and single-*kanji* words (Amano and Kondo, 1999 cited in Sato 2007, 130). *Kanji* which can constitute a single *kanji* word, such as 花 (*hana*, 'flower') or 子 (*ko*, 'child'), have a one-to-one correspondence between character and meaning. Also *kanji* which constitute the semantic core of a word, as in the word 優しい (*yasa(shii)*, 'kind') have a strong connection to meaning. In contrast, *kanji* which only appear in multiple-character compounds, such as 理由 (*ri-yū*, 'reason'), do not have a one-to-one correspondence between character and meaning.

There are, however, also cases when a character is used as a phonogram, without respect to its meaning. This specific type of usage is called *ateji* (当て字) (e.g., Sasahara, 2010). A good example of such a use of *kanji* is the word *sushi*, which is often written as 寿司. Although the *kanji* are read *su* and *shi* respectively, the former means ‘longevity, one’s natural life span’ and the latter ‘to rule, to administer’, neither of which has anything to do with the vinegared rice served with fish or vegetables. Another example is the word *kōhī* (‘coffee’) written as 珈琲 (‘ornamental hairpin’ + ‘string of pearls’).

Conversely, *kanji* may be used solely for meaning, i.e. without respect to reading, as in the word *tabako* 煙草 (‘smoke’ + ‘grass’, i.e. ‘tobacco, cigarettes’), although in modern Japanese most words of foreign origin are written in *katakana*.

These two techniques, now both commonly referred to as *ateji*, are frequently used for name creation (see 3.3).

# 1 SPECIFICS OF JAPANESE GIVEN NAMES AND NAMING PRACTICES

## 1.1 The beginning of the modern Japanese name system

In every society, individuals typically acquire a name or set of names, the bestowal of which usually follows existing conventions. But while children in all societies are named, naming practices may differ considerably (Alford 1988, 1–2, cf. Deguchi 1995, 66). Some societies have a great diversity of personal names, which easily distinguish a particular individual within the group. Other societies rely upon a limited number of personal names, which are, therefore, less effective at clearly identifying the particular individual (Alford 1988, 2).

The Japanese naming practices changed dramatically after the Meiji Restoration in 1868 when a new system of names was established. Prior to this important milestone in Japanese history, there were a number of names a man could assume during his lifetime. The two most important ones were *tsūshō* (通称), also known as *kemyō* (仮名), and *jitsumei* (実名), also referred to as *imina* (諱). *Jitsumei* – one’s ‘real’ or ‘true’ name – was connected with that man’s spiritual character, and it was believed that upon uttering his name one could in some way spiritually control him. It was therefore considered extremely impolite or even taboo to address one’s lord or one’s father by this name,<sup>13</sup> although the aristocracy could use these names to address their subordinates and parents to address their children. In order to avoid using *jitsumei* (*imina*), the *tsūshō* (*kemyō*) was used – the ‘ordinary name’ by which a man was commonly addressed. There were

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<sup>13</sup> This practice of avoiding someone’s true name is in Japanese referred to as 実名敬避俗 *jitsumei keihizoku* (Hozumi 1926).

various types of *tsūshō*, which could refer to the order of birth (*Tarō*, *Jirō*, *Saburō*, etc.), be derived from certain official titles (*-uemon*, *-suke*, etc.), or use various end characters (Koop and Inada 1923, 70–71). *Tsūshō* was bestowed as part of the coming-of-age ceremony (*genpuku*) at the age of fifteen, replacing a childhood name, called *yōmyō/yōmei* or *osana* (幼名), which was usually short and simple. Women, on the other hand, had just one name, *namae* (名前).

In the second half of the nineteenth century, after centuries of Japan's feudal system, which enforced group responsibility, the individual became the basic unit of the law (Plutschow 1995, 192). In order to effectively control society at the national level, there was a need to clearly distinguish each individual from the others and identify family membership. The Meiji government introduced a new name policy requiring that each citizen would have a simple combination of a family name and a given name (氏名, *shimei/ujina*). Names would function as a symbol to identify the person, regardless of the meaning of the name (Ueno 2006, 22).

Prior to the Meiji Restoration, family names were a privilege of nobles and samurai, and few others had one. With the abolishment of the class system, people could choose their own names. Some people assumed the surname of a family with whom they were at least distantly related, or for whom they worked. Merchants commonly chose the name of their shop as their family name. Many others drew on their surroundings and derived their surnames from features of the rural landscape, particular features of their dwellings, places nearby, etc. Therefore, many Japanese surnames contain characters such as 山 'mountain' (e.g., 山下 *Yamashita* 'below the mountains', 山本 *Yamamoto* 'the foot of the mountain'), 川 'river' (e.g., 小川 *Ogawa* 'small river', 石川 *Ishikawa* 'stone river'), 野 'field' (e.g., 北野 *Kitano* 'north field', 東野 *Higashino* 'east field'), 田 'rice field' (e.g., 田中 *Tanaka*, 中田 *Nakada/Nakata* 'in rice field'), 林 'grove', (e.g., 林 *Hayashi*, 小林 *Kobayashi* 'small grove'), etc. (cf. Okutomi 1999, 232). Almost 90 percent of Japanese surnames are of toponymical origin (Plutschow 1995, 202).

The Family Registry Act (戸籍法 *Kosekihō*) of 1871 required that each citizen have an official registered name, which, in principle, could not be changed after the registration. This meant an end to the common custom of changing given names several times during one's lifetime (Plutschow 1995, 197; Ueno 2006, 22–23).

## 1.2 Personal names and their ability to distinguish between individuals

In contemporary Japan, a personal name consists of a family name (surname)<sup>14</sup> and a single given name, in that order. The majority of Japanese family names consist of two or, less frequently, three characters. Some are composed of only one character and the rarest ones consist of four characters. Estimates of the number of family names vary widely, between 100,000 and 300,000 (cf. e.g., Sakata 2006, 4; Morioka 2011, 20), depending on whether surnames with a slightly different reading but an identical graphic form and, reversely, those with the same reading but different *kanji* (rare variant characters) are counted as different surnames. For example, the two-*kanji* surname 中田 can be read as *Nakada* and also *Nakata* and the four-*kanji* surname 勅使河原 has even ten different recorded phonological forms: *Teshigahara*, *Teshigawara*, *Teshikawahara*, *Toshikawahara*, *Chokushikawahara*, *Chokushikawara*, *Chishigawara*, *Chikishigawara*, *Shishigawara* and *Koshigawara* (*Myōji yurai net*). According to the most extensive dictionary of Japanese family names, *Nihon myōji daijiten* (Niwa 1996), there are about 290 thousand different surnames in Japan, significantly more than in Korea and China (see also Takemitsu 1998). This number may be rather surprising for those who interact with Japanese people and often notice that many of them have the same surname. This is because the majority of the almost three hundred thousand surnames are extremely rare (some of them are even used by only one household), while a small number of the surnames are very common. 10 percent of the population have one of the top ten surnames, and a full third are covered by only a hundred surnames. 96 percent of all Japanese have among them approximately 7,000 surnames (Power 2008, C4-4), which is less than three percent of all existing Japanese surnames. The following table lists the most frequent family names, nine of which are shared by more than a million people each.

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<sup>14</sup> There are four different words for family names: 名字, 苗字, 氏, and 姓. They had different meanings in the past but currently mean the same, although their usage varies. The most commonly used one is 名字 *myōji*. The variant 苗字, also read as *myōji*, ceased in use after the simplification of the Japanese writing system in 1946, but is now used again. 氏 *uji* is used as a legal term and 姓 *sei* is used, for example, in fortune telling.

**Table 1:** Ten most frequent surnames in Japan (*Myōji yurai net*)

|    | Surname                      | Approximate number of population |
|----|------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| 1  | 佐藤 <i>Satō</i> <sup>15</sup> | 1,893,000                        |
| 2  | 鈴木 <i>Suzuki</i>             | 1,802,000                        |
| 3  | 高橋 <i>Takahashi</i>          | 1,424,000                        |
| 4  | 田中 <i>Tanaka</i>             | 1,349,000                        |
| 5  | 伊藤 <i>Itō</i>                | 1,084,000                        |
| 6  | 渡辺 <i>Watanabe</i>           | 1,073,000                        |
| 7  | 山本 <i>Yamamoto</i>           | 1,065,000                        |
| 8  | 中村 <i>Nakamura</i>           | 1,056,000                        |
| 9  | 小林 <i>Kobayashi</i>          | 1,036,000                        |
| 10 | 加藤 <i>Katō</i>               | 892,000                          |

Naturally, people with the same family name are not spread evenly throughout the country but in some areas their concentration is higher than in others. For example, on average, 15 out of 1000 people in Japan are *Satō*, but this figure jumps to 67 in Yamagata Prefecture and even 80 in Akita Prefecture.<sup>16</sup>

Although a large section of the population is stuck with a common surname, the identification function of the personal name is assumed by the almost uncountable choice of given name, which consists of one or more characters, usually two, selected from the 2,998 characters<sup>17</sup> currently permitted for use in names (see 1.3). In a 1989 list of 911,811 newborn children, more than 65 % had a unique combination of a family name and a given name, and less than 14 % had a name shared by more than three newborn babies. The most frequent name, *Suzuki Kenta* (鈴木 健太), had a prevalence of just one in 6,250.<sup>18</sup> As will be explained later, since the 1980s, the most common name structure patterns have been losing in popularity, and an even greater variety of given names have emerged. Fourteen years later, in

<sup>15</sup> The transcriptions represent the most frequent phonological forms with which the names are commonly connected.

<sup>16</sup> Based on the data provided for individual prefectures.

<sup>17</sup> As of 7 January 2015. This number has been rising since the 1950s, see 2.1.

<sup>18</sup> These figures were calculated based on the names of 911,811 children born in 1989 listed as part of the online *Heisei namae jiten*.

2003, over 84 % of newborn babies had a unique full name combination and only 3.5 % shared their full name with more than two others born that year.<sup>19</sup>

### 1.3 Formal limitations to given names and registration of birth

A Japanese given name can be written in *kanji*, *kana*, or some combination. It cannot include letters from the Roman alphabet or Arabic numerals. The characters permitted for use in names are limited to the 2,136 *Jōyō kanji* (lit. Chinese characters for common use) and the 862 *Jinmeiyō kanji*, a specific list of additional characters which can also be used in names. Although some of the characters are not suitable for names, parents can currently choose from this total of 2,998 characters, allowing for countless combinations.

At the registration of birth at the Family Registry, or *Koseki*, which has to take place within two weeks after birth, the name is examined in respect to whether the *kanji* used are commonly used simple characters,<sup>20</sup> included in the two lists of currently permitted characters as required by the Family Registry Act. Although the set of permitted characters that can be used is clearly defined, there has been some controversy because “being commonly used” is not the same as “being commonly used in names”.<sup>21</sup>

Most parents have chosen a name well in advance, but the corpus also includes many examples when parents prepared several names or selected a particular *kanji* they wanted to use in the name, and made the final decision after the child’s birth, or had put off the decision completely.

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<sup>19</sup> These figures were calculated based on the names of 250,515 children born in 2003 listed as part of the online *Heisei namae jiten*. 2003 is the most recent year for which such data is available.

<sup>20</sup> 「子の名には、常用平易な文字を用いなければならない。」 (*Kosekihō* 1947, Article 50).

<sup>21</sup> There is a notorious lawsuit concerning the name *Akuma* that, in 1993, made newspaper headlines (Watanabe 2007, cf. Kida 2002, Makino 2012, Nakaya 2012). A father in Akishima City, a suburb of Tokyo, submitted a birth registration for his son with the name 悪魔 *Akuma* ‘devil’. It was initially accepted but more than a month after submission the completion of the registration process was suspended, and the father was asked to change the name. Subsequently, the father filed a lawsuit against the city. Although the name clearly violated accepted cultural norms, there were no legal grounds specifically prohibiting the name, as it did not violate any law, because both the *kanji* used in the name are on the approved list of *Jōyō kanji*. In the end, the father changed the name to *Aku*, written in two characters, 亜 (‘Asia’, ‘rank next to, come after’) and 驅 (‘race, run’), but the case stirred up discussions over various issues concerning name-giving, including the policy on *kanji* limitation.

- (1) *A couple decided to leave selecting a name for their daughter until after they had seen her, as it is said that one's name expresses one's character. Their newborn daughter had pure white skin with soft fluffy hair, and a perfectly round face with soft pink cheeks, looking like a fresh white peach. She was born in March when the peach trees were in bloom, so the image of a peach seemed just perfect. They decided to name her ともも Komomo ('little peach'), written in hiragana just like their older daughter's name.*

*Another couple named their daughter 佑希乃 Yukino, because it was snowing for the first time that year on the day she was born. Interestingly, snow (yuki) is only incorporated into the pronunciation. The characters 佑希 ('to help, assist' + 'hope') express the parents' wish for their daughter to grow up into a kind (佑) person who has hope (希). The third kanji, 乃, is used only for its sound.*

As demonstrated by these two examples, parents can include in the meaning of the name a particular aspect of their child's appearance or something that will remind them of the time their child was born. The name is traditionally bestowed seven days after birth during the name-giving ceremony, called *oshichiya* (e.g., Yasuda 1998). This week with the baby gives parents more time to decide which name best suits their child. However, the final decision must be made during the two-week period before the birth must be registered.

## 1.4 The reading of *kanji* in names

As was explained in the Introduction, the majority of *kanji* used at present have two sets of readings, Sino-Japanese (*on*) and Japanese (*kun*), and the phonological rendering of a *kanji* is highly dependent on the intra-word context. The reading of characters in names is not, however, limited to the standard *on* and *kun* readings, and the graphic form of a name frequently has more than only one possible reading. The character 紀 has, for example, one *on* reading, *ki*, and no *kun* reading, but the female name 紀子 can be read as *Kiko*, *Noriko*, *Toshiko*, *Michiko*, *Motoko*, etc. Similarly, the character 健, whose *on* reading is *ken* and *kun* reading is *suko*, can be read in the single-*kanji* name 健, in addition to *Ken*, also as, for example, *Takeshi* or *Takeru*.

These variants of reading, called *nanori* (名乗り), are a special type of *kun* reading used with names. The origin of many of these *nanori* is not clear any longer because over a long period of time they gradually ceased to be used as common words and can now only be found in personal names (Satō 2007, 122). While some of the characters used in contemporary names have no *nanori*, other may have even more than ten. The *kanji* dictionary *Shinkangorin* (Kamada and Yoneyama 2010) lists the following 23 readings for the character 紀 when it appears in a name: *aki, osa, osamu, kazu, kaname, ki, kii, kino, koto, shirusu, sumi, tada, tadashi, tsugu, tsuna, toshi, nori, hajime, hiro, michi, moto, motoi* and *yoshi*, and the following 14 readings for the character 健: *katsu, kiyo, kiyoshi, take, takeshi, takeru, tatsu, tate, taru, tsuyo, tsuyoshi, toshi, masaru* and *yasu*.

Additionally, while the characters permitted for use in names are legally limited, there is no restriction on their readings, thus a chosen graphic form can be assigned virtually any reading. Although it would seem natural that the phonological form of the name would be determined by the characters with which it is written, as will be shown in 3.3, names with a discordant character-sound relationship have become a wide-spread phenomenon and a considerable problem, as such names are hard or even impossible to read without further information.

## 1.5 The people involved in the name selection and external influences

An important factor which influences the selection process and the final appearance of the name is who is actually making the choice, which used to be most often the grandparents, but nowadays most parents choose the name themselves. A century ago, differences in literacy and education played an important role in the name selection process, but currently anyone can access various baby name dictionaries, reference books, Internet sources and similar mobile phone applications. Even those who have problems writing *kanji* can now do so with the help of a computer.

In the past, it was very common to receive a name, or a particular *kanji* to be used in the name, from the shrine or Buddhist temple the family adhered to, or at least ask the priest if he approves of the choice. Some parents went to fortune-tellers to ensure that the name they had chosen would

bring their child good luck. Many examples from the corpus document such practices, here being only a few, from different periods.

- (2) *Parents named their son born in 1933 以光 Yukimitsu ('with, by' + 'light'), because they received this name from the shrine they belonged to.*

*Parents named their daughter born in 1960 公美子 Kumiko ('public, official, honest' + 'beautiful' + 'girl, child'). The grandparents had asked a fortune-teller for help and from the two suggestions they received chose this name.*

*When deciding the name for each of their three sons born in 1973, 1975 and 1978, the parents always received one character from the Atsuta Shrine (Atsuta Jingū) they belonged to and combined it with an end character of their choice. Thus the oldest son was named 宏平 Kōhei, 宏 ('wide, large') from the shrine, 平 ('calm, peaceful') from the parents, the second one was named 好史 Yoshifumi, 好 ('fond, pleasing') from the shrine and 史 ('history, chronicle') from the parents, and the youngest one 知也 Tomoya, 知 ('wisdom') from the shrine and 也 ('to be') from the parents.*

Nowadays, some parents still consult their choice with Shinto or Buddhist priests as was common in the past, and some still visit fortune-tellers, but many more make use of *seimei handan* (fortune-telling from names, see 1.6.3) themselves with help from various publications or Internet sources. Many others ask a naming specialist to either check or even custom-make a name to fit their ideas and requirements. Providing information and consultancy concerning name selection has become a successful commercial service.

- (3) *Parents gave their son born in 2010 the name 瑠海 Ruka ('lapis lazuli' + 'sea'), selected for them by a naming service. Their older son's name is 碧海 Aoi ('blue' + 'sea') and they wanted a name that would be related to it for their second son. Therefore they requested a name containing the character 海 [...]. They like the name Ruka [Luca], as it is easy for foreigners to remember, especially from Christian nations, and it is not very common in Japan.*

A rich source of inspiration and innovation that has had a large influence on expectant parents, especially mothers, is the increasing number of maternity and naming publications. The monthly maternity magazine *Tamago Club* (*Tamago kurabu*), which has been issued since 1993, and the *Tamahiyo* maternity publications, both published by the Benesse Corporation, hold the dominant position in the market. As part of their marketing strategy they stress that a given name is “the first gift a child receives from their parents”. The magazine, publications, and websites run by this company post rankings of the most popular names, analyze the latest trends, and provide various advice and instructions on how to create the right name and make sure it is perfect in all ways. This company has become the source for numerous new trends, together with other such resources.

A large number of various books and booklets have been published, especially since the 1990s, with new ones coming out every year, with new titles competing to appeal to the parents. Here are just a few examples from the plethora of available sources: *Imēji de erabu akachan no fresh namae jiten* [A dictionary of fresh baby names selected according to image] (Yasuda 1998), *21 seiki ni fusawashii akachan no namae jiten* [A dictionary of baby names suitable for the twenty-first century] (Tsuruta 2003), *Otoko no ko onna no ko namae jiten* [A Dictionary of boy and girl names] (Kuniwaki 2005), *Akachan ni pittari no namae ga mitsukaru hon. Kanji, yobina, imēji de erabu* [A book in which you will find the perfect name for your baby. A selection by characters, endearment or image] (Makino 2008).

One of the main marketing keywords is “happiness”: *Shiawase! Akachan no namae no tsukekata* [Happiness! Methods for baby naming] (Nakagawa 1996), *Shiawase ni naru akachan no nazuke jiten* [A naming dictionary for a happy baby] (Sugawara 2000), *Shiawase o yobu akachan no namae jiten* [A dictionary of baby names which will result in happiness] (Sugawara 2002),<sup>22</sup> *Shiawase o maneku akachan no nazuke jiten* [A dictionary of baby names which will bring about happiness] (Uchikawa 2005), *Akachan no shiawase nazuke jiten. Akachan e no saisho no okurimono* [A dictionary of happy baby names. The child’s first present] (Atsuji 2008), *Kōun o yobu otoko no ko, onna no ko no nazuke* [Names for boys and girls which will result in fortune] (Uchikawa 2010), *Shiawase o tsukamu! Onna no ko no namae* [Girl’s names which will bring happiness!] (Makino, 2010) etc.

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<sup>22</sup> And *Shiawase o yobu akachan no shimamae jiten* [A new dictionary of baby names which will result in happiness] (Sugawara 2005).

Additional major marketing themes include the “future” and “globalization”, as exemplified by the following publications: *Mirai ni habataku akachan no nazuke jiten* [A name dictionary for babies who will fly to the future] (Ōte and Takashima 1999), *Sekai ni tsūjiru kodomo no namae* [Children’s names which will be understood throughout the world] (Katō and Hironaka 1999), *Mirai o hiraku akachan no nazuke jiten* [A dictionary of names for babies to open up the future] (Akiyama 2002), *Sekai ni habataku onna no ko (otoko no ko) no namae* [Names for girls (boys) who will fly out into the world] (Tamiya 2005).

In addition to the printed books and magazines, there are numerous websites and Internet forums where one can receive practical advice on name selection, draw inspiration from lists of names, have a look at various rankings, check one’s choice in respect to numerical symbolism, or share with other people one’s own experience with name selection.

## 1.6 Name selection criteria and methods

In spite of the limitations mentioned in 1.3, the Japanese have many possibilities available when selecting a name. However, they have to concurrently pay attention to a number of various generally acknowledged criteria and conditions, which makes the selection or creation of the “perfect” name quite complicated. The key factors include the meaning of the *kanji*, the sound, and the image the name evokes. In addition, the following factors, though not exhaustive, are commonly involved in the current name selection process: the number of strokes in the characters, various aspects of the relationship between the given and family name, the uniqueness of the selected name within the family and among relatives, but with some relationship to the names of the child’s parents (grandparents) and/or siblings, and a socially appealing and interesting name. The selection process usually begins with the criteria the parents feel strongest about, and is then further guided by their other priorities. A typical current naming book offers the reader several choices for the starting point of the name selection process, usually *kanji*, sound, image or the number of strokes.

### 1.6.1 Name selection based on the meaning of the *kanji* or the preference for a particular *kanji*

Traditionally, the prime emphasis was on *kanji*, i.e. the name creation process started with the selection of some combination of *kanji* with appealing meanings, or the selection of one desired *kanji*, usually complementing it with a suitable *tomeji* (end character). The names 義秀 *Yoshihide* ('righteous' + 'excellent') and 正義 *Masayoshi* ('honest, truthful' + 'righteous'), each of which consists of two characters signifying moral qualities, represent the former method, and the names 義雄 *Yoshio* ('righteous' + 'man'), 秀雄 *Hideo* ('excellent' + 'man') and 正雄 *Masao* ('honest, truthful' + 'man'), in which the core characters 義, 秀 and 正 are complemented by the end character 雄, represent the latter.

As can be seen from the following examples, the motivations for the selection of particular *kanji* were various. The chosen *kanji* could reflect the desired qualities and aspirations for the child (4a), reflect the order of birth (4b), the time of birth – the season, the particular day or year (4c), or some important event, and frequently the *kanji* was adopted from a parent's or grandparent's name (for more see 1.6.4).

(4)

- a. Parents named their son born in 1938 健一 *Ken'ichi* ('health' + 'one, first'). The characters come from the parents' wish 健康第一 'health comes first'.
- b. Parents named their son born in 1937 一夫 *Kazuo* ('first' + 'man'), because he was their first-born son.
- c. Parents named their daughter born in 1950 春子 *Haruko* ('spring' + 'girl, child'), as she was born in April.
- d. Parents named their son born in 1940 辰夫 *Tatsuo* ('dragon' + 'man'), because he was born in the Year of the Dragon.

Starting the name selection process with one or more favorite *kanji* is still quite common.

- (5) The cornerstone of the female name 優花 *Yūka* was the character 優, which the parents wanted to use in the name of their daughter born in 2008 for its positive meanings 'excellent, wonderful' and 'tender, kind

*and gentle-mannered'. Subsequently, they chose the second character, 花 ('flower'), according to the resulting number of strokes in the complete name.*

*Parents named their son born in 2009 海清 Kaisei ('sea' + 'pure'). They wanted to use the character 海 in the name to always remind them of the house at the seaside where they first met. The second character comes from the name of the house. This place is their strongest memory, symbolizing the beginning of their relationship.*

*Another couple named their son born in 2010 龍希 Ryūki ('dragon' + 'hope'). The father always wanted to use the character 龍 in the name of his son. He came up with several names containing this character and had them checked at the shrine.*

As demonstrated by these examples, in current names the chosen *kanji* also refer to the child's personality, expressing the character traits or abilities the parents wish for their child in life. They can also remind the parents of some important event or can just be their favorite *kanji*. It is still rather common to incorporate a character from the name of a parent or grandparent.

### 1.6.2 An emphasis on the sound and the overall image of the name

Although in the past the main emphasis was placed on the visual appearance and the meaning of the name, at present the sound and the overall image evoked are of greater concern (cf. Tsuruta 2003, Kobayashi 2009). Rather than considering the future social role of the name, its role within the family has become of major interest. Currently, the given name is first and foremost meant to address the child, from birth or even during pregnancy, and to establish a close relationship within the family. The name must therefore sound pleasant.

Many parents seek out foreign, especially European, names, or names which they think will sound natural in the West. This trend has become common in many cultures, but in the case of Japan this entails an interesting combination of a "foreign" sound and a "domestic" visual form.

The following examples demonstrate name selection whose starting point is a favorite sound, a desired phonological form of a name, or an endearment by which the parents wish to call their child.

- (6) *Parents named their daughter born in 2011 Kokone 琴々音 ('koto'<sup>23</sup> + iteration mark + 'sound'), because they wanted the name to start with /ko/, which they considered girlish, and wanted to call her Koko-chan.<sup>24</sup>*

*When selecting a name for their daughter born in 2010 each of the parents suggested one syllable they liked and wanted to have in the name and then assigned the resulting phonological form, Miri, the characters 美梨 ('beautiful' + 'pear').*

*Already before the birth parents started calling their child Ā-chan, hoping for a girl. When they found out they were in fact expecting a girl they decided to think of a name starting with /a/ so that they could keep calling her the same way. They liked the character 愛 and consequently named their daughter, born in 2009, 愛莉 Airi ('love' + 'jasmine').*

*Similarly, during pregnancy the mother talked to her daughter calling her Mii-chan. After the birth she wanted to keep this cute way of calling her and decided on the name 美衣奈 Miina ('beautiful' + 'garment' + 'Nara').*

The characters assigned to the phonological form are often chosen in a way to evoke ideas or wishes that the parents consider important for their child. An idea or impression that the resulting name evokes, or some aspiration for the child, may also be the starting point for the entire process.

- (7) *Parents named their second daughter, born in 2009, 晴 Haru, because they really liked the image of clear, fine weather (晴れ hare). They also considered the number of strokes. Their first daughter's name is 天 Sora ('sky') and so the names of the two sisters create the word 天晴 (appare, 'splendid, admirable, brilliant').*

*A couple named their son born in 2013 優弥 Yūya. They looked for a name evoking a gentle, mild image, so they chose the character 優, meaning 'tender', 'kind', 'gentle-mannered'. The second kanji reflects the month of his birth, March (弥生).*

*Another couple named their son born in 2013 航瑠 Wataru ('sail' + 'lapis lazuli'). The father loves the sea where he works and so when their first son was born two years earlier they named him 太洋 Taiyō, making an*

<sup>23</sup> A traditional Japanese stringed musical instrument.

<sup>24</sup> -chan is a diminutive suffix primarily attached to the names of children and young women.

*association with 太平洋, the Pacific. For their second son they created an image of a ship sailing the beautiful deep blue ocean.*

The factors that have contributed to the shifts in emphasis from *kanji* and meaning to sound and image include the rise of mass media and show business, from which people are inspired by the names they hear, and the aforementioned reference books and websites, which approach the name selection from the point of view of marketing strategies and advise parents to ensure the name has a good sound (*hibiki*) and a pleasant image (*imēji*), as these two components are believed to affect people the most.

### 1.6.3 Counting the strokes

Traditional *seimei handan* (fortune-telling from names) remains surprisingly popular. Among the various methods, the most popular is predicting a person's future from the number of strokes in their name. Numerical symbolism still plays a very important role in Japanese society and many Japanese pay a great deal of attention to making sure that the name they have chosen is “lucky”, ensuring their child a good fate. As can be seen from the examples in (8), some parents consider the number of strokes when deciding which characters to assign to their desired phonological form, and for some parents, as the two examples in (8b) show, the number of strokes is even the most important criterion.

(8)

- a. *Parents chose as the basis for their son's name 'tatsu', because he was born in 1988, in the Year of the Dragon (辰年, tatsudoshi). The particular characters, 達 ('accomplished') and 朗 ('cheerful'), forming the name 達朗 Tatsurō, were chosen with respect to the number of strokes.*

*Another couple chose for their son born in 2011 the name Keishi, however they could not decide which characters to assign to it. They had seimei handan done for them and were advised to choose characters with 20 and 4 strokes. They finally decided on 継心 ('continue' + 'heart, mind') [...].*

*Parents had wanted to name their daughter born in 2011 Hinako, but whether they wrote it in hiragana or kanji, in combination with the surname the number of strokes was always unfavorable. The father consequently suggested changing it to Kohina and when they counted*

*the number of strokes for the combination of the surname with 小日菜 Kohina ('little' + 'sun(light), day' + 'rapeseed'), it was acceptable, and so gave her this name instead.*

- b. *Parents wanted for their son, born in 2008, a name that would consist of 15 strokes, which, based on seimei handan, they considered favorable. They chose the name 晴大 Haruto ('to clear up, to be sunny' + 'big'), hoping he would become a cheerful person with a big heart. Similarly, other parents wanted for their son, born in 2010, a name that would consist of 15 strokes and so they named him 陽大 Akito ('sun' + 'big'), hoping he would become a man with a warm and big heart.*

*When selecting a name for their daughter born in 2011, the parents wanted it to have 11 and 4 strokes, just like the names of her father and older brother, as this, in combination with the strokes in the characters of the surname, was extremely favorable. They chose the name 彩巴 Iroha ('color, colorful' + 'comma-shaped design'), wishing her to have a beautiful, colorful life.*

There are various calculation methods of *seimei handan* from a person's full name, but in general, various combinations of *kanji* used in the given name and the family name are considered from the point of view of the number of strokes (e.g., Nakagawa 1996, Tamiya 2003). The fate and personality of the person is predicted from the resulting numbers, and at the same time the suitability of a particular name is examined. The methods of calculation of individual schools differ in various aspects, such as counting the strokes of some particular characters or a different calculation in case of a single-*kanji* family or given name, resulting in different numbers. It is therefore important to stick to one chosen method; a name that generates "lucky" numbers according to one method might be extremely "unlucky" and bad for the name bearer according to a different one. The below described method is based on counting strokes of five different combinations of characters (五格 *gokaku*) in the person's full name.

**THE GOKAKU SYSTEM** (Tamiya 2003)

In this system, the following five numbers are considered:

**Tenkaku** (天格), the number of strokes of all the characters of the family name; it tells us about the person's "heavenly" fate, which is passed on from generation to generation, but does not directly influence the person's fate, whether the number is "lucky" or "unlucky".

**Jinkaku** (人格), the number of strokes of the last character of the family name and the first character of the given name; the number tells us about the nature, talent, and individuality of the person. It is said to control the individual's fate between the age of 20 and 40.

**Chikaku** (地格), the number of strokes of all the characters of the given name; it describes the personality and character of the person from birth up to middle age.

**Gaikaku** (外格), the number of strokes of the first character of the surname and the last character of the given name; it complements and supports the second level, *jinkaku*, and influences one's relationship with other people, including the person's future partner, marriage and children.

**Sōkaku** (総格), the total number of strokes of all the characters of the family name and the given name, i.e. *tenkaku* and *chikaku*; this number predetermines the person's overall fate and mainly influences the person's social life after middle age.

Subsequently, four of the five numbers, *jinkaku*, *chikaku*, *sōkaku* and *gaikaku*, are considered from the point of view of their meaning. Each number has some meaning for the name-bearer's character and fate.

Let us examine a particular name, 田中 一真 *Tanaka Kazuma*, through each of the above aspects:

|                                   |                |  |                      |   |
|-----------------------------------|----------------|--|----------------------|---|
| 田中 一真<br><i>Tanaka<br/>Kazuma</i> | <i>tenkaku</i> | 田 (5) + 中 (4) = 9                      | bad<br>luck          | ---   |
|                                   | <i>jinkaku</i> | 中 (4) + 一 (1) = 5                      | very<br>good<br>luck | Very energetic, good-natured,<br>trusted by other people,<br>favorable progress,<br>blessed with good health.           |
|                                   | <i>chikaku</i> | 一 (1) + 真 (10) = 11                    | very<br>good<br>luck | Blessed with good family<br>environment, healthy childhood<br>and teenagehood,<br>very ambitious. [...]                 |
|                                   | <i>gaikaku</i> | 田 (5) + 真 (10) = 15                    | very<br>good<br>luck | Values harmony, smooth<br>human relationships, pays<br>respect to others and thereby<br>wins the trust of other people. |
|                                   | <i>sōkaku</i>  | 田 (5) + 中 (4) +<br>一 (1) + 真 (10) = 20 | bad<br>luck          | A hard worker but often his<br>efforts do not bear fruit.<br>Must learn to enjoy life more.                             |

Choosing a name that would in combination with the surname only generate positive numbers and, moreover, also satisfy other criteria of the name selection, is extremely difficult and often impossible. When selecting a name for a boy it is therefore usually recommended to concentrate on the numbers that are important for the age between 20 and 40, and for his entire life, while for a woman the number that determines her fate from birth to middle age is usually emphasized, as women usually get married and change their surnames.

### 1.6.4 Sharing common features in names within the family

Another criterion which is important for many families is the selection of a name that would share a particular common feature with the names of other members of the family. In many societies it is a common custom to inherit names after one's parents or grandparents. Depending on the cultural beliefs of the given society, name sharing may be motivated by a belief in reincarnation of a dead relative in his or her namesakes, or the belief that an ancestor becomes the spiritual guardian of the person with whom he or she shares the name. It may be also motivated by the intention to preserve the memory of the deceased person (Alford 1988, 74).

In Japan, it is very rare to use the same name within the family, but common to share some features or components of names. In the past it used to be common to incorporate one *kanji* from a father's name and then continue to share the same *kanji* over succeeding generations, creating a kind of psychological bond between the members of the family. Here are examples from different periods:

- (9) *Parents named their three sons born around the end of the nineteenth and the beginning of the twentieth century in the order of birth 作太郎 Sakutarō (作 + 'first-born'), 作次郎 Sakujirō (作 + 'second-born') and 作三郎 Sakusaburō (作 + 'third-born'). The character 作 ('to make, build'), which their names have in common, comes from the name of their father, 作治 Sakuji (作 + 'to cure, heal, rule'). The character was then also used in the names of the grandchildren. Sakutarō's sons born in 1920, 1922, 1925, and 1935 also inherited this character and were named 勇作 Yūsaku ('courage, bravery' + 作), 精作 Seisaku ('spirit, energy, vitality, refined' + 作), 晋作 Shinsaku ('to advance' + 作) and 良作 Ryōsaku ('good, pleasing, skilled' + 作).*

*A couple named their son born in 1986 敬一郎 Keiichirō, because in the family business the character 敬 ('respect, honor, reverence') had been used for generations. And being their firstborn son, the parents complemented the character 敬 by 一郎 ('first-born').*

*Another couple named their son born in 2014 明陽 Akiharu ('cheerful, shining brightly' + 'sun'). For generations all the boys in the father's family had the character 明 in their names (great great-grandfather 明顕 → great-grandfather 明寿 → grandfather 明博 → father 明知) and thus when they found out they were expecting a son, the first character was a clear choice [...].*

Satō Minoru, the author of *Yominikui namae wa naze fueta ka* [Why we see more hard-to-read names], pointed out in an article for The Japan Times (Otake 22 Jan. 2012) that although it had been very common in the past, sharing one particular *kanji* in the names of family members over many generations has almost entirely disappeared. On the other hand, as evidenced in the corpus, the tendency to make connections among family members through sharing some feature of a name is quite strong. The corpus contains many examples of using some component, most frequently a character, from the name of one or both parents, of a grandparent, or even of both grandfathers or both grandmothers for the basis of a new name. Using a *kanji* from the name of a recently deceased grandparent or another family member can also be seen.

(10) *Parents named their son born in 2014 歩音 Aruto ('to walk, progress, advance' + 'sound'), to make a connection with the father's name, 南音 Mioto ('south' + 'sound'). Similarly, the father's older brother, whose name is 北斗 Hokuto ('north' + 'Big Dipper'), made a connection with his son by naming him 拓斗 Takuto ('to clear, open up, cut through, cultivate + 'Big Dipper') [...].*

*Other parents named their son born in 2014 一正 Issei ('first' + 'honest, truthful'). As he was the first son in both the mother's and the father's family, they decided to use in the name one *kanji* each from the grandfathers' names [...].*

*Another set of parents named their son, born in 2014, 良一 Ryōichi ('good, pleasing, skilled' + 'first'). The first character comes from the name of the mother's beloved grandfather and the second character from the*

*name of the mother's father and also her husband's father, because they deeply value the family relationship.*

*A couple named their daughter born in 2010 歩実 Ayumi ('to walk, progress, advance' + 'crop, harvest, fruit'), using one kanji from their names as a present for her [...]. Similarly, using kanji from their own names another couple named their daughter 紗優 Sayu ('thin, light silk' + 'tender, kind, gentle-mannered').*

*Other parents named their daughter born in 2010 希 Nozomi ('hope') by using one kanji from the mother's name.*

Not only a particular *kanji* but also, for example, a particular sound (syllable) (11a) or the use of *kana* (11b) can constitute the particular feature shared within the family.

(11)

- a. *The name of one respondent, born in 1993, Yū (悠; 'everlasting, calm, at ease'), was inspired by the phonological form of her mother's name, Yuka (由香; 'reason' + 'fragrance, scent, aroma, perfume'), which was similarly inspired by her mother's (Yū's grandmother's) name, Yūko (裕子; 'to help, assist' + 'girl, child').*

*Before the birth of their son in 2014 the father's grandfather passed away. The parents decided to choose a name for their son with the same vowel sequence as was in the grandfather's name, /a – a – i/, and named him Asahi, written as 朝大 ('morning' + 'big, large, great'). The second kanji comes from the name of his older brother as the parents wanted the names of their sons to share some common feature.*

- b. *The name of a respondent born in 1966, Tomoko (トモ子), is partially written with katakana after her mother, whose name, Yōko, was written in katakana (ヨウコ). The name of Tomoko's daughter born in 1991, Yui, observes this tradition and is also written in katakana (ユイ).*

*A mother, whose name is written in hiragana, wanted the name of her daughter, born in 2013, to be also written in hiragana, which is easy to read and remember. Another criterion was a name starting with /k/ to match the parents' names and unite the names within the family. They also considered the number of strokes in the surname, and finally came*

*up with the name Kanna (かんな) from 神無月 (kannazuki, the tenth month of the lunar calendar).*

There is also a strong tendency to unite the names of the children based on some common feature, such as one favorite *kanji* or *kanji* radical<sup>25</sup>, or *kanji* from the same semantic group, e.g., seasons of the year, plants, etc.

- (12) *The names of three siblings born in the 1960s, 康美 Yasumi, 康平 Kōhei and 康司 Kōji, share the character 康 ('ease, peace'), which comes from the name of the father's favorite historical figure, Tokugawa Ieyasu (徳川家康).*

*The names of two brothers and a sister, 陽生 Hinase, 翔生 Tōi and 夢生 Yuna, born in 2001, 2003 and 2005, contain the same kanji 生, which means 'to live' and symbolically connects the lives of these three siblings. A couple wanted the name of their youngest daughter, born in 2008, to start with the syllable /re/ as the name of their oldest daughter started with /ri/ and their second daughter with /ru/.<sup>26</sup> They decided on Remi and consequently chose the characters 恋実. ('love' + 'crop, harvest, fruit').*

### 1.6.5 The influence of important events and famous people and characters

An important criterion for some parents is to choose a name that would be topical or socially of interest, for instance evoking an important current event. A good example is the beginning of a new era, i.e. the year in which a new emperor ascends the throne. In the first year of the Taishō period (大正, 1912–1926), one of the most popular male names was 正一 *Shōichi*, which features the character 正, meaning 'right' or 'just', from the name of the era. The beginning of the Shōwa period (昭和, 1926–1989) also had a strong influence on name selection, and the beginning of the Heisei period (平成, 1989–) was somewhat influential.

<sup>25</sup> Radicals (部首 *bushu* in Japanese) are graphemes, or graphical parts by which *kanji* are classified in *kanji* dictionaries. There are 214 historical radicals derived from the eighteenth century Kangxi dictionary. Every *kanji* only has one radical. Each radical has a meaning and lends its meaning to the *kanji* of which it is a part.

<sup>26</sup> Following the Japanese ordering of *kana* (*ra, ri, ru, re, ro*).

Another example of a historical event that was immediately reflected in names is the 2600<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the mythical founding of the Japanese Empire, celebrated on a mass scale in 1940. The female name 紀子 *Noriko* (紀 + ‘girl, child’), which till then was not particularly common, ranked first in the Meiji Yasuda statistics that year. 紀 comes from the word 紀元 (‘the year of’) in the name of the event (紀元二千六百年記念行事 ‘commemorative ceremony of the 2600<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the founding of Japan’). The male version *Norio* did not appear in the top rankings only because the character 紀 was combined with several end characters, especially 男, 雄 and 夫 (all meaning ‘man’), i.e. 紀男, 紀雄 and 紀夫. Names such as 紀一 *Kiichi* (紀 + ‘firstborn’) or 二六 *Niroku* (‘2’ + ‘6’), bestowed that year, also reflect this anniversary.

The Imperial family, very popular and respected among Japanese people, is another source of influence. Every marriage or birth in the Imperial family is immediately reflected in the name selection. After the birth of the Crown Prince *Naruhito*, whose imperial title is 浩宮 *Hiro no miya*, ‘Prince *Hiro*’, in 1960, there was an increase in names containing the character 浩. 浩 *Hiroshi* became the most popular male name and 浩子 *Hiroko* was very popular for girls. When Princess 愛子 *Aiko* was born in 2001, this already popular name became even more popular. The birth of Prince 悠仁 *Hisahito* in 2006 is reflected in the increased occurrence of both 悠 and 仁.

Since the 1960s, the selection of given names has been increasingly influenced by popular actors, singers, sportsmen and other personalities who are well known through the media. Heroes from popular TV series, anime and manga characters, names from popular songs, etc. are yet another strong source of inspiration. Some examples from the 1960s, 1970s and 1980s are found in section 2.3.4. Currently, the majority of most popular names are a result of such influence. For example, the popularity since the turn of the millennium of the female name *Sakura* (written either in *hiragana* or in various *kanji* combinations) can be traced to the names of heroines from popular TV series, such as the 1998–2000 *Cardcaptor Sakura* (and the voice-actor and singer Tange Sakura, who provided voice for the heroine *Kinomoto Sakura*) and the 2002 morning TV series *Sakura*, and the popularity of the name was also further fed by two popular 2003 singles, each entitled *Sakura*, one by Moriyama Naotarō, and the other by Kawaguchi Kyōgo (cf. Kimata 2005, 74). Another female name, *Hana*, experienced great popularity due to the heroine of the very successful 2014 morning TV series *Hanako to*

*An* (Hanako and Anne) (Meiji Yasuda 2015). The corpus indicates that the recent popularity of the female name *Mei* is strongly influenced by the heroine of the 1988 animated fantasy film *Tonari no Totoro* (My Neighbor Totoro), which was popular among the generation of the current parents in their childhood.

The various criteria and factors described above often play an important role in the name selection process. For the name givers each criterion has a different weight, depending on their preferences, education, personal beliefs, models and ideals. In general, at present the meaning of *kanji* is usually subordinate to the sound, the image the name evokes, and the number of strokes. A major emphasis is placed on individuality, originality and uniqueness (*kosei*). Names are considered primarily in respect to the individual's existence within the family circle (*shinmitsu kūkan*, or private space) rather than his or her future role in society (*kōkyō kūkan*, or public space) (Kobayashi 2009, 18). As a result of these changes and shifts in preferences, children's names today are remarkably different than the names common two generations ago.

## 2 TRANSITIONS IN JAPANESE GIVEN NAMES

The selection or creation of a particular name largely depends on personal preferences, education and other individual factors, but given names are also influenced by the period in which they are given. Since the second half of the nineteenth century, Japanese given names have undergone significant changes in their graphic and phonological forms, as well as their structure and meanings. The following sections provide an overview of this development.

### 2.1 Orthographic transitions and the development of the number of characters permitted for use in names

As was described in the Introduction, Japanese script consists of several types, of which names can utilize *kanji*, *kana* or some combination thereof (1.3). In spite of the various possibilities of the script, the vast majority of male names have always been written in *kanji*, although their selection and the number commonly used in a name have changed over time. Unlike male names, which did not undergo any major orthographic changes, female names have largely shifted from *kana* to *kanji*. At the beginning of the Meiji period (1868–1912), female names were typically two-mora long, and most commonly written in either *hiragana* or *katakana*. Names written in *kanji* were rather exceptional, appearing only in names of females with a higher social status. Names written in *kana*, in contrast to names written in Chinese characters, were traditionally considered more feminine. It is difficult to ignore, however, the fact that this difference was also connected to the role women played in society. Chinese characters symbolized intelligence and education, which was not seen as the realm of common class women.

The new educational system established at the turn of the twentieth century supported literacy amongst both men and women, which changed this dynamic. The number of female names written in *kanji* began to increase, and were in the majority by the end of the Taishō period (1912–1926). The two-mora names written in *kana* gradually gained the stigma of being old-fashioned, and while names written in *hiragana* were used in the following decades as well, bestowing names in *katakana* became very rare.

As described in 1.3, there are almost three thousand characters that can be currently used in names. Although this number may seem quite high, some expectant parents still face the situation when the character they wish to choose is not on the permitted list. This problem is not new to the current generation; this has been an ongoing issue since the end of the Second World War. The introduction of *Tōyō kanji* (当用漢字; lit. daily-use Chinese characters) by the National Language Council, *Kokugo shingikai*, in 1946, as part of the postwar democratization effort to establish equal access to information and education, reduced the number of characters used to 1,850. A year later, in 1947, the characters used in given names were also limited to this list (see for example Atsuji (2005) or Enmanji (2005a)). A number of common graphic forms of names of the time (e.g., containing 弘, 奈 or 昌) could no longer be chosen, and parents had to choose some alternative forms using the permitted *kanji*. For example, this is the case of the then popular names 弘 *Hiroshi* and 弘子 *Hiroko*, which immediately disappeared from the Meiji Yasuda ranking of the most popular baby names (see Appendix 1), although the phonological form later re-appeared using different characters (弘 → 博, 広, 浩, 宏, etc.). The following example from the corpus illustrates the situation:

- (13) *Parents wanted to name their daughter born in 1948 弘子 Hiroko ('broad' + 'girl, child'). At the registry office they were informed that a name with 弘 could not be registered. Subsequently, they named their daughter 美穂子 Mihoko ('beautiful' + 'ear of rice' + 'girl, child').*

This restriction met with criticism in 1951 as it conflicted with freedom of expression in naming and thus violated the Constitution. However, after an intervention by the next Minister of Culture, Kennoki Toshihiro, a bill that would have canceled this limitation was withdrawn (Makino 2012, 137). According to Kennoki, an expression of freedom for one person could mean

a limitation and lack of freedom for another (Ibid.). Nonetheless, the same year the Ministry of Justice selected 92 characters as a supplement to the *Tōyō kanji* list. These characters for use in personal names, *Jinmeiyō kanji*, were added by a cabinet order and appended to the Family Registry Act (Watanabe 2007, 348). Further extensions in the following decades were added to reflect popular sentiment.

(14) *Parents chose for their daughter, born in 1967, the name Rieko, which was quite popular at that time. For 'ri' they wanted to use the character 梨 ('pear tree'), but at that time it was not acknowledged as Jinmeiyō kanji, thus they chose 理 ('reason, justice, truth') instead, creating 理恵子.*

The list of *kanji* approved for use in names was extended by another 28 characters in 1976, for a total of 120, including also the character 梨 from the above example. The list of 1,850 *Tōyō kanji* was replaced by 1945 *Jōyō kanji* in 1981 and also the list of additional characters that could be used in names increased significantly. The list was further extended by another 118 characters in 1990, this time also in response to public pressure and survey results. Kida (2002, 95) views this increased interest in complicated and unusual *kanji* in relation to the spread of computers, which made writing characters much easier. The list was extended by another character in 1997 – 琉 ('gem, lapis lazuli') – in response to a request by parents from Okinawa.<sup>27</sup> In 2004, a court verdict in favor of parents in Sapporo resulted in the addition of 曾 ('formerly, once, before'). There were a number of additional cases.

2004 saw the most radical extension of the *Jinmeiyō kanji* list since its inception in 1951. The original proposal, which included 578 characters and was based on a character frequency study conducted by the Agency for Cultural Affairs (Bunkachō) in 2000 as well as on past requests from the public for various additions (Watanabe 2007, 356, see also Enmanji 2005b), was found rather controversial as it contained, probably due to the effort to satisfy the general public and cut down on further individual requests and numerous law suits, a number of characters that were common and simple, but unsuitable for use in names. In addition to characters requested by parents, such as 莓 ('strawberry') or 牙 ('fang'), the list initially contained

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<sup>27</sup> The lawsuit pointed out the gap in the list of characters permitted in names as the character 琉 that is part of the word *Ryūkyū* (the Kingdom of Ryūkyū, Ryūkyū Islands, etc.) has "historical, symbolic and political significance to the people of Okinawa as well as to Japan as a whole" (Watanabe 2007, 354).

characters such as 糞 ('excrement'), 呪 ('curse'), 屍 ('corpse') or 癌 ('cancer'). Apparently, the suitability of the characters for their use in names had not been a requirement; they were instead selected according to their simplicity and common use in general. Some of the most criticized characters were removed from the proposal and in the end a total of 488 characters and 205 variants were approved. Many of the newly approved characters were old forms of already used characters, e.g., 竜 → 龍 ('dragon'). The number of additional characters for the use in names thus increased to 983. In the opinion of Makino (2012, 139), many of these 488 characters are still unsuitable to be used in names, which is in contradiction with the purpose of the extension.

*Jōyō kanji* were revised and their number was increased to 2,136 in 2010. Out of the characters that were added, 124 came from the list of the additional characters for use in names, thus reducing this list from 985 to 861 characters. The latest extension took place on 7 January 2015 when the character 巫 (shrine maiden, medium, sorceress) was added, making the number of additional *kanji* for use in names 862.

This trend of increasing the number of characters for names goes against the overall trend of using fewer characters in general writing, increasingly using *hiragana* instead, especially by the younger generations, including the generation of current parents. The nearly three thousand characters currently permitted for names cover the majority of characters used by the average Japanese person. If there were no limitation on characters in names, Japanese people would face even more problems reading names than now.

## 2.2 Transitions in the name structural patterns

Recent Japanese names have striking diversity in structure and sound compared to the names of the preceding generations. Up until the end of the 1970s, most names were formed based on a limited number of structural patterns typical for male or female names of that particular period. In the 1980s the traditional name formation patterns of the twentieth century were largely replaced as new types of names emerged.

## 2.2.1 Male name patterns

The stark disparities in literacy and social class during the late nineteenth century were reflected in the rather high level of structural diversity of male names. They were of varying length, usually consisting of one to three *kanji* (three to six morae), although names of four or more *kanji* could also be found. In spite of the prohibition, names related to official titles were still used, such as 藤右衛門 *Touemon* (藤 ‘wisteria’ + 右衛門 ‘official of the Right Division of Outer Palace Guards’) or 久左衛門 *Kyūzaemon* (‘eternity’ + 左衛門 ‘official of the Left Division of Outer Palace Guards’). During the Taishō period two-*kanji* names began to prevail, the end *kanji* usually being some *kanji* typical for male names. There was a significant increase in single-*kanji* names in the 1940s and 1950s. In the 1960s approximately 70 percent of names of newborn boys consisted of two *kanji*, and almost 30 percent were single-*kanji* names. Three-*kanji* names, which had been common during the Meiji and Taishō eras, were no longer frequent (Sakuma 1969, 186).

The various patterns that can be traced in male names, with different frequency of occurrence in each period, can be divided into three main groups: single-*kanji* names, names consisting of two “equally important” characters (two core *kanji*), and two or three-*kanji* names consisting of one (or occasionally two) core characters, complemented by an end character (or a set of end characters).<sup>28</sup>

**Single-*kanji* names** have varied in popularity throughout the examined period, as have the selection frequencies of particular characters. They were especially popular during the war and lasted throughout the 1950s. Single-*kanji* names usually have both a *kun* (*nanori*) reading and an *on* reading. For each name one or the other reading is usually more common, although there are names which have equally frequent *kun* and *on* readings (e.g., 淳 *Atsushi/Jun*). Some even have two common *kun* readings (e.g., 直 *Naoshi/Tadashi*, 光 *Akira/Hikaru*, or 正 *Tadashi/Masashi*). Prior to the 1970s, most single-*kanji* names typically had a three-mora *kun* (*nanori*) reading. Many of them ended in *-shi*, an old (literary Japanese) adjectival end-form, expressing various qualities, such as 清 *Kiyoshi* (‘pure’), 弘 *Hiroshi* (‘broad [broad-minded]’) or 久 *Hisashi* (‘long [long-lived]’), or in the verbal end-form *-u*,

<sup>28</sup> The end character is often called *tomeji* (止め字; lit. ‘stop character’) (e.g., Satō 2007, Makino 2012), *jinmeiyō setsubigo* (人名用接尾語; ‘name suffix’) (e.g., Jugaku 1979, Satō 2007), and also *soeji* (添字; lit. ‘attached character’) (Tahara 1991, Sakuma 1969).

thus expressing an activity, such as 昇 *Noboru* ('to go up, climb'), 実 *Minoru* ('to bear fruit') or 進 *Susumu* ('to progress, advance'). In the second half of the 20<sup>th</sup> century, and especially its final two decades, the *on* reading variants of single-*kanji* names (usually two-mora long) became more frequent than before (健 *Ken*, 豪 *Gō*, 亨 *Kō*, 将 *Shō*, 悠 *Yū*, etc.).

A large number of **two-*kanji* names** consist of two "equally important" characters expressing moral qualities and virtues (see 2.3.1). The phonological form of each name is determined by the order of the characters in the name, cf. 義秀 *Yoshihide* ('righteous' + 'excellent') and 秀義 *Hideyoshi* ('excellent' + 'righteous'), or 正昭 *Masaaki* ('honest, truthful' + 'shining') and 昭正 *Akimasa* ('shining' + 'honest, truthful'). This type traditionally utilizes the *kun* reading and is typically four-mora long, two mora for each *kanji*.

In the third and largest group, male names consist of a core character (and much less frequently of two core characters) complemented by an end character (or a combination of end characters), creating **two or three-*kanji* names**. The end character gives the name its final form, both graphic and phonological, and also makes it gender specific. Unlike with the previous type, a change in the order of the characters is usually not possible, the core character must come first.

End characters used in male names can be divided into three basic groups: a) characters with the meaning 'man', b) characters signifying the order of birth, c) other male name end characters.

- a) The first group includes the following characters: 夫, 男, 雄, 彦 and 郎. The first three, 夫, 男 and 雄, are read *o*. All have the meaning 'man', but with subtle differences. 夫 also means 'husband', 男 includes the meanings 'young man, son' and 雄 includes qualities such as 'manly, brave'. 彦 is read *hiko*, and implies 'handsome' and 'talented, accomplished'. 郎 ('man, son') is usually read *rō* (*on* reading), and is primarily used in names expressing the order of birth, as explained in b). It also, however, has a *nanori* reading *o*, as do 夫, 男 and 雄. Thus, for example, the name *Tetsuo*, meaning 'wise man', can be written as 哲夫, 哲男 or 哲雄, but also 哲郎.

Names based on this pattern were already used in the Meiji period, but increased in occurrence in the Taishō period, and became widespread in the pre-war Shōwa period. Their popularity continued after the war as well (Sakamoto 1969, 213), and in 1960 two-*kanji* names ending in *o* were the most frequently bestowed type of male name (cf. Jugaku

1979, 183). While in the first half of the twentieth century 雄 was most frequent of the characters read as *o*, in the 1960s 夫 was most frequently chosen. The counterpart to the end characters signifying man is the female 子 *ko* (for more see 2.2.2). Taishō, and especially Shōwa names include many pairs of male and female variants, such as *Masao* – *Masako*, *Kazuo* – *Kazuko*, *Norio* – *Noriko*, *Hideo* – *Hideko*, written with various *kanji*.

- b) Expressing the order of birth used to be an important feature of Japanese male names, and names containing numbers either as a core or end character were widespread. The most basic pattern was a combination of a character signifying a number and the end character 郎, thus resembling simple numbering: the oldest son was named 一郎 *Ichirō* or 太郎<sup>29</sup> *Tarō*, the second-born son was named 二郎 / 次郎<sup>30</sup> *Jirō*, the third one 三郎 *Saburō*, etc. (ex. b1 below). For instance, the name of the Japanese writer and playwright *Miyoshi Jūrō* (十郎, ‘ten’ + 郎), born in 1902, indicates that he came from a family with nine older children. This pattern became the basis for the pattern exemplified in (b2), which consists of a core character complemented by the end combination of a number + 郎. Similarly, the third pattern (b3) consists of a core character and a number expressing the order of birth.

(b1) *kanji* expressing number (一, 二, 三, 四, 五, etc.) + 郎 (‘son’)

一郎 *Ichirō* (‘one’ + 郎, ‘first-born son’) / 太郎 *Tarō* (‘big, strong’ + 郎)  
 二郎 *Jirō* (‘two’ + 郎, ‘second-born son’) / 次郎 *Jirō* (‘next’ + 郎)  
 三郎 *Saburō* (‘three’ + 郎, ‘third-born son’)  
 四郎 *Shirō* (‘four’ + 郎, ‘fourth-born son’)  
 五郎 *Gorō* (‘five’ + 郎, ‘fifth-born son’), etc.

(b2) ○ + *kanji* expressing number + 郎

武太郎 *Taketarō* (‘warrior, brave’ + 太郎),  
 洋次郎 *Yōjirō* (‘wide as the ocean’ + 次郎)  
 順三郎 *Junzaburō* (‘obedient, favorable’ + 三郎)  
 善四郎 *Zenshirō* (‘virtuous, good’ + 四郎)  
 松五郎 *Matsugorō* (‘pine tree’ + 五郎), etc.

<sup>29</sup> The name *Tarō* (‘big, strong’ + 郎) does not contain any number but this name was traditionally given to the firstborn son.

<sup>30</sup> The meaning of the character 次 is ‘next’ and it was used in the same way as the character 二 in the names of second-born sons.

(b3) ○ + *kanji* expressing number信一 *Shin'ichi* ('faithful, trustworthy' + 一)知二 *Tomoji* ('knowledgeable, wise' + 二)達三 *Tatsuzō* ('accomplished' + 三)炳五 *Heigo* ('clear, bright' + 五), etc.

The first and the second pattern were typical for the Meiji and Taishō periods, during which they were widespread. The third pattern expressing the order of birth remained in use for a longer time, throughout the Shōwa period (1926–1989), although, due to the decrease in birthrate, usually just the first one or two ended up being used. In recent years, the patterns ○一 and ○一郎 have increased in appearance once again, but as is apparent from the corpus, the use of the character 一 is no longer limited to first-born sons, but can indicate being number one in some other manner (see 4.3.4).

- c) In each period, male names had a variety of other *kanji* used as end characters. As an example, Table 2 presents the results of a survey of 190 high-school boy names by Jugaku (1979, 183–184), showing end characters chosen for names of boys born around 1960, grouped based on their pronunciation. Although the sample size is insufficient for a detailed analysis, this still demonstrates the variety of end characters in use at that time.

**Table 2:** End characters in 2-*kanji* male names bestowed around 1960

|              |                  |         |
|--------------|------------------|---------|
| <i>o</i>     | 夫, 生, 雄, 郎       | 10.53 % |
| <i>hiko</i>  | 彦                | 7.89 %  |
| <i>ji</i>    | 治, 二, 次, 司       | 6.84 %  |
| <i>yuki</i>  | 之, 行             | 5.79 %  |
| <i>ichi</i>  | 一                | 5.26 %  |
| <i>hiro</i>  | 博, 洋, 宏          | 3.68 %  |
| <i>taka</i>  | 隆, 孝             | 3.68 %  |
| <i>nori</i>  | 典, 宣, 憲, 範, 学, 則 | 3.68 %  |
| <i>shi</i>   | 司, 志, 史, 嗣, 士    | 3.68 %  |
| <i>aki</i>   | 昭, 明, 晃          | 3.16 %  |
| <i>ki</i>    | 樹, 規             | 2.63 %  |
| <i>yoshi</i> | 良, 嘉, 喜          | 2.63 %  |
| <i>ya</i>    | 也, 哉             | 2.63 %  |

|                |      |        |
|----------------|------|--------|
| <i>hito/to</i> | 人    | 1.59 % |
| <i>suke</i>    | 介, 輔 | 1.59 % |
| <i>haru</i>    | 治, 晴 | 1.59 % |
| <i>rō</i>      | 郎    | 1.05 % |
| <i>fumi</i>    | 文    | 1.05 % |
| <i>zō</i>      | 三    | 1.05 % |
| <i>nobu</i>    | 延, 信 | 1.05 % |

Over the hundred year period, male names became shorter in both the number of characters used, and in their phonological form. The second change is not merely a consequence of fewer characters in a name, but of the gradual increase in the preference for the *on* reading in both single-*kanji* and two *kanji* names.

### 2.2.2 Female name patterns

The description of female name structure patterns is approached here in a diachronic way to better demonstrate the major structural changes. The development of female names since the Meiji period can be divided into three basic periods: the period before the widespread use of three-mora names consisting of two or three *kanji*, including the typical final 子 *ko* (○子, ○○子), the period between the 1920s and the 1970s when this pattern dominated female names, and the period thereafter as this formerly prominent structure pattern faded away.

At the beginning of the Meiji period, female names were typically two-mora long and most commonly written in *kana* (2.1). These two-mora names could be accompanied by the honorific prefix *o-*: *O-Tsuru* (*tsuru*, ‘crane’), *O-Ito* (*ito*, ‘thread’), *O-Yoshi* (*yoshi*, ‘good’), etc. (Jugaku 1968, 17). There were some three-mora names as well, for example the pattern 小○○, the first *kanji* meaning ‘little, small’ (*Komume*, ‘little plum’, *Komatsu*, ‘little pine’, *Kotori*, ‘little bird’, *Koharu*, ‘little spring’, etc.). After the adoption of the Family Registry Act, the names of females in the imperial and aristocratic families that did not follow the ○子 pattern<sup>31</sup> were changed,

<sup>31</sup> Originally, the character 子 carried the meaning of ‘man’, which is evidenced, for instance, by words such as 王子 (*ōji*, ‘prince’) as opposed to 王女 (*ōjo*, ‘princess’) or 息子 (*musuko*, ‘son’) as opposed to 娘 (*musume*, ‘daughter’) (Makino 2012, 80). In ancient China, it had the meaning of ‘respected man, *sensei*’ and was used in names such as 孔子 (*Kōshi*, Confucius) or 孟子 (*Mōshi*, Mencius). In Japan, it was first used as a naming element in male names within the upper class, such

and women of the *daimyō* (feudal lord) families also took up 子 instead of the final suffix 姫 *hime* ('princess') (Tsunoda 1988, 306).<sup>32</sup> In addition, wives of high officials also registered their names with the final 子. At a later point, especially educated and emancipated women began to write their names in *kanji*, with an attached 子.<sup>33</sup> Hashimoto and Itō (2011, 57) have pointed out that 子 was in all probability viewed as a kind of courtesy title (an equivalent of Miss, Mrs. or Ms.). This is evidenced by the fact that it was also used, for instance, in newspapers, even with the names of females which did not contain this character.

In the last years of the Meiji period the number of (○)○子 names began to steeply increase. This type of name came to symbolize the difference between the old times and the new age, and within a few years the final 子 became a common feature of names of girls born in that period. According to the Meiji Yasuda rankings, the top ten most popular names followed the (○)○子 pattern every year for three and a half decades, from 1921 until 1956 (see Appendix 1).

Up until approximately the 1920s a number of names with the same meaning had variants without and then with the final 子, the former ones being written either in *katakana* or *hiragana*, the latter ones written usually in *kanji*: フミ *Fumi* – 文子 *Fumiko*, ヒサ *Hisa* – 久子 *Hisako*, キヨ / きよ *Kiyo* – 清子 *Kiyoko*, キミ / きみ *Kimi* – 君子 *Kimiko*, ヨシ *Yoshi* – 芳子 *Yoshiko*, 千代<sup>34</sup> *Chiyo* – 千代子 *Chiyoko*, etc.

The two-mora names written in *kana* that were typical for the Meiji and part of the Taishō period did not completely disappear, and can be found among the names of girls born in later periods as well, although they are quite rare. The following example is from the first decade of the Shōwa period.

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as, for example, 曾我馬子 (*Soga no Umako*), an associate of Prince Shōtoku, or 小野妹子 (*Ono no Imako*), a politician and diplomat in the late sixth and early seventh century. In female names it began to be used in the Imperial family probably in the Nara period (the eighth century) (Yamaguchi 2013, 42). A well-known female figure from this period with 子 in her name is 蘇我媚子 (*Soga no Masako*). Also in the following periods the use of 子 was limited to the Imperial family and high aristocracy (cf. Watanabe 1980, 320), thus serving as a kind of social status marker.

<sup>32</sup> In 1887, 97 % (344 out of 354) names of wives recorded in the Nobility Directory (*華族名鑑 Kazoku meikan*) included 子 (Hashimoto and Itō 2011, 52).

<sup>33</sup> A good example, already from the Meiji period, is the educator and feminist *Tsuda Umeko* (津田梅子), born in 1864 as *Tsuda Mume* (*mume, ume*, 'plum'), who first changed her name to *Ume* and in 1902 also added *ko* to her name.

<sup>34</sup> The name 千代 *Chiyo* was written in *kanji* already before 子 was added, but this name is actually an exception.

- (15) *Parents named their daughter born in 1928 Mitsu ('three') [written in hiragana] as she was the third child born. With the next daughters born in 1930, 1932 and 1934 they wanted to maintain the same pattern in the names and consequently named them Shizu (shi = 'four'), Iku (i = 'five') and Roku (roku = 'six'), all in hiragana.*

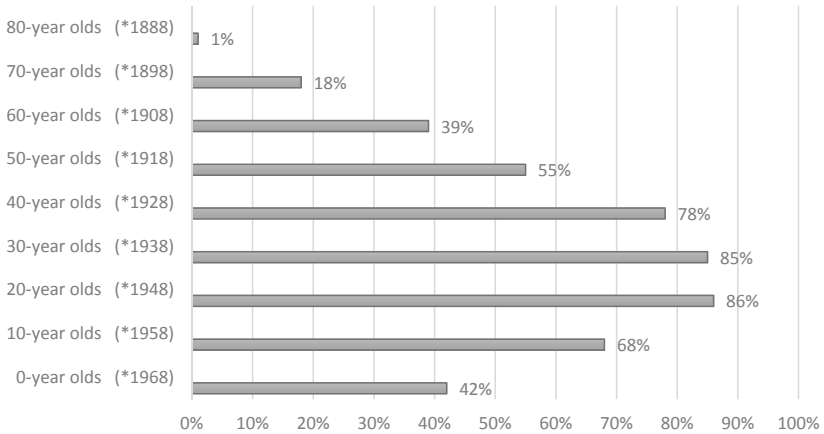
Nevertheless, at the end of the Taishō period the two-mora names written in *kana* were perceived as old-fashioned, which is evidenced, for example, by the fact that many women born in the Meiji or Taishō period who received names such as *Kimi* or *Fumi* later on attached 子 to their names (Kida 2002, 127).<sup>35</sup> The following example from the corpus also demonstrates this tendency:

- (16) *One respondent, when listing the name of her grandmother, was not certain whether her official name was Etsu or Etsuko. She thought it was Etsu but her grandmother was always called Etsuko by the family members. Similarly, the respondent was not sure about the names of other older female members of the family.*

The final 子 became a typical end character and gender marker of female names just as *kana* had been before, and this type of name structure pattern remained prevalent among Japanese female names for several decades. The development of its occurrence is documented by Sakuma (1969, 98) who, in 1969, surveyed the names of females of various age categories (see Chart 1). Throughout the first half of the Shōwa period, the majority of female names followed this pattern, and during the war and post-war years four out of five girls received such a name.

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<sup>35</sup> Iwabuchi and Shibata (1964, 36) have pointed out that people of their generation were still somewhat conscious of 子 being an honorific or courtesy title, and when sending a letter to a woman whose name was, for example, *Haru*, they were taught to write *Haruko*. Kida (2002, 16) also notes that when writing a letter to an older woman whose name is two-mora long it is considered by some people a matter of etiquette to attach 子.

**Chart 1:** Sakuma's 1969 research on names with the final 子

The most frequent type of 子 names is the pattern ○子, i.e. consisting of a core character complemented by 子. Similar to male names in the first half of the twentieth century, names with *kun* reading of the core character were usually used, but in later years names with *on* reading became popular as well, as they gave the names with the final 子 a new, fresh feeling. As a consequence, a number of names of this prevailing pattern have both *kun* and *on* readings, for example: 淳子 *Atsuko/Junko*, 英子 *Hideko/Eiko*, 洋子 *Hiroko/Yōko*, 裕子 *Hiroko/Yūko*, 紀子 *Noriko/Kiko*, 純子 *Sumiko/Junko*, 貴子 *Takako/Kiko*, 順子 *Yoriko/Junko*, 良子 *Yoshiko/Ryōko*.

A more recent type of 子 names is the pattern ○○子, i.e. consisting of two characters complemented by 子. In this type of name each mora is written with one character.<sup>36</sup> The name *Akiko*, which according to the previous pattern is written with characters such as 顕子, 明子, 秋子, or 曉子 (*aki.ko*), can be also written, for example, as 亜希子 (*a.ki.ko*). Compared to the previous type, these names always have only one particular reading. Names of the latter type began appearing more frequently after the Second World War and by the 1970s they had become as frequent as names of the ○子 pattern. They can be found in the earlier periods as well, but at that

<sup>36</sup> This type of writing is usually referred to as *manyōgana*. In its original meaning the term refers to an ancient (pre-*kana*) writing system that phonetically employed Chinese characters to graphically represent the spoken Japanese language, i.e. using *kanji* as a sort of alphabet, without any regard for the semantic qualities of the *kanji*.

time were mostly limited to a few commonly used names, such as 千代子 *Chiyoko*, 千枝子 *Chieko*, 三千子 *Michiko* or 八重子 *Yaeko*.

In the second half of the 1950s, names with the character 美 ('beauty, beautiful') in the final position (○美, ○○美) began to gain popularity.<sup>37</sup> In the early 1960s, 美 became the second most frequent character in female names after the final 子 (Jugaku 1979, 160–162), and also started to appear more frequently as an end character instead of 子 in names such as 明美 *Akemi*, 千恵美 *Chiemi*, 秀美 *Hidemi*, 弘美 / 博美 / 浩美 / 裕美 / 洋美 *Hiromi*, 和美 *Kazumi*, 真由美 *Mayumi*, 恵美 *Megumi*, 直美 *Naomi*, 康美 *Yasumi*, 由美 *Yumi* and others. This tendency is also apparent from the ranking by Meiji Yasuda (see Appendix 1). After 35 years of all top ten ranking names ending in 子, names with the final 美 appeared among the most popular names, and in the 1970s the variety of end characters began to increase rapidly.

There are a number of other end characters that were used in female names, but their occurrence is quite low compared to 子 and 美. The most frequent are characters read as *e* or *yo*. Prior to the Second World War, *e* was represented mainly by 江 ('creek, inlet') and 枝 ('branch'), in names such as 奈津江 *Natsue*, 田鶴江 *Tazue* or とみ枝 *Tomie*, while after the war especially the character 恵 ('blessing, grace, kindness') was used (昭恵 *Akie*, 一恵 *Kazue*, 栄恵 *Sakae*, etc.).<sup>38</sup> The end syllable *yo* is represented by the character 代 ('age, generation'), in names such as 千代 *Chiyo*, 春代 *Haruyo*, 三千代 *Michiyo*, 申代 *Nobuyo*, 理香代 *Rikayo* or 重代 *Shigeyo*.

A survey of 8,825 female names in junior and senior high-schools in 1973–1976 by Jugaku (1979, 189) reveals which end characters were chosen for female names around 1960. It indicates the prevalence of names with the final 子 and the growing popularity of 美 compared to other end characters.

<sup>37</sup> This character was already appearing more frequently in female names as early as the 1930s, and after the war ○○子 names containing this character became quite popular, e.g., 美代子 *Miyoko*, 久美子 *Kumiko*, 由美子 *Yumiko*, 恵美子 *Emiko*, 美恵子 *Mieko*, 美智子 *Michiko*.

<sup>38</sup> Three-mora names with the final -*e* were also written in *kana* (トシエ *Toshie*, すづゑ *Suzue*, ふみえ *Fumie*, ゆきえ *Yukie*, etc.).

**Table 3:** End characters in female names bestowed around 1960

|           |   |         |
|-----------|---|---------|
| <i>ko</i> | 子   | 70.74 % |
| <i>mi</i> | 美   | 10.87 % |
| <i>yo</i> | 代   | 4.60 %  |
| <i>e</i>  | 恵, 江, 枝, 栄  | 4.32 %  |
| others    | <i>no</i> 乃; <i>ri</i> 利, 里, 理;<br><i>ka</i> 香, 佳; <i>ho</i> 穂, 保; <i>o</i> 緒 | 9.47 %  |

Over the examined period, female names underwent a shift from two-mora names written in *kana* to three-mora names written in two or three *kanji*. Compared to male names, they reveal a smaller variety of patterns, and a smaller variety of end characters. Similarly to male names, female names with *on* reading increased in appearance after the Second World War.

### 2.2.3 The emergence of new names

As was shown in 2.2.1 and 2.2.2, for most of the twentieth century the majority of Japanese given names followed structural patterns typical for male and female names of that particular period. In the late 1970s and in the 1980s, the gradual shift from name selection based on meaning or preference for some particular *kanji* to name selection based on the sound and overall image of the name, combined with the growing emphasis on individuality and uniqueness, caused the formerly popular name patterns to be increasingly replaced as new names emerged, creating a great diversity in structure and sound.

This change can be seen clearly in the Meiji Yasuda rankings of the ten most popular names. Although male names always exhibited a greater variety of patterns than female names, this was not at all obvious from the rankings until the limited number of single-*kanji* names which dominated the top ranking male names were overtaken by newly popular names, both single-*kanji* and two-*kanji* with a number of different end characters, and since the 1980s the top ten list has been almost completely replaced each decade. Even when a particular *kanji* becomes extremely fashionable, the great variety of possible multi-*kanji* combinations usually precludes any particular combination from rising to the top ten unless popularized by the media.

**Table 4:** Top ranking male names (adapted from statistics by Meiji Yasuda Life Insurance Co.)

|     | 1920 | 1930 | 1940 | 1950 | 1960 | 1970 | 1980 | 1990 | 2000          |
|-----|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|---------------|
| 1.  | 清    | 清    | 勇    | 博    | 浩    | 健一   | 大輔   | 翔太   | 翔             |
| 2.  | 茂    | 勇    | 清    | 茂    | 浩一   | 誠    | 誠    | 拓也   | 翔太            |
| 3.  | 三郎   | 実    | 進    | 隆    | 誠    | 哲也   | 直樹   | 健太   | 大輝            |
| 4.  | 勇    | 進    | 博    | 実    | 浩二   | 剛    | 哲也   | 大樹   | 優斗<br>拓海      |
| 5.  | 実    | 茂    | 弘    | 清    | 隆    | 博    | 剛    | 亮    |               |
| 6.  | 一郎   | 博    | 勲    | 進    | 修    | 直樹   | 学    | 駿    | 海斗            |
| 7.  | 博    | 和夫   | 勝    | 明    | 徹    | 学    | 大介   | 雄太   | 竜也            |
| 8.  | 弘    | 三郎   | 武    | 修    | 浩之   | 博之   | 亮    | 達也   | 陸<br>蓮        |
| 9.  | 正    | 弘    | 稔    | 豊    | 聡    | 英樹   | 健一   | 翔平   |               |
| 10. | 正雄   | 幸雄   | 茂    | 誠    | 博    | 修    | 聡    | 大輔   | 一輝<br>健太<br>竜 |

The emergence of new patterns is even more apparent in the corresponding table for newborn girls. While names between the 1920s and 1970s are structurally almost uniform, consisting of two or three *kanji* with the final 子, and later also 美, names bestowed in the following decades include, in addition to two and three-*kanji* compounds, single-*kanji* names, which had been very rare for female names in the past, and even a name written in *hiragana* (さくら *Sakura* in 2000). Names ending with 子 definitively dropped off the top ten names ranking by Meiji Yasuda in 1986 (see the table in Appendix 1).

**Table 5:** Top ranking female names (adapted from statistics by Meiji Yasuda Life Insurance Co.)

|     | 1920 | 1930 | 1940 | 1950 | 1960 | 1970 | 1980 | 1990           | 2000                 |
|-----|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|----------------|----------------------|
| 1.  | 文子   | 和子   | 和子   | 和子   | 恵子   | 直美   | 絵美   | 愛              | さくら                  |
| 2.  | 久子   | 幸子   | 幸子   | 洋子   | 由美子  | 智子   | 裕子   | 彩              | 優花                   |
| 3.  | 千代子  | 節子   | 節子   | 幸子   | 久美子  | 陽子   | 久美子  | 愛美             | 美咲                   |
| 4.  | 静子   | 美代子  | 洋子   | 恵子   | 智子   | 裕子   | 恵    | 千尋             | 菜月                   |
| 5.  | 貞子   | 愛子   | 弘子   | 節子   | 浩子   | 由美子  | 智子   | 麻衣             | 七海                   |
| 6.  | 芳子   | 久子   | 美智子  | 京子   | 裕子   | 真由美  | 愛    | 舞              | 葵                    |
| 7.  | 愛子   | 文子   | 久子   | 悦子   | 洋子   | 直子   | 香織   | 美穂             | 美月                   |
| 8.  | 清子   | 光子   | 文子   | 恵美子  | 明美   | 久美子  | 恵美   | 瞳              | 萌                    |
| 9.  | キヨ   | 孝子   | 悦子   | 順子   | 幸子   | 由美   | 理恵   |                | 明日香                  |
| 10. | 君子   | 敏子   | 和子   | 由美子  | 和子   | 恵子   | 陽子   | 彩香<br>彩夏<br>彩乃 | 愛美<br>詩織<br>彩夏<br>彩乃 |

Some of the *kanji* that began to appear at the end position were already popular as core characters. For example, as was mentioned in 2.2.2, the character 美 (*mi*, 'beautiful') first became popular as part of ○○子 names (久美子 *Kumiko*, 美代子 *Miyoko*, 由美子 *Yumiko*, etc.) but later became frequent in the end position. Another reason for the increase in different end characters is the tendency to attach end characters to popular single-character names. Satō (2007, 162–163) provides the following example. From 1985 the female name 彩 *Aya/Ayaka*<sup>39</sup> ranked among the top ten names by Meiji Yasuda. In 1989 names such as 彩香 / 彩夏 *Ayaka* or 彩乃 *Ayano* began to appear among the top ten names as well (see the table in Appendix 1). The desire to use a particular character (彩 in this case) but still have a less common name naturally leads to combining the desired character with other characters.

If one looks at the development of names from the point of view of their sound, the most striking change in this period is the increase in names ending in the vowel *a*, replacing the widespread *o* in male and *ko* in female names. The endings *ya* (*Yūya*, *Ryūya*, *Tetsuya*), *ma* (*Takuma*, *Yūma*, *Sōma*) and *ta* (*Kenta*, *Shōta*, *Sōta*) became popular for boys, and for female names especially *ka* (*Emika*, *Honoka*, *Momoka*) and *na* (*Hina*, *Haruna*,

<sup>39</sup> Additional readings may also be found.

*Yūna*). Around the turn of the millennium, names with the final *o* began to increase in popularity again, especially in male names in the form of *to* (*Haruto, Kaito, Yūto*), in female names as *no* (*Ayano, Sakino, Momono*) and *ko* (*Nanako, Hinako, Momoko*).

Starting the name selection process with a desired phonological form and then assigning matching *kanji*, often without respect to their meaning (see *ateji* in Introduction and 3.3), led to the use of a variety of characters that were not previously common in names. The trend towards unique names went even further, with parents increasingly utilizing rarely used *nanori* readings to justify the inclusion of favorite or unusual *kanji*, or even including *kanji* whose reading did not really match the phonological form of the name, giving rise to the phenomenon of the so-called *kirakira nēmu* ('shiny, sparkly names'). This term refers to contemporary names which are characterized by unusual phonological and graphic forms, often with a discordant character-sound relationship, which makes them hard or even impossible to read. Another term referring to such names is *DQN* [*dokyun*] *nēmu* ('ridiculous names lacking common sense').<sup>40</sup> This type of name began to appear in the 1980s and experienced a boom at the turn of the millennium.

## 2.3 Reflection of the historical period in the meanings of given names

Given names often reflect the social changes, important events and fashions of the period in which they were given. They also bear witness to the changing aspirations for the newborn, and the values and priorities that were considered important, desirable, or hard to obtain in that particular period. The changing themes most apparent in the names are described within the context of each era, because each era has its own distinct features, and often starting a new era is an event sufficient to influence name selection.

### 2.3.1 The Meiji period (1868–1912)

The Meiji period saw the formation of the modern Japanese state and the gradual strengthening of Japan's position in Asia. Families were large, but

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<sup>40</sup> DQN is a derogatory Internet slang term meaning someone who is extremely foolish, who has no common sense.

the standard of living and medical care were still at a low level. Confucianism was the dominant ideology. Names of this period reflect these themes.

As described in 2.2.1, one of the typical features of names in this period was the bestowal of male names expressing the order of birth. If parents did not wish to have yet another child, they often expressed this attitude in the name of the last born. There were names such as 末雄 *Sueo* ('last' + 'man'), 末吉 *Suekichi* ('last' + 'happiness'), 留吉 *Tomekichi* ('stop' + 'happiness'), 留蔵 *Tomezō* ('stop' + 'possess'), or 乙松 *Otomatsu* ('last' + 'pine'). Although naming by order of birth was much more common for males, there were female names such as *Hatsu*<sup>41</sup> ('first') → *Tsugi* ('next') → *Naka* ('middle'), and also female names expressing that parents with many children do not wish to have another child and that they consider the newborn their last, such as *Tome/Tomeyo* ('stop'), *Matsu* ('end'), *Sue* ('last'), or even *Sute* ('throw away').<sup>42</sup>

Among the meanings that were included in the names of boys born in this period are mainly Confucian virtues and additional moral values such as humaneness and benevolence 仁, righteousness and justice 義, loyalty 忠, integrity and trustfulness 信, filial piety 孝, truthfulness and righteousness 正, virtuousness 徳, continence and modesty 節, 貞. There are also various character traits representing other human ideals, such as bright and wise 賢, 哲, excellent and noble-minded 英, 俊, 秀 and others. Strength, bravery and courage 勇, 武 were also considered important male qualities.

**Table 6:** Examples of male names expressing moral values and character traits

|   |                           |   |
|---|---------------------------|---|
| 仁 | humaneness                | 仁郎 <i>Jirō</i> / <i>Nirō</i>  |
| 義 | righteousness and justice | 義夫 <i>Yoshio</i> , 義行 <i>Yoshiyuki</i> , 義重 <i>Yoshishige</i> , 義秀 <i>Yoshihide</i> , 義武 <i>Yoshitake</i> , 義統 <i>Yoshitsugu</i>                                |
| 忠 | loyalty                   | 忠男 / 忠夫 <i>Tadao</i> , 忠 <i>Kiyoshi</i> / <i>Tadasu</i> , 忠彦 <i>Tadahiko</i> , 忠道 <i>Tadamichi</i> , 忠親 <i>Tadachika</i> , 忠次郎 <i>Chūjirō</i> , 忠治 <i>Chūji</i> |
| 信 | trustfulness integrity    | 信夫 <i>Nobuo</i> , 信之 <i>Nobuyuki</i> , 信一 <i>Shin'ichi</i>  |
| 孝 | filial piety              | 孝 <i>Takashi</i> / <i>Kō</i> , 孝夫 / 孝雄 <i>Takao</i> , 孝一 <i>Kōichi</i> , 孝二 <i>Kōji</i>   |

<sup>41</sup> Names that were written in *kana* will only be provided in transcription.

<sup>42</sup> According to Tanaka (2014, 162–163) it was not uncommon that despite such a “measure” another child was born and there might be several siblings with this type of name.

|      |                             |   |
|------|-----------------------------|---|
| 正    | truthfulness, righteousness | 正隆 <i>Masataka</i> , 正義 <i>Masayoshi</i> , 正雄 <i>Masao</i> , 正俊 <i>Masatoshi</i>  |
| 徳    | morality, virtuousness      | 徳男 <i>Tokuo</i> , 徳二郎 <i>Tokujirō</i> , 高德 <i>Takanori</i> , 徳義 <i>Tokuyoshi</i>  |
| 節, 貞 | continenence and modesty    | 節太郎 <i>Setsutarō</i> , 節男 <i>Setso</i> , 貞一 <i>Teiichi</i> , 貞雄 <i>Sadao</i>  |
| 賢, 哲 | bright, wise                | 賢治 <i>Kenji</i> , 哲夫 <i>Tetsuo</i>  |
| 英, 俊 | noble, noble-minded         | 英夫 <i>Hideo</i> , 英次 <i>Hidetsugu</i> , 英一 <i>Eiichi</i> , 英二 <i>Eiji</i> , 英成 <i>Hidenari</i> , 俊雄 / 俊郎 <i>Toshio</i> , 俊義 <i>Toshiyoshi</i> |
| 秀    | excellent                   | 秀 <i>Hide</i> , 秀雄 <i>Hideo</i> , 秀一 <i>Yūichi</i> , 秀信 <i>Hidenobu</i> , 秀藏 <i>Hidezō</i>  |
| 勇    | courageous, brave           | 勇 <i>Isamu</i> , 勇夫 <i>Isao</i> , 勇人 <i>Hayato</i> , 勇輝 <i>Yūki</i>   |
| 武    | brave, warrior              | 武 <i>Takeshi</i> , 武彦 <i>Takehiko</i> , 武士 <i>Takeshi</i> , 武雄 / 武夫 / 武郎 <i>Takeo</i> , 武久 <i>Takehisa</i> , 武松 <i>Takematsu</i>              |

Since female names were written mainly in *kana*, the meanings are not unambiguously clear. As with male names, one can identify common names expressing desirable moral values and character traits, especially truthfulness (e.g., *Masa*), faithfulness, virtuousness, modesty and trustfulness (*Sada*, *Setso*, *Nobu*, *Misao*), righteousness and goodness (*Yoshi*), respect (*Kei*) and filial piety (*Taka*).

Another semantic feature male and female names of this period have in common is the desire for a good, prosperous and happy life, in male names represented by characters 隆, 繁, 栄 with the meanings 'to flourish' and 'to prosper' (e.g., 隆吉 *Ryūkichi*, 繁治 *Kenji* or 栄造 *Eizō*), 喜, meaning 'joy' (e.g., 喜一 *Kiichi*, 多喜二 *Takiji* or 多喜雄 *Takio*), and 幸, meaning 'good luck, fortune and happiness' (e.g., 幸一 *Kōichi*, 幸太郎 *Kōtarō*, 幸三郎 *Kōzaburō*). Examples can also be found among female names, such as *Sakae* ('to flourish'), *Tomi* ('wealth, fortune'), *Sachi* ('luck, happiness') or *Fuku* ('blessing, fortune, luck, wealth').

Various qualities were also expressed through the names of animals, birds and fish. Tiger (虎 *tora*) and bear (熊 *kuma*) symbolized strength, tortoise/turtle (亀 *kame*) and crane (鶴 *tsuru*) longevity and sound health. While in male names such an element was included in a *kanji* compound (亀吉 *Kamekichi*, 亀之助 *Kamenosuke*, 熊彦 *Kumahiko*, etc.), female names took the shape of the prefix *o-* and the particular animal (*O-Tora*, *O-Kame*, etc.). In male names the desire for good health was also expressed through the characters 健 and 康, both meaning 'healthy, sound' (e.g., 健 *Takeshi*,

健次郎 *Kenjirō*, 健吉 *Kenkichi*, 健蔵 *Kenzō*, 健作 *Kensaku*, 康雄 *Yasuo*, 康成 *Yasunari*).

The qualities represented by some of the twelve animals of the Japanese zodiac<sup>43</sup>, such as the dragon 辰, 龍, tiger 虎, 寅 or snake 巳, made these characters popular in given names. This custom has survived throughout all periods, particularly to match the sign of the given year in which the baby is born. For example, according to the Meiji Yasuda survey, in 1916 – the Year of the Dragon – the name 辰雄 *Tatsuo* even ranked at the top position.

In addition to animals, girls were often named after various plants, trees and berries – *Hana* ('flower'), *Kaya* ('miscanthus'), *Ine* ('rice plant'), *Ume/Mume* ('plum'), *Take* ('bamboo'), *Sugi* ('cedar'), *Katsura* ('katsura tree'), *Kuri* ('chestnut'), *Tsuta* ('ivy') – periods of time and seasons of the year – *Toki* ('time/period'), *Toshi* ('year'), *Haru* ('spring'), *Natsu* ('summer'), *Aki* ('fall') – various materials – *Suna* ('sand'), *Ishi* ('stone'), *Tetsu* ('iron'), *Kin* ('gold'), *Sato* (*satō*, 'sugar'), *Kinu* ('silk'), and colors – *Shiro* ('white'), *Aka* ('red'), *Midori* ('green'), etc.

Another important motif, reflecting the period of the formation of the new state, was the motif of the country, represented mainly by the characters 國 ('country') and 邦 ('home country, Japan'), which can be found especially in male names (e.g., 國男 / 國士 / 邦生 *Kunio*, 國利 *Kunitoshi*, 國一 *Kuniichi*, 國三 *Kunizō*, 邦武 *Kunitake*, 邦道 *Kunimichi*, 邦太郎 *Kunitarō*, 邦義 *Kuniyoshi*).

The first Sino-Japanese war (1894–95) was also reflected in male names, mainly through characters expressing courage and braveness, and also through the character 清 (e.g., male names 清 *Kiyoshi*, 清男 *Kiyoo/Sugaol/Sumio*, 清彦 *Haruhiko*, 清張 *Kiyoharu*, 清視 *Kiyomi*, 清作 *Seisaku*, 清松 *Seimatsu*, and female names キヨ / きよ *Kiyo* and きよ子 / 清子 *Kiyoko*). In addition to its positive meanings 'clean, clear, pure', this *kanji* is also part of the name of the conflict<sup>44</sup> and was consequently used in given names to commemorate the important victory. The Russian-Japanese war (1904–5) had a similar influence.

<sup>43</sup> The 12 animals of the 12-year cycle (in Japanese 十二支 *jūnishi*) include *Ne/Nezumi* (Rat), *Ushi* (Ox), *Tora* (Tiger), *U/Usagi* (Rabbit), *Tatsu* (Dragon), *Mi* (Snake), *Uma* (Horse), *Hitsuji* (Sheep), *Saru* (Monkey), *Tori* (Rooster), *Inu* (Dog), *I/Inoshishi* (Boar). A person is thought to acquire the particular qualities of the animal of his or her birth year.

<sup>44</sup> 清 refers to the Chinese Qing dynasty in the Japanese name of the conflict (日清戦争 'Japan Qing War').

A minor but interesting phenomenon is the selection of Western names, written in *kana* or *kanji*. A famous person who used such names was the writer Mori Ōgai (1862–1922), who was influenced by his stay in Germany and his study of German literature.

Mori Ōgai's children: *Oto* (於菟, Otto), *Mari* (茉莉, Maria), *Annu* (杏奴, Anne), *Furitsu* (不律, Fritz) and *Rui* (類, Louis)

Mori Ōgai's grandchildren: *Makusu* (真章, Max), *Tomu* (富, Tom), *Reo* (礼於, Leo), *Hansu* (樊須, Hans), *Jōji* (常治, George), *Jaku* (爵, Jacques), *Tōru* (亨, Thor) and *Io* (五百, Io)

The following example comes from the corpus.

Children born to a couple from Hokkaidō (1901–1919): *Mari* (Mary), *Airin* (Irene), *Yūjini* (Eugenie), *Jōji* (讓二, George), *Maten* (摩天, Martin) and *Aisaku* (愛策, Isaac)

### 2.3.2 The Taishō period (1912–1926)

In the Taishō period (大正, 'big, great' + 'justice, righteous', i.e. 'great righteousness'), an important event that was immediately reflected in given names was the beginning of the new era itself (see also 1.6.5). One of the most popular male names was 正一 *Shōichi*, meaning 'born in the first year of the Taishō era'. It can also mean 'a first-born son, born in the Taishō era' as is evident from the fact that this name remained popular for some time. In the second year, 正二 *Shōji* ranked among the most popular names, and in the third year it was 正三 *Shōzō*. Additional popular names include 正 *Tadashi*, 正雄 / 正夫 *Masao* and the female name 正子 *Masako*. The given name 大四 *Daishi* of the Japanese literary critic *Iwaya Daishi* (1915–2006) most likely reflects his birth in the fourth year of the era (Dai'ichi seimei kōhōbu 1987, 145). The first character of the name is the first character in the name of the era and the second means 'four'. The name of the new Emperor, 嘉仁 *Yoshihito*, is also reflected in names: for example in the male name *Yoshio*, written in various *kanji*, and the female name *Yoshi*/*Yoshiko*, written in *kana* or *kanji*.<sup>45</sup>

<sup>45</sup> In the second half of the nineteenth century the ban on the usage of *kanji* used in the names of emperors was lifted, but the emperor was considered sacred and untouchable and therefore at that time, unlike in later periods, different characters with the same reading were preferred. In this manner parents created a symbolic bond with the emperor.

A strong semantic feature of names of both men and women born in the Taishō period is the character 清 ('clean, clear, pure') mentioned in 2.3.1. Although used previously, with the coming of the "new age", which gave hope for new things and required strong personalities, pure and unspoiled, this *kanji* gained even more popularity. To children born in this period of military conflicts this *kanji* was also frequently placed in names as a symbol of previous victories or as a remembrance of the father's participation in the war. As in the Meiji period, the war atmosphere is also reflected in names through the meanings of brave and courageous (for examples see 2.3.1).

The formation of the new state continued in the Taishō period, and the family, as the basic unit of the Japanese social system, played a significant political and social role. In the new, quickly changing period it was still a bastion of Confucian social norms and values (Reischauer and Craig 2000, 200). This is evidenced by the names of children born in this period, many of which, just as in the previous period, express moral values and virtues.

Another semantic feature persisting from the previous periods, pronounced especially in female names, is the feature of longevity, as medical care was still quite primitive, despite the rapid technological advancement, and there was still a high level of infant mortality. Unlike in previous periods when the desire for good health and long life was commonly expressed through names of animals symbolizing strength or longevity, in the Taishō period these meanings were mainly expressed through the characters 久 ('long time, eternity') and 代 ('period, age, generation'), the most frequent names being 千代 / チヨ *Chiyo* (千 meaning 'thousand'), 千代子 *Chiyoko* and 久子 *Hisako*.<sup>46</sup> *Hisako* remained among the most popular names up until the end of World War II. *Kana* names expressing longevity include *Towa* ('eternity') and *Chitose* ('one thousand years, long time'). The following example shows the use of the *kanji* combination 千代 in a male name, which is rather rare:

- (17) Parents named their son born in the Taishō period 千代治 *Chiyoji* so that he would live, in this time of wars, for a long time (=千代まで).

<sup>46</sup> The variants *Chiyo* and *Hisa* written in *kana* were common in the previous period as well.

### 2.3.3 The Shōwa period prior to the end of World War II (1926–1945)

Similar to the beginning of the Taishō period, the beginning of the Shōwa period (昭和, ‘shining, bright’ + ‘peace, harmony’, i.e. ‘enlightened peace, harmony’) is also reflected in the names of children born in the first years. The character 昭, which was not used much in everyday life, especially provided a fresh image and quickly spread in names. Popular male names included 昭一 *Shōichi*,<sup>47</sup> 昭二 *Shōji* and 昭三 *Shōzō*, and also, for example, 昭 *Akira*, and female name 昭子 *Shōko*. *Kanji* with a similar meaning, such as 照 and 光 (‘shine, light’), also appeared in female names (照子 *Teruko*, 光子 *Teruko/Mitsuko*), perhaps under the influence of the popularity of 昭.

The second *kanji* from the name of the era, 和, has the meaning of ‘harmony’, which is considered one of the key Japanese cultural values. This *kanji* appeared in the male name 和夫 *Kazuo* in the first years of the new era, and because it also means ‘peace’ it appeared again immediately after the end of the Second World War. In contrast, the female name 和子 *Kazuko* was quite frequent already in the Taishō period, and the beginning of the new era made it even more popular. Its popularity lasted until the end of the 1950s.

The initial economic boom stimulated by Japan’s expansionist policy and successful participation in the First World War was cut short by the global financial crisis. Japan faced an economic crisis at the beginning of the 1930s, followed by the Second World War, together representing two decades of austerity. Many names of boys born in this period reflect the crisis by expressing the desire for prosperity and good life through the meanings of prosperity and abundance. Single-*kanji* names such as 茂 *Shigeru* (‘grow in abundance, prosper, luxuriate’), 実 *Minoru* (‘bear fruit’) and 稔 *Minoru* (‘harvest, ripen’) ranked at the top in the Meiji Yasuda ranking (see Appendix 1).

Women had to work hard at home, in factories, and in agriculture. Generally they could not decide about their life or partner. Names of girls born in that period often expressed the parents’ wishes for their daughters to lead a happy life. The name 幸子 *Sachiko/Yukiko* (‘happiness, fortune’ + 子) was especially popular, and also names such as 悦子 *Etsuko* (‘delight, joy’ + 子),

<sup>47</sup> This name appeared among the most popular names only in the second year of the Shōwa period as the new era was declared a few days before the end of the year. Thus in most cases the name does not have the meaning ‘born in the first year of the Shōwa period’ but ‘firstborn son born in the Shōwa period’.

榮子 / 榮子 *Saeko/ Eiko* ('flourish, prosper' + 子) or 富子 *Tomiko* ('wealth, fortune' + 子). At the same time moral values were still apparent in female names. Women were expected to be virtuous, faithful, obedient and respectful, which was reflected in names such as 節子 *Setsuko* ('continence' + 子), 貞子 *Sadako/Teiko* ('chastity' + 子), 信子 *Nobuko* ('trustworthy' + 子), 孝子 *Takako* ('filial piety' + 子), 敬子 *Keiko* ('respectful' + 子) and others.

The Japanese expansionist policy led in 1937 to a war with China, and consequently Japan's involvement in the Second World War. The martial atmosphere, strongly supported by Japanese nationalism, was often reflected in the names of boys born in this period. Here are two patriotic examples:

- (18) *Twins born in 1938 were named Kunio (国雄) and Mamoru (守), as the names together form the phrase 'Kuni o mamoru' ('to protect one's country').*

*Parents named their son born in 1943 巖 Iwao ('rock'), using a word from the text of the Japanese national anthem.<sup>48</sup>*

As could be expected, during the war names referring to combat, victory, courage and bravery again gained in popularity. Interesting contemporary associations and sources of inspiration that are not immediately evident from the meanings, but are passed on within the family, can be found behind the selection of some of the names.

- (19) *In 1941, a father was inspired to name his son 正武 Masatake by the words 'sei ni shite bu' ('be righteous and courageous') taken from the pocket-sized Senjinkun military code, issued to soldiers in the Imperial Japanese forces that year.*

*In 1942, parents named their son 武光 Takemitsu ('warrior' + 'light') after the famous general Kikuchi Takemitsu, who in the fourteenth century fought for the Emperor. They were also inspired by the fact that the mother's maiden name was Kikuchi.*

In the early 1940s, under the influence of the nationalistic propaganda, many people believed that Japan was invincible and thus, despite the de-

<sup>48</sup> 「君が代は千代に八千代に細石の巖となりて苔の生すまで」 'May your reign continue for a thousand, eight thousand generations, until the pebbles grow into boulders lush with moss' (Hood 2001, 166).

creasing possibility of real victory, names symbolizing battle and victory were on the rise. Whether these names were based on their belief in victory or their desire for it, they clearly reflect the patriotic atmosphere.

Female names did not so often reflect the war. Names such as 功子 *Noriko* ('achievement, merits, success' + 子) or 征子 *Seiko* ('to conquer, subjugate' + 子) did appear, but they were rather rare. An exception is 勝子 *Katsuko* ('win' + 子), which was still popular even in 1945. Instead, similar to the pre-war period, meanings of fortune and happiness were quite common at that time, which has to be interpreted as a desire and not a reflection of that period. Names expressing moral values were also still commonly bestowed on girls.

(20) *Parents named their daughters, born in 1943 and 1944, Takako (孝子) and Yukuko (行子) so that they would be obedient, respectful and loving to their parents. The characters 孝 and 行 come from the compound 孝行 (kōkō) which has this meaning.*

### 2.3.4 The Shōwa period after World War II (1945–1989)

The unsuccessful end of the war meant an immediate disappearance of *kanji* bearing the meanings of victory and martial virtues, and an increase in the character 和, symbolizing peace and harmony, although the female name 和子 *Kazuko* had already been very popular from the beginning of the era. Just as during the pre-war economic depression, male names expressing abundant crop, prosperity and fortune were often chosen. Another frequent motif, which continued to be popular in the 1950s and 1960s, was the hope for progress and development, both of the country and personally, in names such as 進 *Susumu* ('advance, progress'), 隆 *Takashi* ('rising, prosperous'), 登 *Noboru* ('ascend, climb up'), 修 *Osamu* ('have discipline, learn, master'), 勉 *Tsutomu* ('endeavor, strive, make effort'), 博 *Hiroshi* ('broad in one's knowledge') and others, including two-*kanji* names featuring these characters. Many of these names had been popular before and during the war, but tended at the time to refer to the military ascension of Japan.

The following example reveals a father's desire for personal growth and hope for a better life projected not only on his newborn daughter but for himself as well.

- (21) *In 1947, shortly after the end of the war, a father, who had finally found a job, named his daughter 伸子 Nobuko ('expand, increase' + 'girl, child'), including in her name the wish that, together with the child they would both gather strength and grow in their lives.*

Since female names generally showed no significant changes during the war, there were no major changes after the war either.

During the period since the mid-1950s, which was characterized by rapid economic growth, the changing living standards and priorities were gradually reflected in the names as well. Female names expressing wishes for a better life and better fortune became less frequent, while the character 美 ('beautiful'), referring to both physical beauty and character traits, became so popular that by the early 1960s it had become the most frequent character in female names after the final 子 (2.2.2). Another popular character was 恵 ('blessing, grace, kindness'), in names such as 恵子 *Keiko*, 恵美 *Emi/Megumi* (恵 + 'beautiful'), 恵美子 *Emiko* (恵 + 'beautiful' + 子), 美恵子 *Mieko* ('beautiful' + 恵 + 子), 理恵 *Rie* ('reason, principle, logic' + 恵), 理恵子 *Rieko* ('reason, principle, logic' + 恵 + 子), 昭恵 *Akie* ('shining' + 恵), 一恵 *Kazue* ('first' + 恵).

The most popular male name from the end of the 1920s throughout the 1960s was the name *Hiroshi* (Makino 2012, 73), which was written in various *kanji* variants, for example 博, 弘, 宏, 浩, 浩志. Although each of the written variants includes different meanings, they all share the meaning of 'broad, wide', usually referring to qualities such as 'big-hearted', 'broad-minded' and 'open to learning'.

- (22) *Parents named their son born in 1949 Hiroshi, as this name was popular at that time. They chose the character 博, because it is used in words such as 博愛 ('charity, benevolence, philanthropy, /love for/ humanity') or 博士 (doctor, Dr.), describing a person with a big heart and wide knowledge.*

Makino (2012, 74) also relates this popularity to the desire to travel abroad, which in those days was not really an option – but still a dream parents wished for their children, explaining why this semantic element became less frequent in names as travelling abroad gradually became accessible from 1964. Prior to this, the 1960 birth of Prince *Naruhito* (*Hiro no miya*, 'Prince *Hiro*'), temporarily influenced its popularity, in particular variants

with the character 浩 ('wide, abundant'). This event was also reflected in the increased appearance of the female variant 浩子 *Hiroko*.

The most significant feature of this period is in all probability the beginning of the influence of the mass media, in particular TV and magazines, on given names. The most popular names include well-known singers, actors and sportsmen, whose popularity caused a fashion wave in name selection. For example, the singer and actress Sagara Naomi inspired an increase in appearance of the name 直美 *Naomi*, in addition to the general popularity of the character 美, while the increase in the appearance of the name 陽子 *Yōko* at the beginning of the 1970s coincided with the popularity of the singer Kon Yōko of the Pinky & Killers. The popularity of male names 浩二 *Kōji*, 哲也 *Tetsuya* and 健一 *Ken'ichi* is attributed to actors Ishizaka Kōji, Watari Tetsuya and the singer and actor Hagiwara Ken'ichi in the second half of the 1960s (Kida 2002, 138). Some of these names at first sight differ from names common at that time, as they were usually pseudonyms. For example, the real name of Watari Tetsuya was *Michihiko* and the actor Shirakawa Yumi, whose popularity contributed to the increase of the name 由美 *Yumi*, was originally *Akiko*. The following examples document such an influence.

(23) *Parents named their daughter born in 1951 由美子 Yumiko ('reason' + 'beautiful' + 'girl, child'), after the mother's favorite actress Shirakawa Yumi, whose name they took as the basis for the name of their daughter.*

*A couple named their daughter born in 1965 晴美 Harumi ('to clear up, to be sunny' + 'beautiful'), after their favorite singer of enka, Miyako Harumi (はるみ) [who made her debut in 1965].*

*Another couple named their daughter born in 1971 絹代 Kinuyo ('silk' + 'age, generation'), after their favorite actress [probably 田中絹代, Tanaka Kinuyo (1909–1977)].*

*Parents named their son born in 1968 一行 Kazuyuki ('first' + 'to go'), after the father's favorite keirin cyclist.*

Additional increasingly frequent sources of inspiration for the name selection were the heroes of popular movies, anime and manga. The popularity of the male name 達也 *Tatsuya*, which in the second half of the 1980s ranked among top ten names in the Meiji Yasuda survey (see Appendix 1), is very likely related to the popularity of the Japanese high school baseball manga by

Adachi Mitsuru, *Touch* (published 1981–1986 and also adapted to an anime TV series), whose main character is the elder of two brothers, *Tatsuya*. The following two examples from the corpus also illustrate this type of influence.

(24) *Parents chose for their son born in 1968 the name 竜一 Ryūichi ('dragon' + 'first'). They were inspired by the name of the main character, 竜二 Ryūji, from their favorite movie. Because he was, however, their first-born son, they changed 二 ('second') to 一 ('first').*

*A couple named their son born in 1970 雄一郎 Yūichirō ('man, hero' + 'first born'), after the name of the protagonist of a TV series starring the father's favorite actor Akagi Keiichirō.*

These new trends significantly contributed to the future diversity of names. An interesting-sounding name heard on TV often became the basis for new names written with various *kanji* combinations.

### 2.3.5 The Heisei period (from 1989)

Japan was reaching its economic peak and had become a “consumer society” in the 1980s. This period is characterized by strenuous competition supported by the belief that a good education will assure a successful career and a good life. Young generations of this period had not experienced poverty, but generally grew up in affluence. The decreasing birth rate and the gradual change in life values influenced the way parents perceived their children, which can be seen also in the increased care shown in their name selection, choosing names in respect to the child's role in the family environment rather than the child's future social life, emphasizing individual qualities and the uniqueness of their child – all this also strongly encouraged by the boom of maternity magazines and publications.

The shift from name selection based on the meaning of the *kanji* to name selection based on the sound and image led to the use of many new *kanji* that had not been commonly used in names prior to this. Many of them were used for their reading to match new, often exotic-sounding names. A new trend that appeared in the 1990s was the quickly growing popularity of *kanji* signifying the natural world: plants, landscape, the sky and heavenly bodies, seasons, etc. These *kanji* were not chosen for their literal meaning but rather for the various associations and images they evoke. For example,

the universe and the sky evoke vastness or infinity, thus symbolizing hope, desire and determination to reach one's goal. The sun, which also appeared in a number of names, symbolizes a positive, joyful character. The sea and the land symbolize largeness, which in names usually represents generosity and broad-mindedness. Freedom and future active life are frequently evoked by the motifs of flying. Individual *kanji* and their most common interpretations are described in more detail in Chapter Four.

Of the qualities and aspirations for the newborn in this period, Makino (2012) points out the desire for human greatness and also kindness, the lack of which is nowadays often felt, reflected in the names through the characters 大 ('big, large, great') in male names and 優 ('excellent; tender, kind-hearted, gentle-mannered') in both male and especially female names, and the need for feelings and emotions manifested by the popularity of the characters 愛 ('love, affection') and 心 ('heart, mind, spirit'). A number of the *kanji* used in the most popular names at the end of the Shōwa period and the first decade of the Heisei period are now among the most frequently used *kanji* in names.

## 3 CHARACTERISTICS OF CURRENTLY BESTOWED JAPANESE NAMES

As was described in Chapter Two, the evolution of traditional patterns of name creation began to shift around the 1980s toward a wide open field of expression. The generation of current parents was born during this time, and thus grew up exposed to these names, with many of them even being named in this new style. This and the following chapter provide an analysis of currently bestowed names, showing what given names look like after three decades of these ongoing changes. Using a corpus of 4,108 male and 4,278 female names of children born 2008–2014 (see Introduction: Description of the data), this chapter examines the prevalence of each type of script in current names, their length compared to previous periods, and the most frequent end syllables. Special attention is paid to identifying the particular types of deviations in the character-sound relationship, which have arisen as part of the changes in the name selection process along with the desire for individuality and originality, and pinpointing why some current names are so difficult to read.

### 3.1 The graphic form

It might be expected that the various types of script which Japanese employs and combines in writing would play a significant role in the diversity of current names. The following table provides examples of each possible orthographic combination found in male names.

**Table 7:** Examples of various orthographic forms in male names

| single- <i>kanji</i><br>names | two- <i>kanji</i><br>names | three- <i>kanji</i><br>names | names<br>in <i>hiragana</i> | names<br>in <i>katakana</i> | names<br>combining <i>kanji</i><br>and <i>katakana</i> |
|-------------------------------|----------------------------|------------------------------|-----------------------------|-----------------------------|--|
| 權                             | 瑛斗                         | 海夏斗                          | いと                          | ロン                          | 龍ノ介  |
| 楓                             | 快晴                         | 慶太郎                          | こはち                         | メイタール                       |  |
| 蓮                             | 一輝                         | 真夏人                          | けんぞう                        | アラランジュニア <sup>49</sup>      |  |

Although many aspects of name selection have changed significantly over the years, Table 8 indicates that male names are still almost exclusively written in *kanji* (99.62 %); names written in *kana* are rare exceptions in the corpus. The few children with names in *katakana* have foreign fathers. The number of male names written in *hiragana* is likewise insignificant.

**Table 8:** The distribution of types of orthography for current male names (2008–2014)

|         | kanji          |                |                | kana            |                 | combination                    |
|---------|----------------|----------------|----------------|-----------------|-----------------|--------------------------------|
|         | 1 <i>kanji</i> | 2 <i>kanji</i> | 3 <i>kanji</i> | <i>hiragana</i> | <i>katakana</i> | <i>kanji</i> + <i>katakana</i> |
| 2008    | 9.89 %         | 84.10 %        | 5.65 %         | 0.18 %          | 0.18 %          | 0.00 %                         |
| 2009    | 10.91 %        | 84.00 %        | 4.36 %         | 0.55 %          | 0.18 %          | 0.00 %                         |
| 2010    | 10.72 %        | 81.37 %        | 7.77 %         | 0.13 %          | 0.00 %          | 0.00 %                         |
| 2011    | 10.76 %        | 83.95 %        | 5.29 %         | 0.00 %          | 0.00 %          | 0.00 %                         |
| 2012    | 10.45 %        | 83.15 %        | 5.77 %         | 0.31 %          | 0.31 %          | 0.00 %                         |
| 2013    | 12.08 %        | 81.46 %        | 5.83 %         | 0.42 %          | 0.00 %          | 0.21 %                         |
| 2014    | 13.62 %        | 79.93 %        | 6.09 %         | 0.18 %          | 0.00 %          | 0.18 %                         |
| 2008–14 | <b>11.15 %</b> | <b>82.55 %</b> | <b>5.92 %</b>  | <b>0.24 %</b>   | <b>0.10 %</b>   | <b>0.05 %</b>                  |

*Hiragana* has traditionally been considered a female script and names in *hiragana* have been considered feminine (*onna-rashii*). The following three examples illustrate three different reasons for the choice of *hiragana* in male names.

(25) Parents decided to choose for their son a name written in *hiragana*, あるく *Aruku* ('to walk'), because the father, who is a teacher, once mentioned

<sup>49</sup> Aran Junia, i.e. Alan Jr.

*that so many recent names were hard to read. They liked the idea of a name in hiragana, which is unique to Japan and is easy to read.*

*A mother chose for her son the name うた Uta ('song') because she likes singing and was thinking about a name related to music. The ideal number of strokes resulted from writing it in hiragana. When written in hiragana, the name also has a soft image, which reflects her wish to bring up a kind and affectionate child.*

*Just before the deadline for the submission of the birth registration, the parents decided the name for their son and happily rushed to the office. However, to their surprise, the name with the kanji they had so carefully chosen was not permitted. Since they could not register the kanji they wanted so badly, they wrote the chosen name, Hira, in hiragana: ひら.*

These examples point to three different aspects of contemporary names: the growing awareness of hard-to-read names (more in 3.3), the important role of the *seimei handan* (fortune-telling from the number of strokes in the name, as discussed in 1.6.3), and the ongoing issue of selecting *kanji* that are not permitted in names (2.1).

The most prevalent type of male name is the two-*kanji* compound, exceeding 80 percent of all male names. Over 10 percent are single-*kanji* names, and slightly less than 6 percent are three-*kanji* compounds. Compared to the 1960s, when, according to Sakuma (1969, 186), 70 percent of names of newborn boys were two-*kanji* compounds, less than 30 percent were single-*kanji* names and three-*kanji* names were infrequent, there has been a noticeable decrease in single-*kanji* names, with a corresponding increase in the other two types. Despite some diversity in the number of *kanji* used in male names, the large majority of names still consist of two characters, although recently single-*kanji* names have been making a slight resurgence.

As can be seen from Table 9 below, current female names display an even greater potential diversity in their orthographic form, utilizing *kanji*, *hiragana* and *katakana* and even combinations of both *hiragana* and *kanji*, and *katakana* and *kanji*.

**Table 9:** Examples of various orthographic forms in female names

| single- <i>kanji</i> names | two- <i>kanji</i> names | three- <i>kanji</i> names | names in <i>hiragana</i> | names in <i>katakana</i> | names comb. <i>hiragana</i> and <i>kanji</i> | names comb. <i>kanji</i> and <i>katakana</i> |
|----------------------------|-------------------------|---------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|--|--|
| 葵                          | 葵花                      | 英玲奈                       | ねね                       | リサ                       | くる美  | 桜ノ香  |
| 杏                          | 輝里                      | 咲陽乃                       | あおい                      | マハナ                      | すず花  | 穂ノ歌  |
| 楓                          | 心海                      | 小恋音                       | えれな                      | サユリ                      | なの香  |  |

The following table clearly shows, however, that while examples of all these variants can be found, the large majority of female names bestowed in the past several years are, in this respect, quite uniform, although still showing greater diversity than current male names. Most of the recent female names are written in *kanji* (over 93 %), and most of the rest are in *hiragana* (over 6 %), with less than one percent of all other types combined. 77 percent of female names consist of two *kanji*. Three-*kanji* names, which were quite frequent up until the 1980s, now amount to less than 10 percent. In contrast, single-*kanji* names, which were rare in female names before the 1980s, are now close to 7 percent in occurrence. The names combining *kana* and *kanji*<sup>50</sup> and names written in *katakana* are rare, but contribute to the impression of a greater diversity of contemporary names.

**Table 10:** The distribution of types of orthography for current female names (2008–2014)

|         | <i>kanji</i>   |                |                | <i>kana</i>     |                 | combination                    |                                |
|---------|----------------|----------------|----------------|-----------------|-----------------|--------------------------------|--------------------------------|
|         | 1 <i>kanji</i> | 2 <i>kanji</i> | 3 <i>kanji</i> | <i>hiragana</i> | <i>katakana</i> | <i>hiragana</i> + <i>kanji</i> | <i>kanji</i> + <i>katakana</i> |
| 2008    | 6.97 %         | 77.04 %        | 9.35 %         | 6.29 %          | 0.34 %          | 0.00 %                         | 0.00 %                         |
| 2009    | 7.33 %         | 79.89 %        | 6.58 %         | 6.02 %          | 0.19 %          | 0.00 %                         | 0.00 %                         |
| 2010    | 5.85 %         | 79.74 %        | 8.08 %         | 6.09 %          | 0.00 %          | 0.23 %                         | 0.00 %                         |
| 2011    | 5.90 %         | 78.53 %        | 9.12 %         | 5.72 %          | 0.54 %          | 0.19 %                         | 0.00 %                         |
| 2012    | 7.08 %         | 77.41 %        | 10.69 %        | 4.52 %          | 0.15 %          | 0.15 %                         | 0.00 %                         |
| 2013    | 9.03 %         | 72.03 %        | 8.81 %         | 9.25 %          | 0.22 %          | 0.66 %                         | 0.00 %                         |
| 2014    | 6.54 %         | 73.21 %        | 11.16 %        | 7.34 %          | 0.32 %          | 1.12 %                         | 0.32 %                         |
| 2008–14 | <b>6.83 %</b>  | <b>77.09 %</b> | <b>9.14 %</b>  | <b>6.33 %</b>   | <b>0.23 %</b>   | <b>0.33 %</b>                  | <b>0.05 %</b>                  |

<sup>50</sup> While the combination of *hiragana-hiragana-kanji* appeared in a few cases, the combination *katakana-katakana-kanji*, which was common in the Taishō period and could be found later as well, did not appear at all. Instead, the pattern *kanji-katakana-kanji* appeared in several cases.

Some people prefer *hiragana* over *kanji* because the graceful rounded shapes of the letters create a soft, feminine image. Another reason may be some family tradition. A mother with a name written in *hiragana* is more likely to choose *hiragana* in the name of her daughter. There are also the reasons already mentioned in connection with male names. If a name is chosen for its sound, the parents may find that *hiragana* has a more favorable number of strokes compared to the possible *kanji* combinations. Yet another reason may be a dislike of the increasing number of hard-to-read names, i.e. *ateji* type names with a discordant character-sound relationship (see 3.3). The following examples are illustrative of these most frequent reasons.

- (26) *A couple named their daughter born in 2013 Sāno (Saano), written in hiragana as さあの, as they wanted a name that would give a soft impression, both when spoken and written.*

*A couple decided to name their daughter born in 2010 なつめ Natsume, as they liked the sound of the name and there are not many names like this. As the mother herself has a name in hiragana, she wanted her daughter to have a hiragana name as well. Another reason is that the couple dislike hard-to-read kanji and ateji.*

*A mother wanted to give her daughter a summer-like name and so chose the name Aoi ('blue'), which reminded her of the blue sea in Okinawa where she traveled with her future husband and of which she had fond memories. The character 蒼, which she chose for the name, had in combination with the surname a less favorable number of strokes than if the name was written in hiragana, so she finally decided to make it あおい.*

As can be summed up from the above, the majority of currently bestowed names, both male and female, consist of two *kanji* (82.55% of male names, 77.09% of female names in the corpus). Single-*kanji* names are more frequent among male names, and three-*kanji* names appear more frequently among female names, but the difference is not as significant as it was before the 1980s. As expected, *hiragana* is more frequent in female names than male names. It has been traditionally considered soft-looking compared to *kanji*, and therefore feminine. *Katakana* is marginal in both male and female names. Even names of foreign origin, which have been increasingly popular, are written in *kanji*, unlike the names of foreigners, which are normally transcribed in *katakana*. The numbers make it obvious that, even though the

phonological form of the name is currently considered of primary concern and the starting point of the name selection process, the focus then shifts to the important choice of graphic form. While *hiragana* and *katakana* only record the phonological form of the name, *kanji* make it possible to convey through the graphic form of the name various meanings, create an interesting image, and express desired aspirations and hopes for the child's future.

### 3.2 The phonological form

The majority of currently bestowed male names are three-mora long (67.3 %, see Table 11 below). The number of two-mora and four-mora names are both around 14 percent of male names. Five-mora names can also be found, but are rather rare, and six-mora names are now truly exceptions. Compared to the past, there is a clear shift towards shorter forms. Two-mora names, which were not very frequent before the 1980s, have increased in appearance, while four-mora names, which were, in contrast, very common, decreased. This change is partially a consequence of the growing preference for *on* reading, rather than a lower number of characters in the names.

**Table 11:** Phonological length of male names in the corpus

|         | 2 morae        | 3 morae        | 4 morae        | 5 morae       | 6 morae       |
|---------|----------------|----------------|----------------|---------------|---------------|
| 2008    | 15.02 %        | 65.90 %        | 15.02 %        | 3.53 %        | 0.53 %        |
| 2009    | 13.64 %        | 69.82 %        | 14.55 %        | 2.00 %        | 0.00 %        |
| 2010    | 13.00 %        | 67.29 %        | 14.61 %        | 4.29 %        | 0.80 %        |
| 2011    | 13.93 %        | 69.84 %        | 13.93 %        | 1.76 %        | 0.53 %        |
| 2012    | 14.20 %        | 65.52 %        | 16.07 %        | 3.74 %        | 0.46 %        |
| 2013    | 13.33 %        | 64.58 %        | 16.88 %        | 4.58 %        | 0.63 %        |
| 2014    | 14.70 %        | 67.92 %        | 12.72 %        | 4.30 %        | 0.36 %        |
| 2008–14 | <b>13.95 %</b> | <b>67.28 %</b> | <b>14.80 %</b> | <b>3.48 %</b> | <b>0.49 %</b> |

Although female names are more diverse in their graphic form, they are more uniform in their phonological length; almost all are either two or three-mora long (38.43 % and 61.27 %). As was described in 2.2.2, up until 1920s two-mora names prevailed, but with the wide spread of the final 子 most female names became three-mora long. At a later point 子 was either replaced with a different end *kanji* or was dropped, which contributed to the

decrease in the number of three-mora names after the 1970s. The changing ratio between two and three-mora names corresponds with the changing popularity of the final 子.

**Table 12:** Phonological length of female names in the corpus

|         | 2 morae        | 3 morae        | 4 morae       |
|---------|----------------|----------------|---------------|
| 2008    | 38.61 %        | 60.71 %        | 0.68 %        |
| 2009    | 40.60 %        | 59.21 %        | 0.19 %        |
| 2010    | 39.06 %        | 60.82 %        | 0.12 %        |
| 2011    | 40.79 %        | 58.68 %        | 0.54 %        |
| 2012    | 36.60 %        | 63.10 %        | 0.30 %        |
| 2013    | 37.58 %        | 61.76 %        | 0.66 %        |
| 2014    | 35.89 %        | 63.96 %        | 0.16 %        |
| 2008–14 | <b>38.43 %</b> | <b>61.27 %</b> | <b>0.35 %</b> |

From the point of view of their phonological length, both male and female names show a clear tendency for shorter forms. The most common length is three morae, but, compared to the past, there is a higher number of both male and female two-mora names. While two-mora female names were very common up until the Taishō period, the number of two-mora male names has never been higher than it is now. Many of the female two-mora names are foreign-sounding, but the reading of some is reminiscent of the Meiji period names, such as the frequent *Hana*, *Kana*, *Mio*, *Rin*, *Saki* and *Yuki*, and the occasional *Chiyo*, *Kano*, *Kisa*, *Maki*, *Mito*, *Miwa*, *Naho*, *Sato*, *Sayo*, and *Sono*. Interestingly, names such as *Haru* or *Nao* are now bestowed on boys as well as on girls, and *Haru* has even become more popular for boys than girls.

The following two tables contain the fifty most frequent readings of male names, and of female names, in the corpus. The most frequent male name, *Yūto*, makes up only slightly over 2 percent, and the most frequent female name, *Yui*, even less, evidencing the great variety of current names.

**Table 13:** Most frequent readings of the male names in the corpus

|     |               |        |
|-----|---------------|--------|
| 1.  | <i>Yūto</i>   | 2.09 % |
| 2.  | <i>Haruto</i> | 1.92 % |
| 3.  | <i>Kōki</i>   | 1.46 % |
| 4.  | <i>Kōta</i>   | 1.36 % |
| 5.  | <i>Haruki</i> | 1.34 % |
| 6.  | <i>Sōta</i>   | 1.31 % |
| 7.  | <i>Kaito</i>  | 1.24 % |
| 8.  | <i>Riku</i>   | 1.22 % |
| 9.  | <i>Yūki</i>   | 1.19 % |
| 10. | <i>Yūma</i>   | 1.17 % |
| 11. | <i>Sora</i>   | 1.05 % |
| 12. | <i>Yūito</i>  | 0.97 % |
| 13. | <i>Taiga</i>  | 0.93 % |
| 14. | <i>Hinata</i> | 0.90 % |
| 15. | <i>Haru</i>   | 0.83 % |
| 16. | <i>Hayato</i> | 0.83 % |
| 17. | <i>Ryūsei</i> | 0.78 % |
| 18. | <i>Yūsei</i>  | 0.73 % |
| 19. | <i>Hiroto</i> | 0.71 % |
| 20. | <i>Kazuki</i> | 0.71 % |
| 21. | <i>Yūta</i>   | 0.71 % |
| 22. | <i>Haruma</i> | 0.68 % |
| 23. | <i>Ren</i>    | 0.68 % |
| 24. | <i>Shōta</i>  | 0.68 % |
| 25. | <i>Sōma</i>   | 0.68 % |

|     |               |        |
|-----|---------------|--------|
| 26. | <i>Takumi</i> | 0.68 % |
| 27. | <i>Tōma</i>   | 0.66 % |
| 28. | <i>Takuma</i> | 0.63 % |
| 29. | <i>Ibuki</i>  | 0.56 % |
| 30. | <i>Itsuki</i> | 0.56 % |
| 31. | <i>Kotarō</i> | 0.56 % |
| 32. | <i>Minato</i> | 0.56 % |
| 33. | <i>Reo</i>    | 0.56 % |
| 34. | <i>Rikuto</i> | 0.54 % |
| 35. | <i>Rui</i>    | 0.54 % |
| 36. | <i>Takeru</i> | 0.54 % |
| 37. | <i>Asahi</i>  | 0.51 % |
| 38. | <i>Kōtarō</i> | 0.51 % |
| 39. | <i>Shōma</i>  | 0.51 % |
| 40. | <i>Sōsuke</i> | 0.51 % |
| 41. | <i>Akito</i>  | 0.49 % |
| 42. | <i>Aoi</i>    | 0.49 % |
| 43. | <i>Yamato</i> | 0.49 % |
| 44. | <i>Kanata</i> | 0.49 % |
| 45. | <i>Masato</i> | 0.44 % |
| 46. | <i>Shun</i>   | 0.44 % |
| 47. | <i>Yū</i>     | 0.44 % |
| 48. | <i>Hikaru</i> | 0.41 % |
| 49. | <i>Kazuma</i> | 0.41 % |
| 50. | <i>Taichi</i> | 0.41 % |

**Table 14:** Most frequent readings of the female names in the corpus

|     |                                     |        |
|-----|-------------------------------------|--------|
| 1.  | <i>Yui</i>                          | 1.54 % |
| 2.  | <i>Miyu</i>                         | 1.31 % |
| 3.  | <i>Yuzuki</i>                       | 1.31 % |
| 4.  | <i>Rio</i>                          | 1.26 % |
| 5.  | <i>Honoka</i>                       | 1.12 % |
| 6.  | <i>Saki</i>                         | 1.05 % |
| 7.  | <i>Akari</i>                        | 1.01 % |
| 8.  | <i>Haruka</i>                       | 0.98 % |
| 9.  | <i>Mio</i>                          | 0.98 % |
| 10. | <i>Yua</i>                          | 0.98 % |
| 11. | <i>Hina</i>                         | 0.94 % |
| 12. | <i>Yuna</i>                         | 0.94 % |
| 13. | <i>Aoi</i>                          | 0.91 % |
| 14. | <i>Mei</i>                          | 0.91 % |
| 15. | <i>Nanami</i>                       | 0.84 % |
| 16. | <i>Rin</i>                          | 0.84 % |
| 17. | <i>Riko</i>                         | 0.82 % |
| 18. | <i>Sakura</i>                       | 0.82 % |
| 19. | <i>Himari</i>                       | 0.70 % |
| 20. | <i>Koharu</i>                       | 0.70 % |
| 21. | <i>Kanna</i>                        | 0.68 % |
| 22. | <i>Misaki</i>                       | 0.68 % |
| 23. | <i>Airi</i>                         | 0.65 % |
| 24. | <i>Hana</i>                         | 0.65 % |
| 25. | <i>Rina</i>                         | 0.65 % |
| 26. | <i>Yūna</i>                         | 0.65 % |
| 27. | <i>Kanon</i>                        | 0.63 % |
| 28. | <i>Kokona</i>                       | 0.63 % |
| 29. | <i>Runa</i>                         | 0.63 % |
| 30. | <i>Hiyori</i>                       | 0.61 % |
| 31. | <i>Ichika</i>                       | 0.61 % |
| 32. | <i>Momoka</i>                       | 0.61 % |
| 33. | <i>Yū</i>                           | 0.61 % |
| 34. | <i>Sara</i>                         | 0.58 % |
| 35. | <i>Noa</i>                          | 0.56 % |
| 36. | <i>Nozomi</i>                       | 0.56 % |
| 37. | <i>Sana</i>                         | 0.56 % |
| 38. | <i>Miku</i>                         | 0.54 % |
| 39. | <i>Natsuki</i>                      | 0.54 % |
| 40. | <i>Fūka</i>                         | 0.54 % |
| 41. | <i>Shiori</i>                       | 0.54 % |
| 42. | <i>Yume</i>                         | 0.54 % |
| 43. | <i>Kaho</i>                         | 0.51 % |
| 44. | <i>Mana</i>                         | 0.51 % |
| 45. | <i>Miu</i>                          | 0.51 % |
| 46. | <i>Ruka</i>                         | 0.49 % |
| 47. | <i>Hinata</i>                       | 0.47 % |
| 48. | <i>Yuina</i>                        | 0.47 % |
| 49. | <i>Ayane, Sae,<br/>Yūka, Wakana</i> | 0.44 % |

As can be seen from the tables, currently bestowed names, both male and female, display a variety of end syllables (morae). Up until the 1980s, the end syllable (or two) of most names, corresponding to their end *kanji*, was sufficient to identify the gender of the person. This is becoming more problematic. Of the 34 end syllables which occur with a greater than 1 percent frequency in either the male name or female name section of the corpus, 11 syllables (*a, i, ki, mi, n, o, ra, ri, ro, ru* and *to*)<sup>51</sup> are in both, although most of these are still more common for one gender than the other, with

<sup>51</sup> The list includes the syllabic *n* (ん).

the exception of *ki*. The currently most frequent end syllable among male names, which appears in almost every fifth name (but in only one percent of female names) in the corpus, is *to* (e.g., *Akito*, *Haruto*, *Hayato*, *Hiroto*, *Kaito*, *Minato*, *Rikuto*, *Yamato*, *Yuito*, *Yūto*), followed by *ki* (e.g., *Atsuki*, *Daiki*, *Haruki*, *Hiroki*, *Ibuki*, *Itsuki*, *Kazuki*, *Kōki*, *Ruki*, *Yūki*), *ta* (e.g., *Eita*, *Fūta*, *Haruta*, *Hinata*, *Kanata*, *Kenta*, *Kōta*, *Shōta*, *Sōta*, *Yūta*) and *ma* (e.g., *Haruma*, *Kazuma*, *Ryōma*, *Ryūma*, *Shōma*, *Sōma*, *Takuma*, *Teruma*, *Tōma*, *Yūma*). In female names the most frequent are *na* (e.g., *Hina*, *Kanna*, *Kokona*, *Rina*, *Runa*, *Mana*, *Sana*, *Yuna*, *Yūna*, *Wakana*) and *ka* (e.g., *Ayaka*, *Fūka*, *Honoka*, *Haruka*, *Ichika*, *Momoka*, *Ruka*, *Yuika*, *Yumeka*, *Yūka*), followed by *ki* (e.g., *Aki*, *Miki*, *Misaki*, *Mitsuki*, *Mizuki*, *Natsuki*, *Saki*, *Satsuki*, *Yūki*, *Yuzuki*), *ri* (e.g., *Airi*, *Akari*, *Ayuri*, *Himari*, *Hiyori*, *Juri*, *Minori*, *Riri*, *Shiori*, *Yūri*), and *mi* (e.g., *Ami*, *Ayumi*, *Emi*, *Eimi*, *Kurumi*, *Manami*, *Mayumi*, *Nanami*, *Nozomi*, *Yumi*).

The graphic representations of individual syllables display a great variety as well, but there are always one to three *kanji* that are significantly more frequent than the rest. For example, the most frequent end syllable in male names, *to*, is represented by over 40 different *kanji* in the corpus. However, the three most popular ones, 斗, 人 and 翔, make up over 65 % and together with 仁, 音 and 士 constitute almost 80 %. Similarly, the most popular end syllable in female names, *na*, is written by over 30 different characters, but the two most frequent ones, 菜 and 奈, account for almost 60 % of all the appearances. *Ko*, which was by far the most prevalent ending in female names up until the 1980s, now appears in less than 5 percent of female names, and its graphic representation is no longer limited to 子.

Further proof of the variety of Japanese names can be clearly demonstrated by the total number of unique forms. In the corpus of 4,108 male names, there are 1,007 unique phonological forms. In combination with the 2,656 unique graphic forms, the result is 2,891 unique names (graphic + phonological form) out of 4,108. In other words, only 1,117 males out of 4,108 share the same name with another male in the corpus. Similarly, only 1,503 females out of 4,278 share a name with any other female within the corpus.

**Table 15:** Uniqueness within the corpus

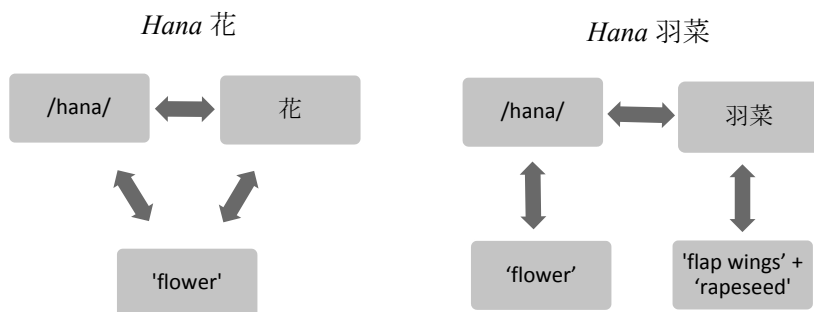
|                           | Male (4,018) | Female (4,278) |
|---------------------------|--------------|----------------|
| Unique phonological forms | 1,007        | 937            |
| Unique graphic forms      | 2,656        | 2,466          |
| Unique name combinations  | 2,891        | 2,775          |

Due to this great variety of names, this book analyses shared features and tendencies rather than individual names.

### 3.3 *Ateji*-type names and the growing discordance in the character-sound relationship

While names following the traditional structural patterns are still used, many current names are of the so-called *ateji* type. As explained earlier in the Introduction, *ateji* can refer to either the phonological use of characters without regard to their meaning, or, conversely, the use of characters based on their meaning without regard to their accepted readings.

For example, if the name *Hana* is written as 花 (*hana*, 'flower'), the phonological and graphic forms of the name semantically correspond. However, if the characters 羽菜 (*ha*, *habataku* 'flap wings' + *na*, 'rapeseed') are used instead, this relationship is purely phonological; the graphic and phonological forms of the name do not have the same meaning, as can be seen in the following diagram:



The *ateji* method of phonologically assigning characters to the desired phonological form makes it possible to express a variety of meanings in the name, and it is also possible to write a name of foreign origin in *kanji*. However, in the effort to come up with *kanji* that would complement the desired phonological form with a positive and novel image, many parents end up using *kanji* whose readings do not match the phonological form of the name, thereby creating a name whose written form does not give any hint as to the intended reading. As has already been mentioned, while the number of characters permitted for use in names is legally limited, there is no legal restriction on their readings, so the graphic form of a name can be assigned virtually any reading. Fortunately, this is not very common. Most such names are based on some kind of character-sound relationship, which somehow differs from the traditional.

In order to describe the various types of discordancy it is important to clarify what is understood by the standard, traditional character-sound relationship. For the purpose of this discussion, the relationship shall be considered standard if the reading of the name corresponds with the *kun*, *on* or *nanori* readings of the *kanji* used. While the *kun* and *on* variants of reading are clearly established, the *nanori* readings for each character differ significantly depending on the dictionary used. Specialized dictionaries of given names usually list the readings which the authors, based on their practice and experience, consider common. As a result, the selection is rather subjective and, moreover, can differ depending on the period when the particular book was written. This means that a reading that is considered standard according to one dictionary (it is listed as *nanori*), may be considered nonstandard according to another (it is not listed as *nanori*). Therefore, for the purpose of this examination of individual readings the electronic version of the dictionary *Shinkangorin* was used, since it lists a large number of readings compared to commonly consulted dictionaries of baby names. For this reason, there may be cases of reading which will not be marked as nonstandard, although they are used very rarely, and an average language user might not know them, and thus would consider them deviant. On the other hand, cases which are marked as nonstandard do unquestionably diverge from the standard ways of reading. The following sections describe the types of nonstandard sound-character relationships which were identified in the corpus.

### 3.3.1 Partial discordance between the phonological form of the name and the readings of the characters used

One of the most common types of discordance is a partial correspondence between the phonological form of the name and the standard readings of the individual characters. In the case of the *on* reading, this discordance is usually caused by an omission of one mora (a vowel, the vowel length<sup>52</sup>, or the syllabic /n/), most frequently the last mora of the given reading, but in the last two examples listed in Table 16 (朱音 *An*; 碧愛 *Aoi*) it is the first mora (of the shortened reading) which is omitted.

**Table 16:** Examples of shortening *on* readings<sup>53</sup>

|         |                      |                   |
|---------|----------------------|-------------------|
| 心桜 / 水桜 | <i>mi + ō (oø)</i>   | <i>Mio</i> (F)    |
| 虹音      | <i>kō (oø) + to</i>  | <i>Koto</i> (F)   |
| 塔亜      | <i>tō (oø) + a</i>   | <i>Toa</i> (M)    |
| 莉空      | <i>ri + kū (uü)</i>  | <i>Riku</i> (M)   |
| 笑寧      | <i>emi + nei</i>     | <i>Emine</i> (F)  |
| 寧音      | <i>nei + ne</i>      | <i>Nene</i> (F)   |
| 星流 / 聖那 | <i>sei + na</i>      | <i>Sena</i> (M)   |
| 伶音      | <i>rei + on</i>      | <i>Reo</i> (M)    |
| 鈴愛      | <i>rin + a</i>       | <i>Ria</i> (F)    |
| 陽菜凜     | <i>hi + ma+ rin</i>  | <i>Himari</i> (F) |
| 凜輝      | <i>rin + ki</i>      | <i>Riki</i> (M)   |
| 奏来      | <i>sō (oø) + rai</i> | <i>Sora</i> (F)   |
| 來々      | <i>rai + rai</i>     | <i>Rara</i> (F)   |
| 朱音      | <i>a + on</i>        | <i>An</i> (F)     |
| 碧愛      | <i>ao + ai</i>       | <i>Aoi</i> (F)    |

In the case of the *kun* reading (Table 17), either the initial or final part of the given reading is used and the omitted part is often longer than the part which is actually used. Moreover, some readings are shortened in various names in various ways: *kokoro* to *koko* or *ko*, *umi* to *u* or *i*, etc.

<sup>52</sup> Long vowels are perceived in Japanese as two morae (they are written with two graphemes of the syllabary), thus shortening a long vowel can also be considered an omission of one mora).

<sup>53</sup> Each entry in this and the following tables includes the graphic form, the standard reading with the omitted parts crossed out, the resulting name, and whether male or female.

**Table 17:** Examples of shortening *kun* readings

|    |                       |                   |
|----|-----------------------|-------------------|
| 心瑚 | <i>kokoro + ko</i>    | <i>Koko</i> (F)   |
| 心美 | <i>kokoro + mi</i>    | <i>Kokomi</i> (F) |
| 美海 | <i>mi + umi</i>       | <i>Miu</i> (F)    |
| 碧海 | <i>ao + umi</i>       | <i>Aoi</i> (F)    |
| 最愛 | <i>motto + a</i>      | <i>Moa</i> (F)    |
| 渚月 | <i>nagisa + tsuki</i> | <i>Natsu</i> (F)  |
| 結空 | <i>yu + sora</i>      | <i>Yura</i> (M)   |
| 空初 | <i>sora + hatsu</i>   | <i>Soraha</i> (F) |
| 友愛 | <i>tomo + a</i>       | <i>Toa</i> (F)    |
| 華穂 | <i>hana + o</i>       | <i>Nao</i> (F)    |
| 玲花 | <i>re + hana</i>      | <i>Rena</i> (F)   |
| 莓華 | <i>ichigo + ka</i>    | <i>Ichika</i> (F) |
| 笑春 | <i>e + haru</i>       | <i>Eru</i> (F)    |
| 雪愛 | <i>yuki + a</i>       | <i>Yua</i> (F)    |
| 愛桜 | <i>ai + sakura</i>    | <i>Aira</i> (F)   |
| 桜姫 | <i>sakura + ki</i>    | <i>Saki</i> (F)   |

Similarly, the *nanori* reading is also subject to omissions, although not as much as the *on* and *kun* readings.

**Table 18:** Examples of shortening *nanori* readings

|     |                       |                   |
|-----|-----------------------|-------------------|
| 陽俊  | <i>haru + toshi</i>   | <i>Haruto</i> (M) |
| 陸叶  | <i>riku + tomo</i>    | <i>Rikuto</i> (M) |
| 芙采  | <i>fū + aya</i>       | <i>Fūa</i> (F)    |
| 琉愛  | <i>ru + mana</i>      | <i>Runa</i> (F)   |
| 千愛  | <i>chi + mana</i>     | <i>China</i> (F)  |
| 希乃花 | <i>nozo + no + ka</i> | <i>Nonoka</i> (F) |
| 愛希  | <i>a + nozo</i>       | <i>Ano</i> (F)    |
| 暖来  | <i>atsu + ki</i>      | <i>Aki</i> (M)    |
| 咲季  | <i>sa + nori</i>      | <i>Sari</i> (F)   |
| 咲良  | <i>sa + yoshi</i>     | <i>Sayo</i> (F)   |

Each example in Tables 16–18 was chosen to demonstrate just one particular phenomenon. However, in a number of names more than one of the

nonstandard types of readings appear. For example, the phonological form of the female name 夢采 *Yua* corresponds to a shortened *kun* reading of the first character and a shortened *nanori* of the second character (*yume* + *aya*). The name 愛唯 *Mayu* was created by shortening the *nanori* reading of the first character and *on* reading of the second character (*mama* + *yui*).

In male names, the shortened Japanese reading is, in some cases, modified by vowel lengthening (e.g., 夢響: *yume* + *hi* → *yuhi* → *Yūhi*), but this is not at all as common as shortening.

### 3.3.2 Utilizing the *kun* readings of characters corresponding to verbal or adjectival roots

Another nonstandard method of assigning a phonological form to the graphic form of a name and vice versa is making use of *kun* reading which corresponds to part of a verbal or adjectival root written using the given character, even though this type of reading is not otherwise used in compounds. A good example is the character 翔, which is very popular and frequent in current male names. In addition to the commonly used reading variants *kake*, *kakeru* and *shō*, the reading *to* has recently become quite widespread, which corresponds to part of the verb 翔ぶ *to(bu)* written with this character.

**Table 19:** Examples of utilizing the readings of verbal and adjectival roots in names

|    |  |                   |
|----|--|-------------------|
| 明翔 | <i>aki</i> + <i>to(bu)</i>                   | <i>Akito</i> (M)  |
| 友愛 | <i>yu</i> + <i>me(deru)</i>                  | <i>Yume</i> (F)   |
| 晴空 | <i>haru</i> + <i>a(ku)</i>                   | <i>Harua</i> (F)  |
| 桜叶 | <i>ō</i> + <i>kana(u)</i> / <i>kana(eru)</i> | <i>Ōka</i> (F)    |
| 輝里 | <i>kagaya(ku)</i> + <i>ri</i>                | <i>Kagari</i> (F) |

Fewer names exhibit this practice than the variety of names which shorten the Sino-Japanese and Japanese readings, but some particular cases, like the above-mentioned character 翔, occur frequently.

### 3.3.3 Utilizing the “*renjō*” reading

Yet another non-standard type of reading that can be found in the corpus, especially in female names, is based on utilizing a reading of a *kanji* which otherwise only occurs in special cases involving *renjō* (連声). *Renjō* is a phonological process (a type of sandhi) when, most commonly, a morpheme-final /n/ creates an additional /n/ at the beginning of the following morpheme in a compound, which would otherwise start in a vowel. *Renjō* occurs, for example, in the word 天皇 (‘emperor’ [of Japan]), which is read as *tennō* (/ten/ + /ō/ → /tennō/).

Some more examples:

1. 反応 (‘reaction, response’): /han/ + /ō/ → /hannō/
2. 云々 (‘and so on’): /un/ + /un/ → /unnun/
3. 銀杏 (‘ginkgo nut’): /gin/ + /an/ → /ginnan/

The corpus includes a number of names in which the character 音 (‘sound’) is read as *non*, instead of *on* (most frequently in the female name *Kanon*), which is obviously inspired by the word 観音 *Kannon* (‘Buddhist deity of mercy, Goddess of Mercy’; /kan/ + /on/ → /kannon/). However, unlike in this compound, in which the phonological change in the latter morpheme is called forth by the final /n/ in the former morpheme, in the names listed in Table 20 there is no reason for *renjō* as the first morpheme of each of these names ends in a vowel. The reading *non* is not a result of a phonological process within the compound but is just used as yet another reading of the character 音. Similarly, the reading of 穩 as *non* in the name 香穩 *Kanon* is not a result of *renjō*, but is motivated by the desire to name the child *Kanon* and inspired by the compound 安穩 *annon* (‘peace, quiet, tranquility’), in which *renjō* took place: /an/ + /on/ → /annon/.

**Table 20:** Examples of utilizing the “*renjō*” reading

|  |                 |                  |
|--|-----------------|------------------|
| 花音 / 華音 / 佳音 /<br>夏音 / 奏音 / 果音 /<br>香音 | <i>ka + non</i> | <i>Kanon</i> (F) |
| 樺音                                     | <i>ka + non</i> | <i>Kanon</i> (M) |
| 香穩                                     | <i>ka + non</i> | <i>Kanon</i> (F) |
| 吏音 / 璃音 / 莉音                           | <i>ri + non</i> | <i>Rinon</i> (F) |
| 芭音                                     | <i>ha + non</i> | <i>Hanon</i> (F) |
| 帆音                                     | <i>ho + non</i> | <i>Honon</i> (F) |

### 3.3.4 Utilizing the *jukujikun* reading

To explain the following type of discordance, let us consider the male name 永輝 *Toki* (‘eternity, long’ + ‘to shine, glitter, sparkle’). The reading of the second *kanji* as *ki* is the *on* reading of the *kanji*. However, the reading of the first *kanji* as *to* is neither the *on* or *kun* (*nanori*) reading. It comes from the reading of the compound 永久 (‘eternity, permanence’) as *towa*. Such a special reading of characters in a compound, called *jukujikun* (see also Introduction: The Japanese system of writing), has no direct correspondence with the characters’ individual *on* readings or *kun* readings; it is a *kun* reading of the compound as a whole. When being told that the name 永輝 is read *Toki*, most Japanese probably realize the connection with the word *towa*, but would not be likely to guess such a reading without prior experience. Table 21 lists more examples reading 永 as *to*. Similarly, the two male names 飛希 *Asuki* (‘fly’ + ‘hope, wish, aspiration’) and 飛羽 *Asuha* (‘fly’ + ‘wing, feather’) utilize *jukujikun*. The reading of the first *kanji* in either name as *asu* comes from the reading *asuka* of a *kanji* compound 飛鳥 (‘name of a period,’ ‘place name’). The reading *no* in the female name 華海 *Kano* and male name 海空 *Noa* is part of the reading *nori* of the compound 海苔 (‘seaweed’).

**Table 21:** Examples of utilizing the *jukujikun* reading

|    |  |                   |
|----|--|-------------------|
| 永輝 | <i>to</i> (永久 <i>towa</i> ) + <i>ki</i>    | <i>Toki</i> (M)   |
| 悠永 | <i>yū</i> + <i>to</i> (永久 <i>towa</i> )    | <i>Yūto</i> (M)   |
| 陽永 | <i>haru</i> + <i>to</i> (永久 <i>towa</i> )  | <i>Haruto</i> (M) |
| 永愛 | <i>to</i> (永久 <i>towa</i> ) + <i>a</i>     | <i>Toa</i> (F)    |
| 飛希 | <i>asu</i> (飛鳥 <i>asuka</i> ) + <i>ki</i>  | <i>Asuki</i> (M)  |
| 飛羽 | <i>asu</i> (飛鳥 <i>asuka</i> ) + <i>ha</i>  | <i>Asuha</i> (M)  |
| 華海 | <i>ka</i> + <i>no</i> (海苔 <i>nori</i> )    | <i>Kano</i> (F)   |
| 海空 | <i>no</i> (海苔 <i>nori</i> ) + <i>a(ku)</i> | <i>Noa</i> (M)    |

Another practice that can be observed in current names is the use of special compounds that have *jukujikun* type of reading as names, or their further modification. For example, the word 日向 *hinata* (‘sunny place’) is used as both a male and female name, and there are also names such as 陽向 and 飛向, with the phonological form *Hinata*, created by replacing 日 with another *kanji* with the reading *hi*. However, if the original compound is disturbed, it should no longer be read as *hinata*. These two names are difficult to read because their phonological forms are based on an analogy with the compound 日向 instead of the standard reading of the two characters. The reading of 陽向 might be easier to deduce as there is also a semantic relationship between 陽 and 日, both sharing the meaning ‘sun’. The character 飛 means ‘to fly’ and it only shares the same reading with the character 日. Another example of the same principle is the pair of names 日和 and 陽和, both read as *Hiyori*, where the former is a compound with a *jukujikun* reading, meaning ‘fine weather’, while the latter was created by replacing the character 日 with 陽. Similarly, the popular male name 大和 *Yamato* (‘Yamato, ancient Japan’), which has a *jukujikun* reading, inspired the creation of other names, such as 大翔 and 大斗, in which the second *kanji* have the reading *to*, but, once again, the first *kanji* would not be usually read as *yama*.

### 3.3.5 Readings based on foreign-language equivalents

The effort to create unique names is even more apparent in the following type of name, in which a character is assigned a foreign, most frequently English, reading with the corresponding meaning. For example, the name 愛歩 can be pronounced *Aiho*, *Ayumi*, *Ayumu*, *Chikaho* or *Manaho*, but the

phonological form *Rabuho* also appeared in the corpus. Here, the first character 愛 ('love') was assigned the reading *rabu* (the Japanese pronunciation of the English *love*). The same reading, *Rabuho*, was also found in the corpus with the graphic form 愛保. And, just as standard readings of characters are shortened, it is possible to find shortened nonstandard readings as well. It is quite likely that the phonological form of the name 心愛 *Kokora* was created by shortening the English reading *rabu* to *ra* (*kokoro* + *rabu*), and the same can be found in names such as 礼愛 *Reira*, 聖愛 *Seira*, 彩愛 *Sāra*, or 紗愛 *Sara*. The reading of the name 月 ('moon') as *Runa* comes from the Japanese pronunciation of the Latin *Luna*. In names such as 月菜 or 月奈, both read as *Runa*, the reading is shortened to *ru* (*runa* + *na*), while in the name 玲月 *Reina* it is shortened to *na* (*rei*+*runa*).

It would not be likely to read the name 空翔 ('sky' + 'fly') as *Kaito* without a proper explanation. The reading of the first character, which carries the meaning of 'sky', was created by shortening the expression *sukai* (from the English *sky*) to *kai*. [*kaito*] is the Japanese pronunciation of the English *kite*, which creates an interesting semantic relationship between the graphic and phonological forms of the name.

### 3.3.6 “Silent” characters in names

Another type of name characterized by a nonstandard character-sound relationship are names composed of two characters which together represent a certain meaning or image, but only one of the characters participates in the phonological form of the name. For example, the name 心優 (see Table 22) was found in the corpus with the phonological form *Kokoro*, which, however, corresponds to the reading of only the first character, meaning 'heart, mind, spirit'. While the graphic form of the name can be interpreted as 'kind heart' (lit. 'heart kind'), the meaning 'kind' is contained only in the graphic form through the second character. Similarly, the name 桜花 *Sakura* is written with two characters meaning 'sakura' and 'blossom', i.e. 'cherry blossom', but only the reading of the first character matches the phonological form of the name. In the male name 輝瑛 *Akira*, the reading of either of the two characters is *akira*, but only one of them is pronounced in the name, while the other remains silent.

**Table 22:** Examples of names with a “silent” character (part 1)

|    |  |                   |
|----|--|-------------------|
| 心優 | 心 ( <i>kokoro</i> ; ‘heart’) + 優 (0; ‘kind’)                             | <i>Kokoro</i> (F) |
| 心暖 | 心 ( <i>kokoro</i> ; ‘heart’) + 暖 (0; ‘warmth’)                           | <i>Kokoro</i> (F) |
| 心響 | 心 ( <i>kokoro</i> ; ‘heart’) + 響 (0; ‘sound’)                            | <i>Kokoro</i> (F) |
| 心愛 | 心 ( <i>kokoro</i> ; ‘heart’) + 愛 (0; ‘love, affection’)                  | <i>Kokoro</i> (F) |
| 結心 | 結 (0; ‘tie, bind’) + 心 ( <i>kokoro</i> ; ‘heart’)                        | <i>Kokoro</i> (F) |
| 真心 | 真 (0; ‘upright, honest’) + 心 ( <i>kokoro</i> ; ‘heart’)                  | <i>Kokoro</i> (F) |
| 絆心 | 絆 ( <i>ban</i> ; ‘bond, tie’) + 心 (0; ‘heart’)                           | <i>Ban</i> (M)    |
| 漣心 | 漣 ( <i>ren</i> ; ‘ripple, wavelets’) + 心 (0; ‘heart’)                    | <i>Ren</i> (M)    |
| 櫻花 | 桜 ( <i>sakura</i> ; ‘sakura’) + 花 (0; ‘flower, blossom’)                 | <i>Sakura</i> (F) |
| 大空 | 大 (0; ‘big’) + 空 ( <i>sora</i> ; ‘sky’)                                  | <i>Sora</i> (M)   |
| 愛音 | 愛 ( <i>mana</i> ; ‘love’) + 音 (0; ‘sound’)                               | <i>Mana</i> (F)   |
| 美詩 | 美 (0; ‘beautiful’) + 詩 ( <i>uta</i> ; ‘poem’)                            | <i>Uta</i> (F)    |
| 輝瑛 | 輝 ( <i>akira</i> ; ‘to shine, glitter, sparkle’) + 瑛 (0; ‘crystal, gem’) | <i>Akira</i> (M)  |
| 翔夢 | 翔 ( <i>kakeru</i> ; ‘fly, soar’) + 夢 (0; ‘dream’)                        | <i>Kakeru</i> (M) |
| 天翔 | 天 (0; ‘sky, heaven’) + 翔 ( <i>kakeru</i> ; ‘fly, soar’)                  | <i>Kakeru</i> (M) |

In some cases, the character whose reading constitutes the phonological form of the name is complemented by another character whose reading is identical or almost identical to the adjacent mora, which makes it possible to use two characters in the name without causing so much divergence in the chosen phonological form (Table 23).

**Table 23:** Examples of names with a “silent” character (part 2)

|    |   |                    |
|----|---|--------------------|
| 莓生 | 莓 ( <i>mai</i> ; ‘strawberry’) + 生 ( <i>i</i> ; ‘fresh, live’)                    | <i>Mai</i> (F)     |
| 葵依 | 葵 ( <i>aoi</i> ; ‘hollyhock’) + 依 ( <i>i</i> ; ‘reliant, depending on’)           | <i>Aoi</i> (F)     |
| 詩雫 | 詩 ( <i>shi</i> ; ‘poem’) + 雫 ( <i>shizuku</i> ; ‘drop’)                           | <i>Shizuku</i> (F) |
| 萌愛 | 萌 ( <i>mog</i> ; ‘sprout, bud’) + 愛 ( <i>e</i> ; ‘love, affection’)               | <i>Moe</i> (F)     |
| 力輝 | 力 ( <i>riki</i> ; ‘power, strength’) + 輝 ( <i>ki</i> ; ‘shine, sparkle, twinkle’) | <i>Riki</i> (M)    |
| 樹生 | 樹 ( <i>itsuki</i> ; ‘trees, wood’) + 生 ( <i>ki</i> ; ‘to live, life’)             | <i>Itsuki</i> (M)  |
| 望夢 | 望 ( <i>nozomu</i> ; ‘hope, desire, ambition’) + 夢 ( <i>mu</i> ; ‘dream’)          | <i>Nozomu</i> (M)  |
| 英奈 | 英 ( <i>hana</i> ; ‘pretty, excellent’) + 奈 ( <i>na</i> ; ‘Nara’)                  | <i>Hana</i> (F)    |
| 華楓 | 華 ( <i>ka</i> ; ‘flower, gorgeous’) + 楓 ( <i>kaede</i> ; ‘maple’)                 | <i>Kaede</i> (F)   |

These names are also difficult to guess as reading only part of a *kanji* compound is certainly not considered standard.

### 3.3.7 The assignment of a graphic form to the phonological form of a name on the basis of a semantic relationship

Another type of character-sound relationship identified in names is a relationship based exclusively on the meaning. A good example is the name *Maji* written as 本気. The expression *maji* comes from *majime* (‘serious, earnest, honest’) and in the youth language it is used as a popular intensifier and a short response meaning ‘really’. The *kanji* compound 本気 is read *honki* and means ‘serious(ness), earnest(ness)’. It is apparent that this given name is based on a semantic relationship between two words, one of which contributes to its phonological form and the other to its graphic form.



A semantic relationship between the phonological and graphic forms can also be found in the male name *Sora* written as 宇宙. *Sora* means ‘sky’. Both characters used have similar meanings: the first one means ‘heaven’, and the second one ‘sky’, but the compound has the standard reading *uchū* (not *sora*), and can be translated as ‘the universe, cosmos, space’.

A semantic connection can also be found between the graphic form 心音 (‘heart’ + ‘sound’) and the phonological form *Suzu* (‘bell’) that is an association between a heartbeat and a bell. A similar semantic connection can be found in the name *Suzu* 涼音 (‘cool, refreshing’ + ‘sound’), in which the meaning of the phonological form, ‘bell’, can be associated with the meaning represented by the graphic form, i.e. ‘refreshing sound’.

The following two examples from the corpus also demonstrate this type of name:

- (27) Parents named their daughter born in 2013 *Kaede* (‘maple’). Since she was born in the fall when the maple leaves were turning red, they chose to write the name with the character 栞 (‘fall foliage’), which is otherwise

read *kaba* or *momiji*, instead of the character 楓, which corresponds to the reading *kaede*.

Parents named their daughter born in 2013 *Sumire* ('violet') to grow up to be as cute and pretty as this flower. However, they decided to write this 'cute-sounding' name with characters that would give a more adult impression, and that is why they chose the characters 紫花 ('purple/violet flower'). They admit that the name is unreadable but they like it a lot.

The following names are literally "shining examples" of the *kirakira nēmu* phenomenon. The character-sound relationship in the names 星璃 *Kirari* and 星姫 *Kirahi* is apparently based on a connection between the character 星 ('star') and the mimetic expression *kirakira*, which expresses the shining, sparkling of a star.

(28) Parents named their daughter born in 2012 星姫. The first character, 星 ('star'), they had chosen for the name of their first-born daughter and that is why they wanted to use it in the name of their second-born daughter as well. They complemented it with the character 姫 ('princess'). Finally they looked for a phonological form they would like and decided on *Kirahi*,<sup>54</sup> including in the name their wish for the girl to grow up into a cute girl – a princess, who would shine like a star.

The name 輝 *Kira* in the example below is based on a similar principle: the character 輝, which is not read *kira* but *ki* (*on* reading) and *kaga(yaku)* (*kun* reading), carries the meaning 'to shine, twinkle, glitter, sparkle' and thus is semantically related to the phonological form of the name *Kira*.

(29) Parents named their daughter born in 2010 輝 *Kira*. They included in the name their wish for her to grow into a girl who would always shine (キラキラと輝いている子; *kirakira to kagayaite iru ko*).

There is a specific type of this semantic relationship between the phonological and graphic forms of the name, in which, based on a semantic connection, the graphic form is assigned to a foreign-language phonological form. This recent phenomenon can be demonstrated by the female name *Marin*

<sup>54</sup> *Hi* comes from the *kun* reading of the character 姫 – *hime*.

written as 海 (*umi, kai*, ‘sea’).<sup>55</sup> In this case, apparently the phonological form of the name was chosen first, and only then the graphic form was considered. Similarly, parents named their daughter *Myūzu* (‘muse’) and decided to write it as 美姫 (‘beautiful’ + ‘princess’). This *kanji* compound is read as *biki* (‘beautiful maiden, beauty’) when used as a common noun, and usually as *Miki* in given names. The same principle can be seen in the male name 正義, which is traditionally read as *Masayoshi*, but in this case as *Jasutisu* (the Japanese pronunciation of *justice*), which corresponds with the meaning of the *kanji* compound. The relationship between the phonological form of the name *Adamu* (*Adam* in English) and its graphic form 男 (*otoko*, ‘man’) is also of a semantic nature.

This type of relationship resembles the way Chinese characters were assigned Japanese readings based on semantic correspondence at the time of the adoption of Chinese characters and the formation of the Japanese script.

### 3.3.8 Reading names with nonstandard character-sound relationships

Even without any of the above-mentioned creativity, many names are difficult to read because *kanji* usually have several different readings. When the phonological form of a name does not correspond to any of the standard readings of the characters it is clear that reading such a name will be quite problematic or even impossible. The types of character-sound relationships described present a scale of various deviations from the character-sound relationships which are considered standard. This list cannot be considered exhaustive, but includes the most frequent types – those which do not concern only isolated cases.

If a particular nonstandard variant of a reading such as presented in sections 3.3.1–3.3.5 becomes popular and widespread enough, it can, in fact, become a new reading variant of the character in names. For example, the character 空 (‘sky’), which appeared in 143 of the 8386 names, utilized in every fourth name the nonstandard reading *ra*, which partially corresponds to the *kun* reading of the character (*sora*). In the case of the character 心 (‘heart, mind, spirit’), which recently has been popular, especially in female names, nonstandard variants of the reading even prevailed over the standard ones. Out of the total of 194 appearances of this character in female names,

<sup>55</sup> Also for example 葵海.

32 % utilized the nonstandard reading *koko*, and 28.9 % the nonstandard reading *ko* (both from the *kun* reading *kokoro*). The nonstandard reading *to* for the character 翔 (‘soar, fly’) actually appeared in 63.9 % of male names, especially in the final position. Thus it can be said that the reading of this character as *to* in the final position of current names has already become more or less predictable for those who have come across this reading in names.

**Table 24:** Reading variants of the character 空 in male and female names by frequency

| 空 | <i>kū/ku</i> (S) | <i>sora</i> (S) | <i>so</i> (N) | <i>ra</i> (N) | <i>a</i> (N) | others (N) |
|---|------------------|-----------------|---------------|---------------|--------------|------------|
|   | 55/143           | 24/143          | 4/143         | 35/143        | 19/143       | 6/143      |
|   | 38.5 %           | 16.8 %          | 2.8 %         | 24.5 %        | 13.3 %       | 4.2 %      |

S = standard reading (Japanese, Sino-Japanese or *nanori*); N = nonstandard

**Table 25:** Reading variants of the character 心 in female names by frequency

| 心 | <i>kokoro</i> (S) | <i>mi</i> (S) | <i>koko</i> (N) | <i>ko</i> (N) | others (N) |
|---|-------------------|---------------|-----------------|---------------|------------|
|   | 11/194            | 54/194        | 62/194          | 56/194        | 11/194     |
|   | 5.7 %             | 27.8 %        | 32 %            | 28.9 %        | 5.7 %      |

**Table 26:** Reading variants of the character 翔 in male names by frequency

| 翔 | <i>shō</i> (S) | <i>kakeru</i> (S) | <i>to</i> (N) | others (N) |
|---|----------------|-------------------|---------------|------------|
|   | 51/249         | 11/249            | 159/249       | 28/249     |
|   | 20.5 %         | 4.4 %             | 63.9 %        | 11.2 %     |

Names which include “silent” characters in their graphic form (3.3.6) constitute another problematic category in terms of the predictability of the phonological form. According to the analyzed data, one of the main reasons for the creation of such names is that the parents have chosen a phonological form that is already quite popular and relatively frequent but, desiring individuality, they want to make its graphic form different. Another reason is the effort to create a name with a “lucky” number of strokes according to numerical symbolism. If the selected name in combination with their family name is seen as unfavorable in this respect, parents usually choose

different characters. However, as illustrated by the following example, some parents instead resolve the situation by adding a “silent” character to the name and thus change its numerical symbolism, but keep the chosen phonological form.

- (30) *Parents wanted to give their son born in 2008 the one-kanji name 悠 Yū (‘everlasting, calm, at ease’) because the character was used in the mother’s name and they also liked its sound. However, this name had an unfavorable number of strokes, so they added the character 生 (‘to live, life’), but kept the original phonological form.*

If the reading of the character added at least partially corresponds with the reading of the neighboring character (i.e. part of the reading of the name is doubled), it is possible to read such a name after previous experience with similar names. Otherwise there would be no reason to guess that a character is not included in the reading.

A character-sound relationship in the name based on a semantic connection or association (3.3.7) often presents a kind of semantic riddle or a playful use of language: a name whose graphic form means ‘a purple flower’ but its phonological form means ‘a violet’, etc. As soon as the reader uncovers the principle of the relationship, the name becomes easy to remember. However, as was demonstrated through particular examples, without knowing what type of relationship is involved, the phonological form is completely unpredictable. Nevertheless even with this type of name there are variants of reading of particular characters that appear repeatedly in names. A good example is the above-mentioned reading of the character 星 (‘star’) as *kira* (from the mimetic verb *kirakira suru* ‘to shine, sparkle’). In such cases, if a particular reading of a character becomes popular or well-known, even the most obscure reading can gain widespread recognition. Such exceptional cases usually involve names that appear often in the media or are otherwise popularized.

Names with a nonstandard character-sound relationship cannot be read on the basis of traditional methods, but only based on experience with similar names. Thus it is obvious that the present generation of parents and children, who encounter such names among their peers on a daily basis, should experience slightly less difficulty in reading such names than older generations. With the increasing number of such names, it became possible to

identify particular types of discordance in the character-sound relationship, which are the cause of the unreadability of many current names. Although, in general, the uninitiated cannot read names with discordant character-sound relationship, some of the nonstandard readings of popular characters will have become so frequent that in the future they might become the first variant coming to mind.

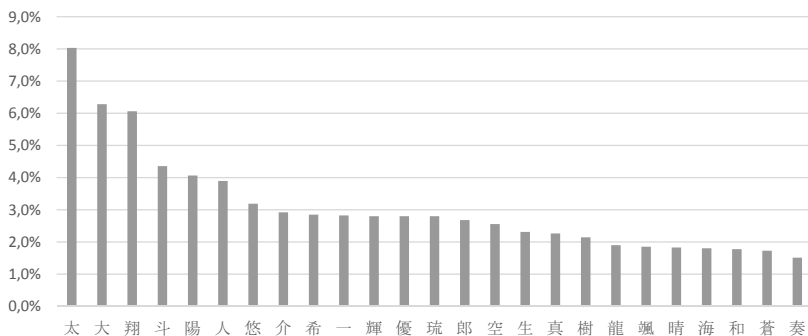
## 4 MOST FREQUENT *KANJI* USED IN CURRENT GIVEN NAMES AND THEIR INTERPRETATION

This chapter will take a closer look at the most frequent *kanji* used in currently bestowed names, the reasons for their selection, and the interpretation of their meanings. As has already been mentioned, the list of characters currently permitted for use in given names includes almost three thousand *kanji*, which allows for innumerable combinations. However, many of the *Jōyō kanji*, or ‘Chinese characters for common use’, are not suitable to be used in names; it is hard to imagine names containing *kanji* such as 胃 (‘stomach’), 椅 (‘chair’), 姻 (‘matrimony’), 鬱 (‘gloom, depression’), 駅 (‘station’), 拐 (‘kidnap, falsify’), 毀 (‘destroy’), 劾 (‘censure’), 渴 (‘thirst’) or 疫 (‘epidemic’).

The 8,386 names included in the corpus make use of a total of 765 *kanji*, which is roughly a fourth of the *kanji* permitted in names.<sup>56</sup> The most frequent *kanji* used in male names, 太, appears in 330 out of the total 4,108 male names, i.e. in 8 % of the names. However, as can be seen in Chart 2, the numbers decline quite steeply. The tenth most frequent character, 一, appears already in only 116 names (2.8 %) and the twentieth, 颯, only in 76 names (1.9 %). Similarly, the most frequent *kanji* used in female names, 愛, appears in 370 out of the 4,278 female names (8.7 %), but the tenth, 莉, in only 159 names (3.7 %) and the twentieth, 桜, in 102 names (2.4 %).

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<sup>56</sup> The number of *kanji* permitted in names increased twice during the period of this corpus. It was 2,928 in 2008, 2,930 after April 30, 2009, and 2,997 from November 30, 2010.

**Chart 2:** The twenty five most frequent *kanji* in male names

These rates may seem low, particularly when compared to the past when most names included one of only a small number of end characters, which thus appeared with high frequency. As mentioned in 2.2.2, for example, the character 子 appeared in over 80 % of names of girls born in the 1930s and 1940s. The current low numbers indicate the greater variety of end characters in contemporary names (discussed in 3.2). Nevertheless, in respect to the range of *kanji* that are permitted for use in names, and in respect to the number of *kanji* that actually appear in the names, i.e. 765, these numbers do demonstrate the popularity and fashionability of these characters.

The tables below provide an overview of the 50 most frequent *kanji* used in male names and the same number of the most frequent *kanji* used in female names. Twelve characters (結, 心, 音, 希, 陽, 真, 海, 和, 空, 瑠, 夢, 優) appear in both tables, but with different frequencies. Each *kanji* is accompanied with those meanings which are commonly associated with that *kanji* in a name. *Kanji* are not by themselves words in the Western sense. They are rather concepts that are used in the formation of words and ideas. Therefore, only the meanings that are relevant for their use in names are listed. For example, the character 斗 could have any of the following meanings: *to* (a measure of volume, approx. 18 liters), square bearing block (at the top of a pillar), Chinese “Dipper” constellation. Only the third meaning, referring to stars, is relevant in names, and is therefore the only one listed herein.

**Table 27:** The fifty most frequent *kanji* in male names

|    |   |       |  |
|----|---|-------|--|
| 1  | 太 | 8.0 % | 'big around, grand'                          |
| 2  | 大 | 6.3 % | 'big, large, great'                          |
| 3  | 翔 | 6.1 % | 'to soar, fly'                               |
| 4  | 斗 | 4.4 % | 'Big Dipper'                                 |
| 5  | 陽 | 4.1 % | 'sun'  |
| 6  | 人 | 3.9 % | 'person, man'                                |
| 7  | 悠 | 3.2 % | 'everlasting, calm, at ease'                 |
| 8  | 介 | 2.9 % | 'to help, assist, mediate'                   |
| 9  | 希 | 2.8 % | 'hope, wish, aspiration'                     |
| 10 | 一 | 2.8 % | 'one, first'                                 |
| 11 | 輝 | 2.8 % | 'to shine, glitter, sparkle'                 |
| 12 | 優 | 2.8 % | 'tender, kind, gentle-mannered'              |
| 13 | 琉 | 2.8 % | 'gem, lapis lazuli'                          |
| 14 | 郎 | 2.7 % | 'son'  |
| 15 | 空 | 2.3 % | 'sky'  |
| 16 | 生 | 2.3 % | 'to live, life, be born'                     |
| 17 | 真 | 2.1 % | 'upright, honest'                            |
| 18 | 樹 | 2.1 % | 'tree'                                       |
| 19 | 龍 | 1.9 % | 'dragon'                                     |
| 20 | 颯 | 1.9 % | 'sudden, quick wind, sound of the wind'      |
| 21 | 晴 | 1.8 % | 'to clear up, to be sunny'                   |
| 22 | 海 | 1.8 % | 'sea'  |
| 23 | 和 | 1.8 % | 'harmony, peace, Japan, Japanese-style'      |
| 24 | 蒼 | 1.7 % | 'blue, green'                                |
| 25 | 奏 | 1.5 % | 'to play an instrument, succeed, accomplish' |
| 26 | 結 | 1.5 % | 'to tie, bind, join'                         |
| 27 | 士 | 1.4 % | 'gentleman, samurai'                         |
| 28 | 雅 | 1.4 % | 'graceful, refined, elegant'                 |
| 29 | 仁 | 1.4 % | 'humane, benevolent'                         |
| 30 | 音 | 1.4 % | 'sound'                                      |
| 31 | 拓 | 1.3 % | 'to clear, open up, cut through, cultivate'  |
| 32 | 朗 | 1.2 % | 'cheerful'                                   |
| 33 | 蓮 | 1.2 % | 'lotus'                                      |
| 34 | 心 | 1.2 % | 'heart, mind, spirit'                        |
| 35 | 平 | 1.1 % | 'calm, peaceful'                             |

|    |   |       |                                    |
|----|---|-------|------------------------------------|
| 36 | 煌 | 1.1 % | 'to shine, glitter, sparkle'       |
| 37 | 志 | 1.1 % | 'will, intention, aspiration'      |
| 38 | 馬 | 1.0 % | 'horse'                            |
| 39 | 瑛 | 1.0 % | 'crystal'                          |
| 40 | 汰 | 1.0 % | 'to wash off with water, select'   |
| 41 | 也 | 1.0 % | 'to be'                            |
| 42 | 幸 | 1.0 % | 'happy, fortunate'                 |
| 43 | 健 | 1.0 % | 'healthy, vigorous'                |
| 44 | 佑 | 1.0 % | 'to help, assist'                  |
| 45 | 光 | 0.9 % | 'light'                            |
| 46 | 陸 | 0.9 % | 'land'                             |
| 47 | 之 | 0.9 % | possessive particle, 'of, this'    |
| 48 | 弥 | 0.9 % | 'for a long time, always, forever' |
| 49 | 航 | 0.9 % | 'to navigate, sail, cruise, fly'   |
| 50 | 虎 | 0.9 % | 'tiger'                            |

**Table 28:** The fifty most frequent *kanji* in female names

|    |   |       |  |
|----|---|-------|--|
| 1  | 愛 | 8.7 % | 'love, affection'                          |
| 2  | 美 | 6.3 % | 'beautiful'                                |
| 3  | 菜 | 5.5 % | 'greens, vegetables, rapeseed blossom'     |
| 4  | 花 | 5.5 % | 'flower'                                   |
| 5  | 結 | 4.9 % | 'to tie, bind, join'                       |
| 6  | 奈 | 4.8 % | 'Nara'                                     |
| 7  | 優 | 4.7 % | 'tender, kind, gentle-mannered'            |
| 8  | 心 | 4.6 % | 'heart, mind, spirit'                      |
| 9  | 音 | 4.0 % | 'sound'                                    |
| 10 | 莉 | 3.7 % | 'jasmine'                                  |
| 11 | 咲 | 3.7 % | 'to blossom, bloom'                        |
| 12 | 希 | 3.5 % | 'hope, wish, aspiration'                   |
| 13 | 香 | 3.2 % | 'fragrance, scent, aroma, perfume'         |
| 14 | 乃 | 3.2 % | possessive particle, 'namely, in the past' |
| 15 | 子 | 3.1 % | 'girl, child'                              |
| 16 | 陽 | 3.0 % | 'sun'                                      |
| 17 | 彩 | 2.9 % | 'color, colorful'                          |
| 18 | 夏 | 2.6 % | 'summer'                                   |
| 19 | 月 | 2.4 % | 'moon'                                     |

4 Most frequent *kanji* used in current given names and their interpretation

|    |   |       |   |
|----|---|-------|---|
| 20 | 桜 | 2.4 % | 'sakura'                                |
| 21 | 紗 | 2.4 % | 'thin, light silk'                      |
| 22 | 里 | 2.4 % | 'one's hometown, native place'          |
| 23 | 衣 | 2.2 % | 'garment, clothes, dress'               |
| 24 | 華 | 2.0 % | 'flower, splendid, gorgeous'            |
| 25 | 羽 | 1.9 % | 'wing, feather'                         |
| 26 | 真 | 1.9 % | 'upright, honest'                       |
| 27 | 海 | 1.8 % | 'sea'                                   |
| 28 | 実 | 1.8 % | 'crop, harvest, fruit'                  |
| 29 | 梨 | 1.8 % | 'pear tree, <i>nashi</i> '              |
| 30 | 々 | 1.7 % | an iteration mark                       |
| 31 | 柚 | 1.6 % | 'yuzu'                                  |
| 32 | 和 | 1.5 % | 'harmony, peace, Japan, Japanese-style' |
| 33 | 千 | 1.4 % | 'thousand'                              |
| 34 | 佳 | 1.4 % | 'beautiful, good, excellent'            |
| 35 | 帆 | 1.4 % | 'sail, sailing boat'                    |
| 36 | 芽 | 1.3 % | 'bud, to sprout, spear'                 |
| 37 | 那 | 1.3 % | 'beautiful'                             |
| 38 | 杏 | 1.3 % | 'apricot'                               |
| 39 | 理 | 1.2 % | 'reason, principle, logic'              |
| 40 | 葵 | 1.2 % | 'hollyhock, sunflower'                  |
| 41 | 空 | 1.1 % | 'sky'                                   |
| 42 | 凜 | 1.1 % | 'cold, dignified'                       |
| 43 | 瑠 | 1.1 % | 'lapis lazuli'                          |
| 44 | 葉 | 1.1 % | 'leaf'                                  |
| 45 | 穂 | 1.1 % | 'ear/head of rice'                      |
| 46 | 日 | 1.1 % | 'sun, sunlight, day(s)'                 |
| 47 | 歩 | 1.1 % | 'to walk, progress, advance'            |
| 48 | 夢 | 1.0 % | 'dream'                                 |
| 49 | 明 | 1.0 % | 'cheerful'                              |
| 50 | 未 | 1.0 % | 'future'                                |

When one looks at the characters and their meanings, it is apparent at first glance that a large number of them are related to the natural world: there are a number of characters representing various plants (樹, 蓮, 菜, 桜, 杏, 葵, 花, 華, 穂, 葉, 梨, 莉, 柚, 楓, 芽), animals (龍, 馬, 虎), precious stones (瑛, 琉, 瑠), natural phenomena such as the weather and seasons of the

year (颯, 晴, 夏), the sky (空) and various heavenly bodies (斗, 陽, 月), the landscape (海, 陸) and others. As has already been shown through various examples elsewhere, the name givers consciously evoke various ideas through the graphic form, most commonly their hopes and aspirations for the child. The process of constructing a name often involves various poetic associations and the use of words for their symbolic meanings. Furthermore, sometimes the *kanji* are not used for the meaning they have on their own, but allude to a particular compound they are part of, which expresses the notion the parents wish to include in the name. For example, the character 葵 signifies 'hollyhock' (*aoi* in Japanese) but its use in names is often motivated by the desire to allude to the word 向日葵 *himawari* 'sunflower'. The meaning of some characters in names is quite transparent, but, as this example shows and as will be further demonstrated, the use of some characters can only be understood in the context given to it by the name givers. Thus it is clear that while the use of characters in names may be based on generally acknowledged meanings and associations, it may also emerge from various privately chosen associations.

The combination of *kanji* used in a name is often chosen so as to convey a desired meaning or evoke a particular image, but very often each *kanji* in a particular name refers to something else. In the first example below, the two *kanji* together express the parents' wish for their son's future (大 'big' + 夢 'dream', i.e. 'big dream'), while in the second example the first character reflects the season the baby was born and the second one a wish for his future (陽 'sun' + 樹 'tree', i.e. 'born on a sunny day' AND 'to grow big and healthy (like a tree)').

(31)

- a. *Parents named their son born in 2012 大夢 Hiromu ('big, large, great' + 'dream') hoping that he would grow up to become a man with big (大) dreams (夢).*
- b. *Parents named their son born in 2008 陽樹 Haruki [...]. First they chose the desired reading, and then looked for a combination of characters which could give them this result. As he was born in the summer they used 陽, which creates the image of 太陽 ('sun'), and through the second character, 樹 ('tree'), they included their wish for him to grow up big and healthy.*

At times various families arrive at the same name through different processes or motivations, and see in the name quite different meanings. Therefore, it would be impossible to work backwards from a given name to perceive exactly what the name was intended to mean (especially since many of them are of the *ateji* type and the characters were chosen mainly to match the phonological form, their meaning being secondary). An examination of the interpretations reported by the name givers will demonstrate what meanings the most frequent *kanji* are meant to convey in the current names, and consequently what this tells us about current society. The most frequent qualities, aspirations, values and needs that can be found in the names are then further discussed in Chapter Five.

The following section provides a description of the most frequent *kanji* used in male and female names listed in the tables. A number of attempts have been made to group them based on divisions in various thesauruses, but this did not prove particularly useful as the group of *kanji* used in names is rather specific. For example, the characters 翔 ('to soar, fly'), 航 ('to navigate, sail, cruise, fly'), 帆 ('sail, sailing boat') and 羽 ('wing, feather') are organized in the same group of "flying and sailing", although the first two could be organized, for example, under "motion", the third one under "sailing" and the last one as "animal parts". However, the list does not contain any other *kanji* signifying animal parts and in the explanations of the name givers all these *kanji* are used in names to express the notion of flying or sailing, alluding to the child's future potential and global outlook. They are therefore, for the purpose of this analysis, assigned to the same category. Some of the categories are less consistent than others and some *kanji* are treated individually. The main purpose of this division is to organize together conceptually related characters to provide insight into what themes can be found in the names. The characters are divided into three sections: characters signifying human qualities and emotions, those related to the natural world, and a third group of minor categories and individual characters that do not fit well into either of the two main categories.

The characters in each category are examined in terms of the motivation for their use in names, and the most frequent interpretations of their meanings. For each discussed *kanji*, Appendix 2 lists the names from the corpus which contain that *kanji*,<sup>57</sup> including all the phonological forms.

<sup>57</sup> If, for example, the particular *kanji* is listed among the fifty most frequent *kanji* used in male names but not the top fifty female names, only examples of male names are given, even if the *kanji* appears in some female names as well.

## 4.1 Qualities, feelings and emotions

The *kanji* dealt with in this section signify various qualities, feelings and emotions describing a person. They are treated together, in one larger unit, as the meanings of some of them allude to both the body and the heart/mind, i.e. describing both physical and mental qualities, or can be considered to express both qualities and emotions, etc. They are, however, subdivided into three sections based on whether they are typically used in male names, female names, or are popular in both.

### 4.1.1 *Kanji* used in male names

The fifty most frequent *kanji* used in current male names include ten that signify physical appearance, personal qualities, feelings or emotions. These are: 太 ('big around, grand'), 大 ('big, large, great'), 悠 ('everlasting, calm, at ease'), 雅 ('graceful, refined, elegant'), 仁 ('humane, benevolent'), 朗 ('cheerful'), 平 ('calm, peaceful'), 志 ('will, intention, aspiration'), 幸 ('happy, fortunate') and 健 ('healthy, vigorous'). Some of them appear exclusively or almost exclusively in male names, while other are used in female names as well, but with a much lower occurrence. The first two of them, 太 and 大, are the two most frequent characters in male names in the corpus, amounting to 8 % and 6.3 %, respectively. In addition to being popular for their meanings, their high occurrence is also attributed to being popular end characters (*tomeji*). The third *kanji* listed, 悠, is the 7<sup>th</sup> most frequent *kanji*, appearing in 3.2 % of names. The remaining six characters rank between the 28<sup>th</sup> and 43<sup>rd</sup> position, appearing in 1.4–1 % of male names in the corpus.

### 太

The character 太 ('big around, grand') is used exclusively in male names. It expresses manliness, inner strength and toughness (32a), and also stands for a big personality, a grand, magnificent person living a big life (32b). Another relatively frequent motivation for the selection of this *kanji*, which is, however, not immediately obvious, is to represent the meaning 'sun' (from 太陽 *taiyō*, 'sun'), which stands for a positive, cheerful character (32c; see also 陽 in 4.2.4). In addition to being a popular end character, 太 also frequently appears in the end-character combination 太郎 *tarō* (太 + 'son', i.e. 'first-born') and 太朗 *tarō* (太 + 'cheerful'), the use of which is motivated by the desire to choose a traditional and easy-to-read name.

(32)

- a. Parents named their son born in 2008 楓太 *Fūta* ('maple' + 太). They chose the character 楓 because he was born in the season of maples, and the character 太 so that he would become a big and sturdy man with inner strength.

Another couple named their son born in 2008 蒼太 *Sōta* ('blue' + 太) [...]. They included in the name their wish for him to have a heart as big as the blue (蒼) sea, and inner strength (太).

- b. Parents named their son born in 2008 三太 *Santa* ('three' + 太). They wanted a name containing the character 太 to express their wish for him to live a big, intense life, to become a strong personality [...].

Other parents named their son born in 2014 虎太朗 *Kotarō* so that he would be brave like a tiger (虎) and live magnificently (太) and cheerfully (朗).

- c. Parents named their son born in 2008 颯太 *Sōta* so that he would be a child as strong and free as a spring wind (颯) and as positive and cheerful as the sun (太陽).

Other parents named their son born in 2009 晃太 *Kōta* ('brilliant, bright' + 太) [...]. The characters express that he was born in the summer as well as their wish for him to be like the sun (太陽) shining (光) on a summer day (日). 日 + 光 → 晃.

## 大

The character 大 ('big, large, great'), which also appears almost exclusively in male names, is used to convey greatness in all respects. It refers to the body, i.e. physical strength and toughness, just like the previous *kanji* 太. It is, for example, used in the names of baby boys who were born too small as a wish for them to grow (33a), as well as in names of boys who were born big, as a reflection of that fact (33b). In addition, it alludes to big, magnificent human existence and also to a big heart/mind, i.e. expresses generosity, magnanimity and big-heartedness (33c).

(33)

- a. A mother named her son born in 2012 大 *Hajime*. He was her fourth child but her first and much desired son so she named him *Hajime* ('first').

*He was born very small and underweight so she chose for his name the character 大 so that he would grow up big and strong.*

- b. *A couple named their son born in 2012 暖大 Haruto ('warm' + 大). The first kanji, whose choice was also influenced by the fact that he was born in the spring, includes their wish for him to become a kind, heart-warming person. The second character reflects the fact that he was a big baby.*
- c. *Parents named their son born in 2008 海大 Mihiro ('sea' + 大). They included in his name their wish for him to grow up to become a man with a heart and body bigger than the sea.*

## 悠

The next *kanji*, 悠, grew in popularity after the birth of Prince Hisahito of Akishino (悠仁親王, *Hisahito Shinnō*) in 2006, who is the first male child born to the Imperial House of Japan since his father in 1965. The character has a number of meanings, such as 'permanent, everlasting', 'calm, serene' and 'leisurely, at ease'. According to the Imperial Household Agency, the prince's name, 悠仁, means 'serene and virtuous', wishing him a long and serene life (The Japan Times 13 Sept. 2006; China Daily 13 Sept. 2006, 6). As can be seen from the corpus, the character 悠 is used in male names mainly to express the name givers' aspiration that their child can enjoy a stress-free life at his own pace.

- (34) *Parents named their son born in 2011 悠史 Hisafumi (悠 + 'history, chronicle') so that he would have a carefree life.*

*Other parents named their son born in 2013 悠真 Haruma (悠 + 'upright, honest'), wishing him to be a child living in comfort, free from worldly cares.*

## 雅

The Japanese (*kun*) reading of the character 雅 is *miyabi*, which is one of the traditional Japanese aesthetic ideals. In male names it is used for the meaning 雅やか *miyabiyaka*, i.e. 'graceful, refined and elegant' and also for the feeling of tradition and Japanese-style.

- (35) *Parents named their son born in 2011 大雅 Taiga to grow up to become a big (大), cultivated and elegant (雅) man.*

*Other parents named their son born the same year 桜雅 Ōga ('sakura' + 雅) [...]. They liked the character 雅 because of its meaning 'cultivated and elegant' and also for expressing the ancient ideal of miyabi.*

## 仁

The character 仁 was used in traditional male names expressing the Confucian values – humanity, virtue and benevolence. In current names it usually describes 'a kind and empathetic person'. This *kanji* has been traditionally used in the male names of the Imperial family (see Ōtō 2012, 68). Similarly to the character 悠, the popularity of this *kanji* in recent years might also be partially attributed to the birth of Prince Hisahito.

- (36) *Parents named their son born in 2008 頼仁 Raito ('reliable, trustworthy' + 仁). They wanted to use the character 仁 just as they had in their older son's name, meaning 'a person with an empathetic heart' [...].*

*Other parents named their son born in 2010 陽仁 Haruhito ('sun' + 仁). They liked the sound as well as the *kanji*, through which they expressed their hope that he would become a cheerful (陽) and upright man, kind-hearted and considerate of other people (仁).*

## 朗

The character 朗 is used almost exclusively as an end character. It is chosen by those who like traditional, easy-to-read and manly-sounding names ending in *rō* and prefer this character over the more frequent 郎 ('son') for its meaning 朗らか *hogaraka* 'cheerful, merry'.

- (37) *Parents named their son born in 2008 一朗 Ichirō. They looked for a simple name that would include the character 一 ('one, first'). They decided for 朗, wishing their son to grow up to be a positive and cheerful boy. [...]*

*Other parents named their son born in 2010 太朗 Tarō ('big around, grand' + 朗). They wanted a name that anyone would be able to read at first glance and they included in it their wish for him to have a merry life.*

*A couple named their son born in 2012 広太朗 Kōtarō ('wide' + 'big around, grand' + 朗), wishing him to grow up to be a broad-minded (広), strong (太) and cheerful (朗) boy.*

## 平

Similarly to the previous *kanji*, 平 ('even, flat, peace') is also used mainly as an end character, and is usually chosen by those who prefer a traditional, old-style, and easy-to-read name. It describes a person of a calm, peaceful and also just (upright) nature (38a). As illustrated in (38b) 平 also stands for 平和 'peace' (see also 和 below).

### (38)

- a. *Parents named their son born in 2010 匠平 Shōhei ('artisan, workman, carpenter' + 平) [...], wishing him to become a man who can take care of himself (匠) and who can get along with everyone peacefully (平).*

*Other parents named their son born in 2011 航平 Kōhei ('navigate, sail, cruise' + 平), wishing him to have a peaceful life like a ship sailing on a calm sea.*

*A couple named their son born in 2014 一平 Ippei ('first' + 平). The first character comes from the names of both grandparents, the father and older daughter, and the second expresses their wish for him to become a peaceful person.*

- b. *Parents named their son born in 2011 考平 Kōhei ('consider, think over' + 平). The year he was born various disasters and violent incidents occurred world-wide and so they included in the name a wish for him to grow up to be a boy who always thinks of peace.*

## 志

The character 志 is used mainly in male names for its meanings 'will, intention, ambition and aspiration'. It describes a person who has an aim, who has hopes and ambitions for the future.

- (39) *Parents named their son born in 2009 志和 Yukikazu, wishing him to grow up to be ambitious (志) and in harmony (和) with everyone.*

*A couple named their son born in 2012 志希 Shiki. They included in the name a wish for him to have an aim (志), aspirations and hopes (希), and*

*to have a colorful life like the four seasons of the year (also pronounced shiki).*

*Another couple named their son born in 2014 優志 Yūshi. They wanted to use the character 志 regardless of whether a boy or a girl was born. They included in his name their wish for him to grow up to be a kind (優) person, who has an aim and pursues it.*

## 幸

The character 幸 means ‘happiness’, ‘blessing’ and ‘fortune’. In the past it was used in both male and female names, and especially the female name 幸子 Yukiko/Sachiko was very popular for a long time. Currently it can be found more frequently in male names. It usually expresses a wish for the child to have a happy life, to be happy, and also to make other people happy.

- (40) *Parents named their son born in 2010 幸樹 Kōki (幸 + ‘tree’). They really wanted to use in the name the character 幸 from the father’s name to express their wish for their son to become happy, and also to express their feelings of gratitude for making the whole family happy by his existence. A couple named their son born in 2013 真幸 Masaki, wishing him to grow up to be an honest (真) and happy (幸) man who can make other people happy as well.*

## 健

The last character mentioned in this section, 健, has been traditionally used in male names, and still ranks among the most frequently used kanji. It is used mostly for the meanings 健康 (*kenkō* ‘health, healthy’) and also 健やか (*sukoyaka* ‘healthy, vigorous’).

- (41) *Parents named their son born in 2009 健迅 Kenshin. They chose the mother’s favorite kanji 健 and father’s favorite kanji 迅 (‘swift, fast’), wishing him to be healthy and be quick thinking (be bright). The moment they saw their son, born in 2012, a couple decided for the name 健生 Kei, in spite of having already decided on a different name, wishing him to live (生) in good health (健).*

### 4.1.2 *Kanji* used in female names

The fifty most frequently used *kanji* in female names in the corpus contain seven that express physical appearance and/or personal qualities, feelings and emotions: 愛 ('love'), 美, 佳, 那 ('beautiful'), 凜 ('cold, dignified'), 明 ('cheerful') and 夢 ('dream'). Their frequency shows a similar pattern as *kanji* used in male names. The first two are the most frequently used *kanji* in this category and in female names in general, amounting to 8.7 % and 6.3 %, respectively. The other five characters are much less frequent, ranking 34<sup>th</sup> to 49<sup>th</sup>, i.e. 1.4–1.0 %.

#### 愛

The most frequent *kanji* in female names, 愛, expresses 'love', 'affection'. It became popular in the 1980s when, according to the Meiji Yasuda survey, the single-*kanji* name 愛 *Ai* ranked first repeatedly for several consecutive years (see Appendix 1). Parents who choose this character for their daughter wish her to become a loving, affectionate person who will be loved by others (42a). As demonstrated by (42b), for some parents this *kanji*, included in the name, symbolizes that their offspring is a result of their mutual love. It occasionally appears in current male names as well, although with much lower frequency.

(42)

- a. *Parents named their daughter born in 2008 心愛 Kokoa. They included in the name their wish for her to become a beloved (愛) girl who would love (愛) others from her heart (心).*

*Other parents named their daughter born in 2014 桜愛 Hana so that she would be as loved (愛) by everyone as the sakura (桜).*

- b. *A couple named their daughter born in 2013 結愛 Yua to express that their daughter created a bond (結) of love (愛) between them.*

#### 美

The second most frequently used *kanji* in female names, 美, means 'beauty, beautiful'. It achieved great popularity in the 1960s (see 2.2.2 and 2.3.4), and the tradition of using a character from the mother's or grandmother's name for the baby girl contributes to its ongoing popularity. 美 usually refers direct-

ly to the beauty of the name-bearer herself (43a), or creates an image in combination with another *kanji* (e.g., ‘pretty as the moon’ 月の様に美しく → 美月 *Mitsuki*). Interestingly, the stated reasons for the choice of this *kanji* refer less often to external beauty than to internal, spiritual beauty (43b). It alludes to many other things as well, such as a beautiful future, as found in 美来 *Miku* (‘beautiful future’), 明日美 *Asumi* (‘the beauty of tomorrow’), 美羽 *Miu* (‘beautiful wings’, i.e. beautiful future), etc.

(43)

- a. *Parents named their daughter born in 2008 美海 Miu (美 + ‘sea’) [...] wishing her to become a beautiful (美) girl with a heart as big as the sea (海).*
- b. *Other parents named their daughter born in 2014 友美 Tomomi, wishing her to make lots of friends (友) and become a girl with a beautiful (美) heart.*

## 佳, 那

The characters 佳 and 那 are also used in female names for the meaning ‘beautiful’ and, as in the case of the more frequent character 美, they refer to both physical appearance and personal qualities (44a). In some names the second *kanji*, 那, also stands for 那覇 *Naha* – the capital city of Okinawa Prefecture (44b). As will be further explained in connection with the character 琉 in 4.2.3, Okinawa (representative of romance and fond memories) is a popular motif in both male and female names.

(44)

- a. *Parents named their daughter born in 2011 暖佳 Nonoka (‘warm’ + 佳), wishing her to become a beautiful (佳), warm-hearted (暖) person [...]. Other parents named their daughter born in the same year 麗那 Rina. They wanted a feminine name as she was their first girl after two boys. Both characters mean ‘beautiful, pretty’, and express the parents’ wish for her to be beautiful not only in her appearance but also in her heart.*
- b. *After long hesitation a couple named their daughter born in 2012 梨那 Rina. They looked for *kanji* to match their chosen reading. The first character expresses their wish for her to become as pretty as a pear (梨) and the second character will always remind them of their honeymoon in *Naha* (那覇) in Okinawa.*

## 凜

A different kind of beauty is expressed by the character 凜 ('cold'). It is used to mean '凜とした *rin to shita*', which seems to describe a woman of cool, elegant beauty, who is serene and dignified, capable and reliable (45a). In some names the *kanji* is associated with winter (45b).

(45)

- a. *Parents named their daughter born in 2008 凜音 Rio (凜 + 'sound'). In the character 凜 they included their wish for her to become a girl with her own will/opinions and a strong mind. They chose the character 音 for its gentle and soft image.*

*Parents named their daughter born in 2014 凜花 Rinka, wishing her to become a capable, dignified (凜) woman, pretty as a flower (花).*

- b. *Parents named their daughter born in 2008 凜 Rin. They liked the sound, and the kanji was perfect for the winter season when she was born.*

## 明

The character 明 has been traditionally used in both male and female names. In the 1940s and 1950s the male name 明 *Akira* and in the 1960s the female name 明美 *Akemi* were quite popular. Currently 明 is among the top fifty only in female names. It is used mainly for its meaning 明るい *akarui*, 'cheerful' (46a), but in combination with 日, in names such as 明日香 / 明日奏 / 明日榎 / 明日海 *Asuka*, 明日美 *Asumi* and 明日菜 *Asuna*, it means 'tomorrow' (46b).

(46)

- a. *Parents named their daughter born in 2009 明愛 Mei so that she would have a cheerful disposition (明) and be loved (愛) by everyone.*
- b. *Parents named their daughter born in 2014 明日香 Asuka ('tomorrow' + 'fragrance, scent'). As she was born prematurely, they included in the name a wish for her to grow up to be a strong and positive girl who always heads for tomorrow.*

## 夢

The last character mentioned in this section means 'dream', and as illustrated by the examples in (47), it is used to describe a person who has dreams,

aspirations, ambitions and ideals. It can be found in both male and female names, but ranks among the fifty most frequent *kanji* only in female names.

(47) Parents named their daughter born in 2009 未夢 *Miyu*, wishing her to have many dreams (夢) for her future (未来).

A couple named their daughter born in 2010 夢 *Nozomi*. The reading does not correspond with the *kanji*. The reading *Nozomi* means ‘wish’ or ‘desire’, so together the graphic and phonological form express the wish for her to become a big person who has dreams and hopes.

Other parents named their daughter born the same year 咲夢 *Sakura*, wishing her to have her dreams (夢) come true (咲, lit. ‘bloom’).

A couple named their daughter born in 2011 亜夢 *Amu* [...], wishing her to have dreams (夢) as big as Asia (亜).

### 4.1.3 *Kanji* used in both male and female names

Unlike the previous *kanji* that were typical of either male or female names, the following several characters can be found among the fifty most frequently used male as well as female names, revealing qualities that contemporary society desires in both sexes. Organized according to their total occurrence in all names, they are 優 (3<sup>rd</sup>), 希 (5<sup>th</sup>), 真 (9<sup>th</sup>), 心 (11<sup>th</sup>) and 和 (28<sup>th</sup>). The characters 優 (‘tender, kind, gentle-mannered’), 希 (‘hope, wish, aspiration’), 心 (‘heart, mind, spirit’) are more frequent in female names, whereas the remaining two characters, 真 (‘upright, honest’) and 和 (‘harmony, peace’) are slightly more frequent in male names.

#### 優

The character 優 is the seventh most frequent *kanji* in female names (4.7 %), but in recent years has become quite popular in male names as well (2.8 %). In both male and female names it is used for its meaning 優しい *yasashii*, i.e. ‘tender, affectionate’, ‘kind(-hearted)’ and ‘gentle(-mannered)’. Judging from the popularity of male names evoking human greatness and magnificence, it could be expected that in male names the character 優 would also stand for 優れた (*sugureta*, ‘excellent, outstanding’), thus evoking an image of a great man with a kind heart. However, as evidenced by the corpus, in currently bestowed male names the character 優 is used almost exclusively

for the meaning *yasashii* (48a), the meaning *sugureta* being seldom mentioned (48b). The popularity of this *kanji* results not only from its meaning but also from its reading *yu/yū* which is perceived as nice, soft-sounding and relaxing – simply “*yasashii*”.

(48)

- a. *Parents named their daughter born in 2013 優 Yū, wishing her to become a tender and kind-hearted girl.*

*Other parents named their son born in 2008 優太 Yūta. At present, when various violent incidents are reported almost daily, they expressed their hope for him to grow up to be a kind (優) person who would understand other people's troubles, and who would have inner strength (太).*

*A couple named their son born in 2010 優輝 Yūki (優 + ‘to shine, glitter’). The name includes the parents’ wish for him to be always kind and smiling. The character 優 comes from the father’s name as the mother wished he would inherit his father’s nice features. It does not stand for 優秀 (yūshū, ‘excellent’) but for 優しい (yasashii, ‘kind and affectionate’).*

- b. *Parents named their son born in 2008 優太 Yūta (優 + ‘big around, grand’) so that he would excel in everything. But first of all to grow to be a kind, empathetic person.*

## 希

The character 希 appears in 3.5 % of female (12<sup>th</sup> most frequent) and 2.8 % of male names (9<sup>th</sup> most frequent). It stands for 希望 ‘hope, wish, aspiration’, describing a person who has hopes, dreams and aspirations for the future (49a). Its use is motivated in a similar way as the use of the character 夢 (‘dream’), which is more frequent in female names, and 志 (‘ambition, aspiration’), which is more frequent in male names. Some parents also include the character 希 in the name to express that the child is the fulfillment of their hopes (49b).

(49)

- a. *Parents named their son born in 2009 俊希 Shunki (‘excellent, talented’ + 希), wishing him to become a child with a big heart who always looks ahead and has dreams and aspirations.*

A mother from Sendai was in her last month of pregnancy staying at her parents' house in Sapporo when the Great Tōhoku earthquake (2011) occurred. Together with her husband they included in the name of their son 'hope for the future' (未来への希望) and named him 来希 Raiki.

Parents named their daughter born in 2008 優希 Yūki to grow up to be a person who is kind (優) to everyone and has hopes, dreams (希).

- b. A couple named their son, who was finally born after 11 years of marriage [...], 光希 Kōki to express that he was their desired child, their "light" (光) and "wish" (希) and also to wish him a shining (光) life filled with hope (希).

## 真

The character 真 is slightly more frequent in male names, in which it is used as a favorite end character, than in female names (2.1 % vs. 1.9 %, 17<sup>th</sup> vs. 26<sup>th</sup> most frequent). In both male and female names it usually stands for 真つすぐ *massugu*, which means 'straight, straightforward' and also 'upright' and 'honest' (50a). In addition, as demonstrated by (50b) and (50c), it also stands for sincerity and devotion (真心 *magokoro*), and truth (真実 *shinjitsu*).

### (50)

- a. Parents named their son born in 2008 逞真 Takuma so that he would grow up to be a strong, sturdy (逞) and upright/honest child (真).
- b. A couple named their daughter born in 2014 真帆 Maho (真 + 'sail, sailing boat'), wishing her to grow up to be a sincere girl [...].
- c. Parents named their son born in 2011 和真 Kazuma ('harmony, peace' + 真) [...]. The first character, 和, includes their wish for him to live in a peaceful period and the second one, 真, to become a truthful, honest person.

## 心

The character 心 means 'heart, mind, spirit'. It started appearing in female names at the end of the last century and quickly gained popularity (Makino 2012, 87). It is the 8<sup>th</sup> most frequent kanji, appearing in 4.6 % of female names in the corpus. As illustrated in (51a), it stands for various qualities that are expressed by phrases utilizing this character. The most frequent one

is 心の優しい *kokoro no yasashii* ‘kind-hearted, tender-hearted’, and others include 心の温かい *kokoro no atatakai* ‘warm-hearted, kind-hearted’, 心の綺麗な *kokoro no kireina* ‘having a pure heart/ beautiful soul’ and less frequently also 心が広い *kokoro ga hiroi* ‘generous, broad-minded, liberal, tolerant, big-hearted’. Although with a much lower frequency, this *kanji* also appears in current male names (1.2%, 34<sup>th</sup> most frequent) symbolizing a kind, empathetic person who understands other people’s feelings (51b).

(51)

- a. *Parents named their daughter born in 2013 心美 Kokomi (心 + ‘beautiful’), wishing for her to become a kind girl with a beautiful heart [...].*

*Other parents named their daughter born in 2014 心陽 Koharu (心 + ‘sun’) so that she would become a kind and warm-hearted girl.*

*A mother chose for her daughter born in 2014 the name 心海 Kokomi (心 + ‘sea’). The main motivation for the selection of these *kanji* was her wish for her not to become narrow-minded like her father. In the *kanji* used she included her wish for her to have a big heart and broad mind like the sea.*

- b. *Parents named their son born in 2008 逞心 Takumi (‘strong’ + 心). They wanted a name containing the character 心 through which they could express their hope for him to become an empathetic, kind-hearted and caring person [...].*

*A couple named their son born in 2010 謙心 Kenshin (‘modest’ + 心). The name comes from their wish for him to grow up to be an honest, empathetic and caring person with a modest mind.*

## 和

The last *kanji* in this category that ranks among the fifty most popular characters in both male and female names (1.8%, 23<sup>rd</sup> most frequent and 1.5%, 32<sup>nd</sup> most frequent) is the character 和. It means ‘harmony’, ‘peace’ and also ‘Japan, Japanese-style’. As mentioned in 2.3.3 and 2.3.4, this character was very popular in both male and female names during the Shōwa period, when it was used to represent the era (昭和), peace and harmony. The motif of peace was especially strong during and after the Second World War. As illustrated by examples in (52a), in current names it usually describes a person who has a mild, calm and gentle character (和やか *nagoyaka*) and

cherishes harmony in human relationships. In some (especially male) names it refers to living in a peaceful period (52b). It is more frequently chosen by those who prefer a traditional, Japanese-style name or wish to express their identity and fondness of being Japanese (52c).

(52)

- a. *Parents named their daughter born in 2008 和 Nodoka. They are both short-tempered and start to quarrel easily and so they chose this name wishing at least for their daughter to grow up to be a calm, gentle and kind girl.*

*Other parents named their daughter born in 2010 陽和 Hiyori ('sun' + 和), hoping that she would become a girl cheerful and shining like the sun, who would cherish harmonious relationships, be empathetic and get along with everyone.*

- b. *Parents named their son born in 2008 和志 Kazushi (和 + 'intention'). They included in his name their wish for him to become a man who strives for peace.*

*Other parents named their son born in 2011 和真 Kazuma (和 + 'honest'). In recent years there had been a great deal of negative news about terrorism, earthquake and other catastrophes and so they included in the name a wish for him to grow up in a peaceful (和) period [...].*

- c. *Parents named their son born in 2010 奏和 Sōwa ('to play an instrument, succeed, accomplish + 和). 奏 includes their wish for him to become a person who cares for harmonious relationship with people, with the environment. 和 comes from his grandfather's and grandmother's names (和夫 Kazuo, 和美 Kazumi) and includes a wish for him to be proud of being Japanese.*

*Parents named their son born in 2012 大和 Yamato. The father had always wanted this name for his son. It is very Japanese<sup>58</sup> and contains the father's wish for him to become a big (大) personality.*

As can be seen from the above text, some of the *kanji* describing human qualities are the most frequent *kanji* used in male and female names, providing a basic idea about what qualities are desired by the current generation of parents. A summary of the particular qualities will be provided in Chapter

<sup>58</sup> *Yamato* refers to ancient Japan.

Five together with a summary of the following two sections, as it is expected that the *kanji* presented in different categories might be just different means for expressing similar qualities, hopes and aspirations for the name-bearer.

## 4.2 *Kanji* related to the natural world

One of the most significant features of current names is utilizing *kanji* signifying nature. This largest category can be further subdivided into the following categories: plants, animals, gemstones, the sky and heavenly bodies, the landscape, and the weather and seasons of the year.

### 4.2.1 Plants and their parts

The largest category of *kanji* used in current female names are *kanji* signifying plants (trees and flowers) and their parts (a bud, a leaf, fruit), or a related characteristic (fragrance, blooming, etc.). These motifs are used in names to allude to commonly known associations with human appearance and character qualities ('pretty as a flower', 'pure as a pear blossom'), as well as for their less commonly known meanings in the so-called language of flowers, or *hanakotoba* in Japanese. In many cultures, plants are traditionally assigned symbolic meanings, which are derived from their appearance or behavior. Japanese *hanakotoba* has roots in the English language of flowers, which came to Japan from Victorian England at the beginning of the Meiji period (e.g., Higuchi 2004). As is evident from the corpus, when deciding which *kanji* to use in the name many name givers actually look up these symbolic meanings as well.

Plant related names are usually chosen "in season". Many plants are associated with a particular season or even a particular month when they are in bloom or bear fruit. As in Japanese poetry, which employs the so-called *kigo*, season words refer to a particular season.

The following section introduces the most frequent *kanji* appearing in currently bestowed names which signify plants, their parts, or various aspects. Although plant motifs are more typical in female names, they can be found in current male names as well. The characters 樹 ('tree') and 蓮 ('lotus') even rank 18<sup>th</sup> and 33<sup>rd</sup> among male names, and these two will be discussed first.

## 樹

The character 樹 is used mainly in male names for its association with growth: to grow up healthy, big, strong, sturdy and “upright” like a tree. As can be seen in (53), the *kanji* refers to both physical and character development. In many cases, however, it is used just as a *tomeji* (end character), without a deeper consideration of its meaning.

- (53) *Parents named their son born in 2012 樹己 Tatsuki (樹 + ‘self’). He was born early and was small so they chose for his name the character 樹 wishing him to grow up quickly and healthy like a tree [...].*

*When selecting a name for their son born in 2012 the parents were looking for a single-kanji three-mora name, which is a tradition in the father’s family. They chose the name 樹 Itsuki (‘tree’), which seemed perfect for an image of a healthy, big-hearted boy.*

*Another couple named their son born in 2013 樹生 Itsuki (樹 + ‘to live, life’) so that he would grow up upright and strong/sturdy like a tree.*

## 蓮

The lotus (蓮) is another plant found mainly in current male names. According to a survey by Meiji Yasuda, in 2011–2014 the name 蓮 *Ren* ranked among the top three most popular names (see Appendix 1). The lotus is a plant which blooms with beautiful pink flowers in spite of growing in muddy ponds. For this quality it is associated in male names with strength, powerfulness and ability to overcome difficulties.

- (54) *Parents named their son born in 2008 蓮斗 Rento (蓮 + ‘Big Dipper’), wishing him to be as strong as a lotus in any situation he finds himself in [...].*

*Other parents named their son born in 2010 蓮 Ren. The lotus is a plant growing in a pond. Through this image they included in the name their wish for their son to become a boy who will overcome various difficulties.*

*A couple named their son born in 2013 蓮星 Rensei (蓮 + ‘star’). Through the first character they included their wish for him to live strongly like the lotus flower, which eventually blooms beautifully even in a muddy pond [...].*

We will start the account of *kanji* used typically in female names with the characters 花 and 華, both of which signify a flower in general. *Kanji* signifying particular plants follow, organized by the frequency of occurrence in the corpus. These are 菜 ('rapeseed'), 莉 ('jasmine'), 桜 ('sakura'), 梨 ('pear'), 柚 ('yuzu'), 杏 ('apricot'), and 葵 ('hollyhock, sunflower'). The last part includes *kanji* signifying parts of plants, such as 芽 ('bud'), 葉 ('leaf'), 穗 ('ear/head of a plant') and other *kanji* related to this theme, such as 実 ('crop, harvest, fruit'), 咲 ('to blossom, bloom') and 香 ('fragrance, scent, aroma, perfume').

## 花

The character 花 includes the following meanings: 'flower', 'blossom', 'beautiful and gorgeous thing'. Flowers are generally associated with beauty and femininity, they bring people joy and express love and other feelings. These are also the most frequent associations that can be found in female names: 'to be pretty/adorable as a flower', 'to make people happy as flowers do', 'to be loved like a flower', etc.

(55) *Parents named their daughter born in 2008 唯花 Yuika, meaning 唯一の花 'a unique/the only flower', wishing for her to grow up to be a girl who is adorable, pretty and kind like a flower.*

*Other parents named their daughter born in 2010 帆花 Honoka ('sail, sailing boat' + 花), wishing her to grow up to be a girl with a heart beautiful like a flower (花).*

## 華

This *kanji* is used for the same sound as the previous one, but it appears less frequently in names. In addition to 'flower' (*hana*), it also means 'splendid, ostentatious, gorgeous' (*hanayaka*). Both these meanings appear in the names.

(56)

a. *Parents named their daughter born in 2008 似華 Nika ('resemble' + 華) so that she would be pretty and loved by everyone like a flower.*

*Other parents named their daughter born in 2008 冬華 Fuyuka, a winter (冬) born flower (華).*

- b. *Another couple named their daughter born in 2008 姫華 Himeka. As she was their first child, a daughter, they wished her to become as gorgeously (華) as a princess (姫).*

The following characters signify particular trees and flowers. They are used in names for the above-mentioned general associations and images and also for specific ones related to the particular plant and its characteristics.

## 菜

The third most frequent *kanji* in the corpus of current Japanese female names, and the most frequent one related to plants, is the character 菜 ('greens, vegetables'). As can be seen from the explanations listed in the corpus, it is mostly used in names for the meaning 菜の花 (*na no hana*, 'rapeseed blossom'). This may be surprising, considering that in many cultures this plant is known and cultivated merely for its oil-rich seed, as an important source of vegetable oil, and, at least in the author's country, is more than anything else associated with its unpleasant smell and allergies to its pollen. In Japan, however, this plant is used also as a seasonal vegetable, and has a cultural symbolism. For example, in poetry (*haiku*) it is used as a season word (*kigo*) for spring, and it can also be found in some songs and even names of dishes, whose arrangement resembles this plant. For its contrast of fresh green and bright yellow it is associated with cheerfulness and energetic character in the Japanese language of flowers, as well as abundance and fortune. In the corpus it also appears for associations such as 'adorable as rapeseed blossoms', 'grow quickly and healthy as rapeseed'. A more pragmatic reason for such a wide-spread popularity of this *kanji* is the fact that after the decline of names ending in *ko* in the 1980s, names ending in *ka* and *na* became very fashionable.

- (57) *Parents named their daughter born in 2010 菜子 Nako (菜 + 'girl, child'). Inspired by the image of just blossoming rapeseed – yellow and adorable, bringing energy to everyone, they included in the name their wish for her to become a warm-hearted girl who would make others feel good.*

*Another set of parents named their daughter born in 2010 菜結 Nayu (菜 + 'to link, connect, bind'). The first character includes their wish for her to grow up to be a bright and energetic girl like the rapeseed in*

*the spring, the second to become a kind girl who would connect people's hearts.*

*A couple named their daughter born in 2012 咲菜 Sana ('to bloom' + 菜). They wanted a good-sounding name consisting of simple kanji, as their surname has a lot of strokes. They chose 菜 because it was the season of blooming rapeseed, and included in her name their wish for her to be energetic and blooming beautifully like rapeseed.*

## 莉

One of the most popular plants used in current female names is 茉莉花 *matsurika* (*Jasminum sambac*), in English known as Arabian jasmine (in Japanese also *jasumin*). These attractive and sweetly fragrant flowers, blossoming in the summer, refer to both human appearance – cute, pretty, lovely and charming like a jasmine flower – and qualities – pure-hearted, graceful, refined, sensual and amiable.

(58) Parents named their daughter born in 2008 陽莉 Himari wishing her to shine brightly to everyone like the sun (陽) and be loved by everyone like the fragrance of jasmine blossoms (莉).

*Other parents named their daughter born in 2010 莉緒 Rio (莉 + 'cord, strap, string'). The father placed an emphasis on the number of strokes, while the mother wanted to include 糸 after herself and their older daughter. The name 莉緒 satisfied these conditions and moreover, jasmine was just in bloom. When they found out that in the language of flowers it meant 'lovely' and 'refined' they thought it perfect.*

*A couple named their daughter born in 2014 莉子 Riko (莉 + 'girl, child'). The first character comes from 茉莉花 ('jasmine') and in the language of flowers means 'lovely, cute', 'mild, harmonious' and 'charming, pleasant'. They included in the name their wish for her to grow up to be a charming, pleasant girl who would be loved by others and who would make people around her happy.*

In addition to the character 莉, which is the 10<sup>th</sup> most frequent character used in female names, the character 茉 from the above-mentioned compound 茉莉花 ('jasmine') is also used in names with the same meaning as 莉, though not as frequently. They both were added to the list of characters

permitted for use in names (*Jinmeiyō kanji*) relatively recently, in 1981, which might also partially explain their current popularity.

## 桜

Probably the most traditional Japanese tree, associated with spring, is the sakura, 桜. Cherry-blossoms have been an object of rich symbolism in various areas and given names are not an exception. The small white or pink flowers symbolize kindness, gentleness, physical as well as spiritual beauty (grace, refinement and elegance). It also appears in connection with strength: ‘strong and beautiful like the sakura’, referring to the fact that one type of this tree, winter sakura, blossoms even in winter. Another motivation for the use of this *kanji* in names is that cherry blossoms symbolize Japan and its traditions. The old version of the character, 櫻, can be found in current names as well, although with much lower occurrence. As the two examples in (59) illustrate, in combination with another *kanji*, it can create quite poetic images.

(59) *When selecting a name for their second daughter born in 2008, the parents decided to include in it some blossom associated with the season of her birth, as in the case of their first daughter who was born in March and whom they named 桃花 Momoka (‘peach’ + ‘flower, blossom’). As their second daughter was born in April, they chose 桜 and named her 舞桜 Mao (‘dancing’ + 桜). Through the image of the fleeting moment of pretty, pink petals of cherry blossoms dancing in the air, they included in the name their wish for her to grow up to a gentle, kind and adorable girl.*

*A couple named their daughter born in 2010 里桜 Rio (‘hometown, parent’s home’ + 桜) creating an image of a sakura tree blossoming in one’s hometown.*

*Sakura* is also frequently expressed through the phonological form of names, while the *kanji* represent different meanings. All the following names are *Sakura*: 咲良 (‘to blossom’ + ‘good’), 咲来 / 咲來 (‘to blossom’ + ‘to come, future’), 咲空 (‘to blossom’ + ‘sky’), 咲花 (‘to blossom’ + ‘flower’), 咲夢 (‘to blossom’ + ‘dream’), 咲礼 (‘to blossom’ + ‘thanks’), 紗玖良 (‘light silk’ + ‘beautiful black jewel’ + ‘good’). *Sakura* written in *hiragana* is one of the most popular names.

## 梨

The pear tree (in Japanese *nashi*) is yet another tree blossoming in the spring. According to the language of flowers, pear blossoms symbolize affection, charity and benevolence. Because of their white color they are associated in the names with both physical appearance (pretty white face) and character qualities – pure, genuine, beautiful heart, a kind and loving person who is also loved by other people (60a). This *kanji* is used not only for its association with spring (blossoms) but is also used as one of the season words symbolizing fall (60b), the harvest time of its abundant fruit, which further alludes to a productive life (60c). Many current names including the character 梨 are, however, *ateji*; the main motivation for the use of this *kanji* is the sound it represents, *ri*.

(60)

- a. *Parents named their daughter born in 2010 梨々花 Ririka so that she would grow up to be a girl pretty and pure as a small white pear (梨) blossom (花) [...].*

*Parents named their daughter born in 2012 汐梨 Shiori ('tide, current' + 梨). They included in the name their wish for her to become shiorashii ('meek, gentle, modest, sweet') and forever stay pure, fresh and youthful as a pear, which may look plain at first sight but is fresh and juicy when cut in half.*

- b. *Other parents named their daughter born in 2011 梨奈 Rina (梨 + 'Nara'). The father came up with the reading and then the mother decided on the *kanji*. She chose the character 梨 to make an association with the season of her birth, which was fall. [...].*
- c. *Parents named their daughter born in 2010 梨央 Rio (梨 + 'center, middle'). They decided for the character 梨 so that she would have a fruitful life.*

## 柚

The pretty white blossoms of the citrus tree *yuzu* (柚子) symbolize summer, but the tree is also associated with fall and winter, when its aromatic fruit is in season. Various associations are also made due to its quality of being relatively frost-hardy, which is unusual among citrus plants. It is also associated with the winter solstice, when the fruit is traditionally placed into hot

baths for its fragrance and various health benefits. All this is reflected in the language of flowers in which it means ‘healthy’ and ‘beautiful’. The following examples illustrate the various motivations for the use of 柚 in names.

- (61) *When selecting a name for their daughter born in 2008, the mother wanted to use in the name her favorite character 花 (‘flower’) and the father liked the sound yūka. They looked for a suitable character [which would be read yū] and decided for 柚 (‘yuzu’). They found out that in the language of flowers the yuzu blossom means healthy and beautiful, which corresponded with their wish for their child and thus they named her 柚花 Yūka.*

*Parents named their daughter born in 2014 柚奈 Yuzuna (柚 + ‘Nara’). As it was a season when yuzu trees were in bloom they included this character in her name, wishing her to grow up pretty and healthy.*

*Another couple named their daughter born in 2014 柚香 Yuzuka (柚 + ‘fragrance’). One winter day they brought yuzu from their parents’ home and the fruit smelled so good that they wondered whether there was a person who would not like it. [...] In the language of flowers it means healthy and beautiful and so by the choice of this character they expressed their wish for their daughter to be loved by everyone and to grow up healthy and pretty.*

*Parents named their daughter born in 2012 柚步 Yuzuho (柚 + ‘to walk’). Yuzu is said to be tough in resisting the cold and to take eighteen years to yield its first harvest. Inspired by this they included in her name their wish for her to become a wonderful girl through her own efforts and at her own pace like the yuzu tree.*

## 杏

Similar to the character 梨, the character 杏 is also used both as a spring and fall season word. In the language of flowers it means ‘young lady’s shyness’, ‘timid love’ and ‘uncertainty’, but in names it is usually used in the meaning of ‘dear/adorable as apricot blossoms’ (62a). As can be seen from the list of names in Appendix 2, this *kanji* is used for its reading as *an*, creating foreign-sounding names, such as *An*, *Anju*, *Anna*, *Anri*, etc. The selection of the name *An* is also motivated, in addition to the popularity of the character 杏, by the popularity of the novel by L. M. Montgomery *Anne of Green Gables*. (62b) is one of several examples found in the corpus.

(62)

- a. *Parents decided to choose for their daughter a name that would reflect the season in which she was born, April. They looked up characters relating to spring and found two season words for April – 杏の花 ('apricot blossom') and 菜の花 ('rapeseed blossom'). Using these two season words they formed the name 杏菜 Anna, in which they included their wish for her to grow to be a girl adorable and kind like these two blossoms.*

*Other parents named their daughter born in 2010 杏梨 Anri (杏 + 'pear'). She was born in the fall and they wanted a name associated with this season of harvest and fruit.*

- b. *A couple chose for their daughter born in 2014 the name 杏 An, because it is easy to pronounce and sounds friendly. They included in the name their wish for her to become like Anne of Green Gables – a wonderful girl with a beautiful heart.*

## 葵

The last character signifying a particular plant that appears among the top fifty characters used in female names, 葵, represents (in names) two summer flowers: 立葵 *tachiaoi* ('hollyhock') (63a), and more frequently 向日葵 *himawari* ('sunflower') (63b). A common source of associations is their height and appearance ('to grow up quickly, healthy and upright like a hollyhock', 'to grow up facing the sun, looking up like a sunflower', 'to be cheerful and vital, with a smiling face like a sunflower/hollyhock').

(63)

- a. *A mother named her daughter born in 2012 葵琉 Aoi (葵 + 'gem, lapis lazuli') inspired by the hollyhock, which always makes her smile and cheers her up when she sees it. She included in the name her wish for her child to be kind to other people, cheer them up and make them smile [...].*

*Parents named their daughter born in 2013 葵衣 Aoi (葵 + 'garment'). They wanted a plant-related name like for their two older sons. She was born in June when the hollyhock blooms. They included in the name a wish for her to grow up adorable and upright like a hollyhock.*

- b. *Parents gave their daughter born in 2013 the name 陽葵 Himari ('sun' + 葵). They wanted to create an image of a sunflower, also because she was born in August. The image of a flower growing while basking in the sun*

*reflects their desire for their daughter to grow up to be a cheerful and upright child.*

*Another couple named their daughter born in 2014 葵夏 Aina (葵 + 'summer'). For a long time the father had wanted to use the kanji 葵, expressing the wish for his daughter to grow up quickly, healthy and upright like a sunflower. Through 夏 they wished for her to grow up energetic like the summer. Furthermore, the word aina, which they learned during their honeymoon in Hawaii, means 'to give life'.*

The characters listed above are the most frequent ones representing plants in names but many more kinds of plants, fruit and berries can be found in the corpus: 楓 ('maple tree'), 栂 ('fall foliage, birch, maple'), 梓 ('catalpa tree'), 椿 ('camellia'), 蘭 ('orchid'), 堇 ('violet'), 百合 ('lily'), 麻 ('flax'), 柊 ('holly'), 莓 ('strawberry'), 桃 ('peach'), to name only a few.

In addition to *kanji* signifying particular plants, there are also *kanji* representing various stages of a plant's growth, or otherwise related to plants, again creating various associations with human appearance, character and growth.

## 芽

The character 芽 means 'bud' and 'to sprout, spear'. As illustrated in (64), it is mainly used in names to mean 'to grow quickly and healthy like a bud', 'to grow up strong like a bud', 'to be vital, have life force like a bud', etc.

(64) *Parents named their daughter born in 2009 芽 Mei so that she would grow bigger and bigger like a tree bud [...].*

*Another couple named their daughter born in 2014 芽乃 Meno (芽 + possessive particle, 'namely, in the past') wishing for her to grow up strong and carefree like a bud [...].*

## 葉

The character 葉, 'leaf', is often used for the image of new green leaves: 'to be lively, full of life like new green leaves', 'to grow quickly like new green leaves' (65a), etc. It is also used in names of girls born in August, as 葉月 *hazuki* is an old term for the eighth month of the lunar calendar (65b), disregarding the discrepancy that the old Japanese calendar does not cor-

respond to the modern one. The name 葉月 *Hazuki / Hatsuki* gives the feeling of an old-style name.

(65)

- a. *Parents who enjoy outdoor activities and spending time in the mountains named their daughter, who was born in the spring (2009) when everything was sprouting, 瑞葉 Mizuha. They included in her name their wish for her to grow quickly and healthy like young, fresh (瑞) leaves (葉).*
- b. *Parents decided to name their daughter 葉月 Hazuki, after the name of the eighth month of the Japanese calendar, when she was expected to be born.*

## 穂

This character means ‘ear (head) of a plant’. In names it usually refers to an ear of rice 稻穂 (*inaho*). Rice is Japan’s staple food, with vast cultural and social meanings, influencing many aspects of their economic, social, and religious activities. A great number of superstitions and proverbs, customs and habits are related to the growth and consumption of rice. In female names, rice is used for various associations, such as, similar to the bud and the leaf, ‘to grow quickly and healthy’ (66a) and ‘to be strong like an ear of rice’. As illustrated in (66b), it also appears in names of girls born in the fall, at the time of the rice harvest, which is associated with a rich, fruitful life and prosperity. (66b) also shows another quality rice is associated with – modesty, which comes from the popular saying ‘Ears of rice bow deeply as they ripen’.

(66)

- a. *Parents named their daughter born in 2008 佳穂 Kaho (‘beautiful, pleasing’ + 穂), wishing her to grow up quickly and healthy to become a girl loved by everyone.*
- b. *Other parents named their daughter born in 2010 秋穂 Akiho (‘fall’ + 穂) so that she would live a productive life while remaining modest.*

## 実

The character 実 means ‘crop, harvest’ and the compound 果実 means ‘fruit’. Like the previous one, this *kanji* often appears in names of girls born in

the fall to symbolize a fruitful, productive life. Although before and after WWII the male name 実 *Minoru* was quite frequent, this *kanji* is fairly rare in recent male names.

(67) *Parents named their daughter born in 2012 実生 Miu (実 + 'be born') as she was born in September – the harvest season.*

*Parents named their daughter born in 2013 来実 Kurumi, including a wish that a large harvest (実) would come (来) to her life.*

*Parents named their daughter born in 2011 麻実 Asami so that she would grow strong like flax (麻) and have a fruitful (実), productive life.*

## 咲

The character 咲 means 'to blossom, bloom'. In names it is used in various ways: to create various images of blossoming flowers, referring to the name-bearer's appearance as well as character qualities (68a), but, as demonstrated in (68b), also to her success in life – 花を咲かせる (*hana o sakaseru*), literally 'to make flowers bloom', i.e. 'to become successful'. A frequent but not immediately obvious motivation for the use of this *kanji* in names is the meaning 'to smile', 'to laugh' (68c), which was represented by this *kanji* in old writing (currently the character 笑う is used instead).

(68)

- a. *Parents named their daughter born in 2014 Arisa 愛梨咲 so that she would grow up to be a girl with her heart as pure as the pure-white blooming (咲) pear (梨) blossoms, who would love (愛) other people and would be loved (愛) by everyone.*
- b. *Other parents named their daughter born in 2008 咲来 Sakura. In the characters they included their wish for her to become successful in her future life, literally to make flowers blossom (咲) in the future (未来). The name Sakura refers to the month she was born – April.*
- c. *A couple named their daughter born in 2008 海咲 Misaki so that she would grow big-hearted like the sea (海) and positive, making everyone smile (咲).*

*When selecting a name for their daughter born in 2009, parents first decided its reading – Sayu. Then they assigned the characters 咲友 to it, through which they included in her name the meaning 友と咲う, 'to*

*smile, laugh with one's friends' hoping that she would become a wonderful girl who understands her friends and other people.*

## 香

The last character described here, 香 ('fragrance, scent, aroma, perfume'), is usually associated with plants. It is considered very feminine and in many cases is selected because of its feminine impression and popular sound *ka*.

(69) *Parents named their daughter born in 2013 花香 Hanaka ('flower' + 香) because they wanted a Japanese-style name that would be easy to read. She was born in the spring so they chose the character 花, and added the character 香 to create an image of a girl who is as adorable as a flower scent [...].*

*Another couple named their daughter born in 2014 桧ノ香 Nonoka because they liked the pleasant and calming scent (香) of the Japanese cypress (桧).*

The *kanji* dealt with in this section are only the most frequent of the many related to plants used in current names, creating the largest semantic group in female names.

### 4.2.2 Animals and the zodiac

The fifty most frequent *kanji* used in male names in the corpus include three signifying animals: the dragon (mythological), the tiger and the horse. These animals are used in names for their characteristics which are a source of various associations. They are therefore classified here in the section of *kanji* related to the natural world, but at the same time their use is strongly motivated by their relationship with the signs of the zodiac, although the zodiac itself uses different *kanji*. It was pointed out in 2.3.1 that in the past *kanji* signifying or related to the signs of the Japanese zodiac were used in given names, especially male names, as a reminder of the year the child was born and also to symbolize the person's character. People born in a particular year were believed to possess the qualities of that year's animal, and this belief continues to the present day. Even at present each Japanese person is aware of the current year of the zodiac, and remembers the sign of the year

of their birth. Asking a person's zodiac sign even serves as an indirect way of finding out the other's age.

The corpus used for this work contains names from the years 2008–2014 which correspond to the Year of the Rat (子年, 2008), the Year of the Ox (丑年, 2009), the Year of the Tiger (寅年, 2010), the Year of the Rabbit (卯年, 2011), the Year of the Dragon (辰年, 2012), the Year of the Snake (巳年, 2013) and the Year of the Horse (午年, 2014). The corpus was checked for the presence of *kanji* representing these as well as the remaining animals/signs of the zodiac. The *kanji* searched included the characters representing the animal signs and also other characters used for writing down the particular animals. Only the Years of the Tiger, the Dragon and the Horse were more frequently reflected in the names. Moreover, they were mostly reflected in different *kanji* than those representing the signs. The appearance of the character 子 in female names cannot be attributed to a relation with the Year of the Rat, but, as was explained earlier, it is used as an end character with the meaning 'girl, child'. Only sporadic references to other years were made.

## 龍

龍 is one of the three *kanji* to express the word 'dragon'. A simplified version of this old-style *kanji*, included in *Jōyō kanji*, is 竜. When representing the sign of the zodiac, the character 辰 is used. The character 龍 was more frequent in names of boys born in 2012 – in the Year of the Dragon (42.3% of all appearances) when it was the primary motivation for its use (70b), but it can be found in names of boys born in other years as well. In contrast, the character 竜 appeared only in 10 names,<sup>59</sup> and almost exclusively in the Year of the Dragon. The character 辰 did not appear even once, although, as was shown in 2.3.1, it was used in male names in the past. Certain names are associated with the Year of the Dragon through their phonological form, as in (70c).

In addition to being a sign of the zodiac, the dragon is a familiar motif in Japanese art, architecture and also in popular culture (e.g., the successful manga series 'Dragon Ball', the videogame series 'Dragon Quest', etc.). It is used in male names to convey a feeling of manliness and strength (70a) and it is also selected by those who prefer traditional names.

<sup>59</sup> 竜 Ryū, 竜平 Ryūhei, 竜乃介 Ryūnosuke, 竜真 Ryūshin, 竜助 Ryūsuke, 竜大 Tatsuhiro, 竜希 Tatsuki, 竜臣 Tatsuomi, 竜俊 Tatsutoshi, 竜也 Tatsuya

(70)

- a. *Parents named their son born in 2008 龍登 Ryūto (龍 + ‘climb’). They included in the name their wish for him to become a strong boy climbing higher and higher like a dragon.*

*A couple named their son born in 2008 龍之介 Ryūnosuke, looking forward to him growing up to be a strong and sturdy boy who possesses the kind of hidden kindness unique to the dragon.*

- b. *Parents named their son Ryū 龍 since he was born in 2012 – the Year of the Dragon, just like his father and grandfather, thus linking the three generations.*
- c. *Parents named their son born in 2012 Tatsuya 達也 (‘accomplished’ + ‘to be’). In its phonological form they reflected the fact that he was born in the Year of the Dragon (tatsudoshi), but chose their favorite kanji.*

## 馬

The use of the character 馬 (‘horse’) in male names is likewise motivated by its relationship to the Year of the Horse (71a). In addition to this most frequent one, various other *kanji* with 馬 as a radical appeared in regard to the Year of the Horse, such as 駟 (駟 *Kakeru*), 駕 (亮駕 *Ryōga*) or 駿 (駿太郎 *Shuntarō*, 駿之介 *Shunnosuke*). The character 午, used when representing the sign of the zodiac, was not found in the corpus.

The motivations for the use of the character 馬 in male names include a combination of the favorite end sound *ma* and the qualities typical for this animal – strength and power. In some names the selection of the *kanji* also reflects the parents’, usually the father’s, fondness for horse racing (71b).

(71)

- a. *Parents named their son born in 2014 翔馬 Shōma (‘fly, soar’ + 馬). Their older child was born in the Year of the Dragon and they included in his name the character 龍 (‘dragon’), so for their younger son they were seeking a name that would contain 馬, reflecting that he was born in the Year of the Horse [...].*

*Another couple named their son born in 2014 悠馬 Yūma (‘calm, at ease’ + 馬) [...]. They wanted to include in the name their wish for him to grow up gentle and kind but strong inside. They hesitated between the kanji 樹 (‘tree’) and 馬 (‘horse’), which both symbolize strength. As his*

*birth was expected at the turn of 2013 and 2014, they waited with the final decision until his birth. He was born at the beginning of the Year of the Horse so they chose 馬.*

- b. *Parents named their son born in 2010 優馬 Yūma ('tender, kind, gentlemanly' + 馬) because the father loved horse racing and insisted on having the character 馬 in his son's name [...].*

## 虎

The character 虎 ('tiger') appears in slightly less than 1 % of male names in the corpus overall, and in 2.1 % of the names within the Year of the Tiger (2010). The character 寅, which represents the sign of the zodiac and which was used in the past, appeared in only two names, in 2010 (寅太 *Torata*, 寅之丞 *Toranosuke*). The tiger is also expressed, however, with the recently popular name *Taiga* (*taigā* – 'tiger'), written in various *kanji* combinations, such as, for example, 太克, 汰我 or 大我.

Similar to the dragon and the horse, the tiger is also associated with strength and provides a feeling of manliness (72a). Another strong motivation for the use of the character 虎 or the name *Taiga* is to make an association with the popular professional baseball team, the Hanshin Tigers (阪神タイガース, *Hanshin Taigāsu*) (72b).

(72)

- a. *Parents named their son 一虎 Itto ('first' + 虎) because he was born in January (一月) in the Year of the Tiger (2010). The name includes their wish for him to become a cool, strong boy.*
- b. *Parents named their son born in 2008 虎弥大 Koyata. The first character, 虎, stands for a fan of the Hanshin Tigers, 弥 for March (弥生), the month he was born, and the third character, 大, to grow to a big person [...].*

*Other parents named their son born in 2009 虎太朗 Kotarō. The father is a fan of the Hanshin Tigers and so insisted on including the character 虎 in the name. It also expresses their wish for him to become a sturdy and strong boy (太朗).*

As was shown in this section, the three animals that appear in current male names are used mainly for their association with the particular years they

symbolize and also for their physical qualities, mainly strength, associated with manliness. The dragon is more frequently included in names as a traditional feature, although references to manga can be found as well. The tiger and the horse reflect the contemporary popularity of baseball and horse-racing.

### 4.2.3 Gemstones

The most frequent characters used in current names include three signifying a precious stone, gem – 琉, 瑛 and 瑠. The first two appear among the top fifty characters used in male names (2.8 % and 1 % occurrence, ranking 13<sup>th</sup> and 39<sup>th</sup>), while the third one appears more frequently in female names (1.1 %, ranking 43<sup>rd</sup>), and occasionally in male names as well. The characters 琉 (‘precious stone, gem, lapis lazuli’) and 瑠 (‘lapis lazuli’) are part of the compounds 琉璃 / 瑠璃 (the latter is more common), which both mean ‘lapis lazuli’, a gemstone of a deep blue color (the second character of these compounds, 璃, can be found in names as well). The *kanji* 瑛 means ‘crystal’.

As demonstrated by examples in (73a), these characters are mainly used in names for the following association: a gem stone is a treasure → the child is a treasure. In addition, 瑠 is also used in female names to express beauty (‘pretty as a jewel’, ‘pretty as the azure blue’) (73b), while 瑛, for its transparent color, is used to express a pure heart, pure, honest character (73c).

An interesting and rather frequent motivation for the selection of the character 琉, illustrated in (73d), is its association with Okinawa, the largest island of the Ryūkyū Islands (琉球 *ryūkyū*). Okinawa is a popular destination for its beautiful blue sea and sky and in names is often referred to as to a birthplace of one of the parents, a honeymoon destination, a place the couple went for an unforgettable holiday, etc. (see also 那 in 4.1.2).

(73)

- a. *Parents named their son born in 2011 琉生 Rui to express that their treasure (琉) was born (生).*

*Other parents named their daughter born in 2012 瑠日 Ruka (瑠 + ‘sun, sunlight’). The first kanji comes from the word 瑠璃 (‘lapis lazuli’) and it means to them that their daughter is a genuine treasure for the entire family. The second kanji expresses their wish for her to have all days bright and shiny like the sun.*

- b. *A couple named their daughter born in 2008 瑠花 Ruka so that she would be pretty as a jewel (瑠) and adorable as a flower (花).*
- c. *Parents named their son born in 2013 瑛也 Akiya (瑛 + ‘to be’) so that he would have a heart as beautiful as a crystal (瑛) [...].*  
*Other parents named their son born in 2014 瑛真 Eishin to grow up to be a pure (瑛), honest (真) and obedient child.*
- d. *Parents named their son born in 2008 琉晴 Ryūsei. The character 琉 stands for 琉球 (Ryūkyū), and they chose it because the mother comes from Okinawa. They created an image of a warm, sunny (晴) Okinawan (琉) day through which they expressed their wish for their son to become a warm-hearted and strong man.*  
*Other parents named their son born in 2008 琉海 Ruka (琉 + ‘sea’) [...]. They included in the name their wish for him to have a heart as beautiful as the sea at Okinawa.*

#### 4.2.4 The sky and heavenly bodies

Another rather specific group of *kanji*, which began appearing more frequently in given names in the 1990s, are characters signifying the sky (空, 天), the universe (宇, 宙) and various heavenly bodies (陽, 日, 月, 斗, 星). Several of them can be found among the most frequently used *kanji*. 斗 (‘Big Dipper’) and 陽 (‘sun’) are even the 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> most frequently used *kanji* in male names, followed by 空 (‘sky’) at the 15<sup>th</sup> position. In female names characters listed in this category are of a lower occurrence: 陽 ranks 17<sup>th</sup>, 月 (‘moon’) 19<sup>th</sup>, and 空 and 日 (‘sun’) take 41<sup>st</sup> and 47<sup>th</sup> position, respectively.

#### 斗

The character 斗 is a favorite end *kanji*, used exclusively in male names. Although its meanings include ‘to’, a unit of volume, and ‘sake dipper’, its popularity in names is attributed to the meaning ‘Big Dipper’ (the constellation of seven stars), which is associated with manliness and also a bright, shining character.

(74) *Parents chose for the name of their son the character 斗 because he was born on the day of Tanabata [the Star Festival on 7 July or 7 August,*

depending on the area]. They included in the name 優斗 Yūto their wish for him to become a kind (優) and strong (斗) boy.

Other parents named their son born in 2009 遙斗 Haruto. 遙 ('far away, distant') stands for challenging distant opportunities, and 斗 includes their wish for him to become a big, shining boy like the stars of the Big Dipper.

A couple named their son born in 2013 晃斗 Akito ('bright, brilliant' + 斗) because they wanted a name that would be associated with the stars. In the name they included their wish for him to be liked by everyone, like the stars, and, just like them, to one day be a guide to others.

The character 星 ('star') is also used in names, both male and female, but with a much lower frequency than the character 斗.

## 月

The character 月 ('moon') appears in 2.4% of female names, and can be found in male names as well, although not among the fifty most frequent *kanji*. It is associated with beauty, refinement, positivity and also kindness (75a). An image of the moon is, just like an image of the sky (see below), a remembrance of the day or season of the child's birth (75b). The various explanations contained in the corpus concerning the motivation for the selection of this particular *kanji* evidence the deeply enrooted sensitivity of Japanese people towards nature and natural phenomena (75b, c).

(75)

- a. Parents named their daughter born in 2009 遙月 Hazuki ('far away, distant' + 月). They included in the name their wish for her to become a kind and tender girl like the moonlight.  
A couple named their daughter born in 2010 美月 Mizuki ('beautiful' + 月), wishing her to have a beautiful heart like the gently shining moon.
- b. Other parents gave the same name to their daughter born in 2011. They wanted a name that would contain the character 月 and since the night she was born the moon was impressively beautiful, they named her 美月 Mizuki – 'beautiful moon'.
- c. Parents named their daughter born in 2009 優月 Yuzuki ('tender, kind, gentle-mannered' + 月). The day she was born there was a total solar

*eclipse, which happens there once in a hundred years and so they associated it with the birth of their daughter.*

*Another set of parents named their daughter born in 2012 菜月 Natsuki ('rapeseed' + 月). The first character comes from the name of her older sister and the second one reflects the fact that she was born in the year of the "golden ring" (an almost total) solar eclipse.*

Interestingly, some male and female names are identical (e.g., 結月 / 優月 Yuzuki, 陽月 Hizuki), and some male names look more like female names, e.g., 月華 Runa (月 + 'flower') or 杏月 Atsuki ('apricot' + 月).

## 日

The *kanji* 日 ('sun, sunlight, 'day(s)') could be classified in various categories. It is included here as it is very often used for its meaning 'sun' (お日様). It appears mainly in female names and, like the more frequent *kanji* 陽, expresses a positive, cheerful and warm-hearted character (76a). Another reason for its selection is the meaning of the compound 明日, 'tomorrow, future' (76b).

(76)

- a. *Parents named their daughter born in 2008 日向 Hinata ('sunny place') so that she would become a warm-hearted girl.*

*Other parents named their daughter born in 2014 日菜 Hina, wishing her to be positive and cheerful like the sun (日) and adorable like the rapeseed flower (菜).*

- b. *Parents named their daughter born in 2008 明日美 Asumi ('tomorrow' + 'beautiful'), wishing her to have a beautiful future.*

*A couple named their daughter born in 2013 明日香 Asuka ('tomorrow' + 'fragrance') to have hopes for the future.*

## 陽

The character 陽 ('day(s)', 'sun, sunshine', 'yang, i.e. the positive', etc.) appears in both male (4.1%) and female (3.0%) names. It is used mainly for its associations with the sun (太陽), such as: 太陽みたいに明るくい/元氣 *taiyō mitai ni akarui/genki* 'to be positive (cheerful)/energetic like the sun' (77a), 太陽のように暖かく大きな心を持つ *taiyō no yō ni atatakaku*

*ōkina kokoro o motsu* ‘to have a big warm heart like the sun’, 輝 < *kagayaku* ‘to shine’, etc. It is also used in names for its association with summer (77b) and, as can be seen in (77c), through the reading *haru*, also with the spring (although ‘spring’ is written as 春). There does not seem to be any difference between male and female names in the motivation for the choice of this *kanji* or in its associations.

(77)

- a. *Parents named their daughter born in 2014 陽向 Hinata* (‘sun’ + ‘facing’) so that she would become a positive, cheerful girl.

*The same year another couple chose the same name, 陽向 Hinata* (‘sun’ + ‘facing’), for their son [...] so that he would grow up to be a positive, cheerful and healthy/energetic boy.

- b. *Parents named their boy born in 2010 陽大 Haruta* (陽 + ‘big, large, great’). Their main criterion was the number of strokes, and since he was born in the summer they wanted a name that would feel summer-like. Therefore they chose the character 陽 of 太陽 (‘sun’).

*Another couple named their daughter born in 2012 陽乃 Haruno* (陽 + possessive particle, ‘namely, in the past’) [...]. As she was born in the summer they decided to use the character 陽, which gives a warm impression. In the name they included their wish for her to be warm-hearted towards other people.

- c. *Parents named their daughter born in 2008 陽奈 Haruna* (陽 + ‘Nara’). She was born about ten days earlier than expected, so suddenly they had to think of a spring-like name. They both liked the sound of Haruna. In the characters they included their wish for her to become warm and healthy/energetic like the sun [...].

*Other parents named their son born in 2010 陽 Haru* because they wanted a spring-like name (*haru*, ‘spring’). They included in it their wish for him to become positive and cheerful like the sun.

## 空

The character 空 (‘sky’) appears in both male and female names, being more frequent in male names (2.3% vs. 1.1%, 15<sup>th</sup> vs. 41<sup>st</sup> most frequent). The sky evokes largeness, which in names usually symbolizes broad-mindedness and big-heartedness (78a). Another motivation for the use of this *kanji* in

names is, as illustrated in (78b), to create in combination with another *kanji* (a beautiful sky, a blue sky, a cloudless, sunny sky, etc.) a remembrance of the day the child was born.

(78)

- a. *Parents named their son born in 2011 力空 Riku so that he would be strong (力) and have a broad mind (big heart) like the sky (空).*

*Another couple named their daughter born the same year 優空 Yura so that she would become a kind (優), affectionate girl, with her heart as big as the sky (空).*

- b. *Parents named their daughter born in 2008 美空 Misora. It comes from 美しい空 'beautiful sky' and will always remind them of the day their daughter was born – a day during the rainy season when the weather cleared up and revealed a beautiful blue sky.*

*Other parents named their son born in 2013 璃空 Riku because he was born on a fine day when the sky was beautifully clear. The name comes from 瑠璃色の空 'sky of the color of lapis lazuli'. This deep-blue gemstone also symbolizes to them the preciousness of their son.*

#### 4.2.5 The landscape

The sky (see above), the sea and the land create a popular triad of motifs used in current names. For example, if the first-born child receives a *kanji* signifying the sky in the name, the parents have a tendency to choose for their next child a name featuring either the sea or the land, depending also on the child's gender.

#### 海

This *kanji* is similarly popular in male and female names (22<sup>nd</sup> most frequent in male and 27<sup>th</sup> most frequent in female names). In many names the character 海 ('sea') is used to express the parents' fondness for the sea or as an association with some event of which they have fond memories. The seaside is a place where many Japanese people grew up, live or work, where many go on a holiday (within Japan or abroad), for a honeymoon, where they met for the first time, etc. It is also used for the images it evokes, such as greatness, vastness, depth and also force and strength. In male names it is

used to create an image of a person who is big and strong, and in both male and female names it symbolizes a broad mind and big heart (i.e. a person who is broad-minded, big-hearted and generous). Through various images of a beautiful sea, a summer sea, a sea at sunset, etc. it is associated with a beautiful heart, especially for girls. The popular female name *Nanami* 七海 ('seven' + 海), in addition to creating an image of the summer sea, utilizes the figurative expression 'Seven Seas', from the phrase 'sail the Seven Seas', describing a sailor who has navigated all the oceans of the world, to express the above-mentioned qualities of broad-mindedness and big-heartedness and also capability.

(79) *Parents named their son born in 2009 海勢 Kaisei (海 + 'force, vigor, energy'). The father really wanted to use the first kanji, because he was so fond of the sea that he went fishing even just before the delivery. The kanji express the parents' wish for their son to become as strong as the sea. Moreover, the name is homophonous with the compound 快晴, meaning 'clear, cloudless sky', which also influenced their decision.*

*When deciding the name for their son born in 2008, 海 represented the Australian Gold Coast where they first met, and they named their child 海斗 Kaito (海 + 'Big Dipper'). They included in the name their wish for their son to grow up to be a big, strong, broad-minded and big-hearted boy.*

*Parents, who both love Hawaii, named their daughter born in 2014 海空 Mia (海 + 'sky') so that she would have a heart as big as the sea and sky [...].*

*A mother chose for her daughter born in 2012 the name 夕海 Yūmi ('evening' + 海), to always remember the moment at the seaside the father asked her to marry him. They included in the name their wish for their daughter to have a beautiful heart like the sea at sunset.*

## 陸

The variety of names containing the character 陸 ('land') is not all that large. It is used exclusively in male names, and almost half of its occurrence is in the single-kanji name 陸 *Riku*. This kanji is popular for its image of largeness, vastness, which in names represents the greatness of the human heart/mind, i.e. big-heartedness, generosity and broad-mindedness, and

also down-to-earthness. It also symbolizes manliness, physical strength and sturdiness.

(80) *Parents named their son born in 2008 陽陸 Hitachi ('sun' + 陸). Through the image of the sun rising from the land they included in the name their wish for their son to grow up to be a strong, broad-minded child.*

*Other parents named their child born in 2008 陸叶 Rikuto (陸 + 'to come true') to grow up to be a person with his heart/mind as big as the land (陸), whose dreams would come true (叶).*

*A couple named their child born in 2009 陸太 Rikuta (陸 + 'big around, grand'). The characters express their wish for him to become a grand, generous and broad-minded man who keeps his feet on the ground [...].*

#### 4.2.6 The weather and seasons of the year

As could be seen in the above sections, particularly in the section 4.2.1 Plants, the selection of a particular *kanji* is often motivated by the season of the year or a particular weather condition on the day the child was born, as certain plants, but also, for example, the sun and the moon, are associated with particular seasons or particular weather. Out of the four characters signifying the four seasons of the year, i.e. 春 ('spring'), 夏 ('summer'), 秋 ('fall') and 冬 ('winter'), only 夏 appears among the fifty most frequent characters – it ranks 18<sup>th</sup> (2.6 %) in female names. 春 can be found in both male and female names, but 秋 and 冬 are extremely rare in currently bestowed names. *Kanji* related to the weather include two that rank in male names among the most frequent characters. These are 颯 ('sudden, quick wind, sound of the wind') and 晴 ('clear up'), ranking 20<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup>.

#### 颯

The character 颯 is used almost exclusively in male names. For its above meanings it gives a feeling of freshness, fresh wind, creating an image of a strong person who goes through one's life like a fresh wind.

(81) *Parents named their son born in 2008 颯太 Sōta. The first character, 颯, expresses their wish for their son to become a strong and free child like the spring wind, and the second character, 太, they took from the word 太陽 ('sun') so that he would be cheerful and shining like the sun.*

*Other parents named their first son born in 2011 颯 Hayate so that he would grow up strong and sturdy and could withstand any wind.*

## 晴

The character 晴 is used mainly in male names for its meanings 晴れる *hareru* ‘to clear up, to be sunny’ and 晴れやか *hareyaka* ‘clear, bright, sunny’, and expresses a positive, cheerful character (82a) and a happy, carefree life (82b).

(82)

- a. *Parents named their son born in 2009 晴 Haru so that he would become a boy with a positive, cheerful mind.*

*Other parents named their son born the same year 晴天 Haruma (晴 + ‘sky, heavens’) so that he would be always positive and cheerful like a clear, sunny sky.*

- b. *Another set of parents named their son born in 2013 晴仁 Haruhito (晴 + ‘humane, benevolent’). ‘Haru’ comes from the name of his grandfather and the character 晴 they assigned to it expresses their wish for him to have a happy, carefree life.*

## 夏

As mentioned above, the only character signifying a season of the year that appears among the most frequent characters is 夏, which means ‘summer’. It is included especially in names of girls born in this season of the year and, similarly to the character 陽 ‘sun’, its use is also motivated by associations with a positive, cheerful and energetic character.

- (83) *Parents named their daughter born in 2008 夏希 Natsuki (夏 + ‘hope’). She was born in the summer so they chose for her name the character 夏, wishing her to become a child who is cheerful, positive and enjoyable like the summer, and brimming over with hope (希).*

*Another couple named their daughter born in 2014 葵夏 Aina. They included in the name a wish for her to grow up lively and upright like a sunflower (向日葵) and become healthy and energetic like the summer (夏) [...].*

### 4.3 Other groups and individual characters

This third section includes the remainder of the fifty most popular *kanji* in male names and of the fifty most popular *kanji* in female names, divided into several minor categories: light and radiance, sound, colors, numbers, cloth, flying and sailing, human activities and other *kanji*.

#### 4.3.1 Light, radiance

In 1926, at the beginning of the Shōwa period (昭和), the character 昭 ('shining, bright') became temporarily very popular in both male and female names. In current names this *kanji* is rarely used (only one out of the 8,386 names contained this *kanji*), perhaps for its "Shōwa look". The most frequent *kanji* used in current male names include three other *kanji* related to light and radiance: 輝 and 煌 (both meaning 'to shine, glitter, sparkle') and 光 ('light'), ranking 11<sup>th</sup>, 36<sup>th</sup> and 45<sup>th</sup>. 煌 was newly included in the list of *kanji* permitted for use in names in the largest extension of the *Jinmeiyō kanji* list, in 2004, as one of several *kanji* which were strongly in demand by parents. As can be seen in the examples, they are all used in a similar way, to refer to both personal qualities – a positive, cheerful character – and a great, shining future.

(84)

- a. *Parents named their son born in 2014 陽輝 Haruhi so that he would become a person shining (輝) more than anyone else, like the sun (陽), and cheer up other people.*  
*Other parents named their son born the same year 輝 Hikaru, wishing him to have a splendid (shining) life and a positive, cheerful disposition, pleasing to other people.*
- b. *Parents named their son born in 2008 煌太郎 Kōtarō (煌 + 'first-born') so that he would become a person with a shining personality.*  
*Another couple named their son born in 2014 煌希 Kōki (煌 + 'hope'), wishing him to have a splendid (shining) life.*
- c. *Parents named their son born in 2012 光矢 Kōya so that he would become a positive and cheerful person (光), as straight as an arrow (矢).*

*Another couple named their son born in 2008 光人 Raito (光 + ‘person’) [...], wishing him to have a splendid (shining) life. [In addition, the phonological form corresponds with the Japanese pronunciation of both the English ‘light’ and ‘right’.]*

### 4.3.2 Sound

The character 音 is used in both male and female names, although in female names with a higher frequency (30<sup>th</sup> vs. 9<sup>th</sup> most frequent). It means ‘sound’, and in names it is often associated with music – expressing the parents’ fondness for music and their wish for their offspring to love music as well. In addition, it is used as an end *kanji* to convey various poetic images together with the first *kanji* in the compound, which specifies the meaning, as in the following examples: 羽音 Hano (‘the sound of wings’), 心音 Kokone/Koto/Mion/Suzu (‘the sound of the heart’), 幸音 Yukine (‘the sound of happiness’) in female names, and 汐音 Shion (‘the sound of the tide’) and 心音 Shion (‘the sound of the heart’) in male names.

(85) *Parents named their daughter born in 2008 碧音 Otone. 碧 expresses in one kanji their favorite colors, blue and green. 音 is associated with music, their mutual hobby.*

*Other parents named their daughter born the same year 彩音 Ayane (‘color, colorful’ + 音) wishing her to live a colorful life and love music.*

*Parents named their son born in 2014 音和 Otowa (音 + ‘harmony’). The mother is very fond of music and wanted to have in the name a character associated with music. The second character comes from the grandmothers’ names.*

### 4.3.3 Colors

Colors have been traditionally used, especially in female names. Among the most frequent *kanji* used in current names there are three related to colors: 蒼 (‘blue, green’), ranking 24<sup>th</sup> (1.7%) in male names, 彩 (‘color, colorful’), ranking 17<sup>th</sup> (2.9%) in female names and 瑠 (‘lapis lazuli, deep blue, marine blue’), ranking 43<sup>rd</sup> (1.1%) in female names. The last *kanji* refers to both the stone and its color, as was described in 4.2.3.

## 蒼

The character 蒼 represents two colors – deep blue and green. In names, it is usually used for an image of a beautiful blue sky, which, similar to the character 空 (‘sky’; see 4.2.4), is associated with summer and also with the human heart/mind, big-heartedness and broad-mindedness (86a). In addition, it is also used to allude to lush green, creating a fresh, refreshing spring image (86b).

(86)

- a. *Parents named their son born in 2009 蒼大 Sōta. They chose the character 蒼 which creates a summer image, and the character 大 to become a big man.*

*Other parents named their son born in 2013 蒼人 Aoto (蒼 + ‘person’), wishing him to grow up to have a mind as broad as the blue sky.*

- b. *Parents named their son born in 2009 蒼太 Sōta. His birth was expected in May, the season of new green leaves, and 蒼 includes the meaning ‘lush green’. They included in the name a wish for him to grow up quickly and healthily like the lush green spring, and to become big and strong (太).*

*A couple named their son born in 2010 蒼真 Sōma (蒼 + ‘upright, honest’). His birth was expected at the end of February so they chose the character 蒼, which creates a fresh, spring-like image [...].*

*Another couple named their son born in 2010 蒼士 Aoshi (蒼 + ‘gentleman, samurai’). They included in the name their wish for him to become a young man fresh like young green leaves [...].*

## 彩

The character 彩 (‘color, colorful’), used mainly in female names (evokes a positive, cheerful disposition, a gorgeous person who by her presence adds color to other people’s lives (87a). It is also used to wish the child a gorgeous, colorful life and future (87b).

(87)

- a. *Parents named their daughter born in 2012 彩世 Sayo. They included in the name their wish for her to grow up to be a cheerful, splendid girl who will make the world (世) more beautiful.*

- b. *A couple named their daughter born in 2008 彩音 Ayane (彩 + ‘sound’), wishing her to have a splendid and colorful (彩) life and love music (音). Another couple named their daughter born in 2009 彩実 Ami (彩 + ‘crop, harvest, fruit’), wishing her a rich and colorful everyday life.*

#### 4.3.4 Numbers

As was described in 2.2.1 and 2.3.1, in the past it was very common to use numbers in names, especially male names, to express the order of birth. In the second half of the 20<sup>th</sup> century, as a logical consequence of low natality, only the *kanji* expressing number one, and less frequently number two, were still frequently used. The most popular *kanji* used in currently bestowed names include two numbers: 一 (‘one’), which is the 10<sup>th</sup> most frequent *kanji* appearing in 2.8% of male names, and 千 (‘thousand’), which ranks 33<sup>rd</sup> (1.4%) in female names. Although it did not make the top fifty, another number that appears in current female names is “lucky” seven (七).

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As has already been pointed out, the number one has been traditionally included in names of first-born sons. However, as can be seen from the corpus, its meaning has shifted, and currently its use is not limited to the firstborn, but it appears even in names of younger sons (88a), and also in female names. The main motivations for its use, in addition to adopting it from the father’s or grandfather’s name, is to show that their child is very important and precious to the parents (88b), or to wish for their child to become a unique person, to be the best at something, to have the best life, etc. (88c).

(88)

- a. *Parents named their son born in 2011 汰一 Taichi (‘to wash off by water, select’ + 一), although he is second-born, so that he would not yield to his older brother or his friends, and become the best at something. Other parents named their third son born in 2010 一稀 Hazuki (一 + ‘rare’). They used the character 一 in the names of all their children to express that they all are number one to them.*

- b. *Parents named their son born in 2010 輝一 Kiichi. Originally they wanted to use 喜一 ('rejoice, joy' + 一) but the number of strokes was not favorable, so they changed it to 輝一 to express that their son is the most (一) shining (輝) treasure for them.*

*Other parents named their son born in 2008 一絆 Itsuki to express that he is their one (一) [most] important bond (絆) and also to wish for him to become a person who will value human relationships (bonds).*

- c. *Parents named their son born in 2012 一優 Kazuya. 優 means to be kind and also to excel [...] and so they included in his name a wish for him to become a kind man excelling at one particular thing.*

## 千

The character 千 ('thousand') was traditionally used in female names, such as 千代 *Chiyo* (千 + 'age, generation'), 千代子 *Chiyoko* (千 + 'age, generation' + 'girl, child') or 千鶴 *Chizuru* (千 + 'crane') and symbolized longevity (see 2.3.1). In current names, in addition to the meaning 'forever, for a long time' (89a), it is also used in the meaning of 'many, a lot' in names such as 千花 *Chika* (千 + 'flower'), 千賀 *Chika* (千 + 'joy') or 千愛 *Chia/Sena* (千 + 'love') (89b).

(89)

- a. *Parents named their daughter born in 2014 千明 Chiaki. The characters come from her parents' names and express their wish for her to stay forever (千) cheerful and positive (明).*
- b. *A couple named their daughter born in 2008 千愛 Sena so that she would be loved (愛) by many (千) people.*

*Another couple named their daughter born in 2009 千愛 Chia (千 + 'love, affection') for a similar reason: to be loved by many people, to love many people and cheer (chia) them up.*

### 4.3.5 Cloth

The table of characters used in female names includes two that signify cloth. These are 紗 ('thin light silk') and 衣 ('garment, clothes, dressing') and are used almost exclusively in female names, ranking 21<sup>st</sup> and 23<sup>rd</sup> (2.4% and 2.2%).

## 紗

For the above-listed meaning, the character 紗 is considered very feminine and Japanese-like. It is used to evoke refinement and elegance, as well as a sensitive and delicate mind (90a). As can be seen in (90b), silk is also associated with summer. It is apparent from the corpus, however, that the main motivation for its use is its reading *sa* and, in spite of the fact that it is very Japanese in its meaning, it is frequently used in foreign-sounding names, such as *Sara* or *Risa* (i.e. *Lisa*), creating an interesting combination.

(90)

- a. *Parents named their daughter born in 2009 紗輝 Saki. Her six-year old brother insisted on using the character 輝 from his name. Based on the number of strokes they complemented it with the character 紗, wishing her to become a shining (輝) girl, beautiful like silk (紗) [...].*

*Another set of parents named their daughter born in 2012 紗愛 Sae, wishing her to become a woman who is refined and elegant (紗), and is loving and loved (愛) by others.*

- b. *Parents named their daughter born in 2009 紗羽 Sawa (紗 + 'wings'). The second kanji comes from the mother's name. They selected the character 紗 with respect to the season she was born in, summer. Silk is used for a summer kimono and is very feminine and old-style.*

## 衣

Similarly, the character 衣 is used mainly for its reading as *i*. It means 'garment, clothes, dressing' and in names it is usually used to create various associations such as 'to wrap up in kindness, hope, affection, etc.'

- (91) *Parents named their daughter born in 2010 悠衣 Yui ('everlasting, calm, at ease' + 衣). They chose 悠 so that she would become a kind girl. 衣 is used in the meaning 'to wrap up', wishing her to become a girl who encompasses people with kindness (who has a kind heart).*

*A couple named their daughter born in 2010 希衣 Kii. They included in the name their wish for her to wrap (衣) herself up in hope (希) and be happy.*

*Other parents named their daughter born in 2010 結衣 Yui. They included in the name a wish for her to connect well (結) with people and be-*

*come a person wrapped up (衣) in feminine tenderness and kindness. The character 衣 also means 'not to be troubled with what to wear throughout one's life'.*

### 4.3.6 Flying and sailing

The motif of flying is a popular motif that appears in contemporary names represented by several *kanji*, such as 翔 ('to soar, to fly'), 飛 ('to fly'), 航 ('to navigate, sail, cruise, fly'), 翼 ('wing'), 羽 ('wing', 'feather'), some of which appear among the fifty most frequent *kanji*. 翔 and 航 are typically used in male names. The former is even the third most common character in male names in the corpus (6.1 %), the latter one ranks 49<sup>th</sup> (0.9 %). 羽 appears mainly in female names, ranking 25<sup>th</sup> (1.9 %). The remaining two characters are less frequent.

A similar motif is sailing. It is represented by the character 航 (above), which in addition to flying also signifies sailing, and also by the character 帆 ('sail, sailing boat'), the 35<sup>th</sup> most frequent *kanji* in female names (1.4 %).

#### 翔, 羽

The most common motivation for the selection of the character 翔 for a male name and 羽 for a female name comes from the meaning of the verb 羽ばたく *habataku*, 'to flap wings', which metaphorically means 'to take off, to fly to the greater world' [similar to the expression in English 'spread your wings and fly']. In the names it is used in the sense of 'to lead an active life', 'to reach one's potential', 'to have no boundaries', 'to have big visions', etc.

(92) *Parents named their son born in 2008 大翔 Shōta ('big' + 翔). They included in the name their wish for him to have a wide outlook, to be broad-minded and not be bound to a small world, but take off into the big world.*

*Parents named their daughter born in 2010 海羽 Miu so that she would have a heart as big as the sea (海) and would fly out into the world (羽).*

#### 航

Similarly, the character 航, which means both 'to fly' and 'to sail', is used in names to refer to the child's future capacities and activities – 'to have a global outlook' or 'live globally', 'to overcome trouble' and 'advance ahead'.

(93) *Parents named their son born in 2008 航輝 Kōki (航 + ‘to shine, glitter, sparkle’). [...] Through the character 航 they included in his name their wish for him to live globally.*

*Parents named their son born in 2012 航亮 Kōsuke (航 + ‘clear, help’). Through the character 航 they included in the name their wish for him to have a wide outlook, and not to limit himself to Japan but look world-wide. [...]*

## 帆

The character 帆 means ‘sail’, ‘sailing boat’ and within the corpus it appears exclusively in female names. In some names it is used for its image of a summer sea (94a). In addition, as can be seen in (94b), sailing the ocean is also associated with human life, with hopes for the future, for a good life.

(94)

- a. *Parents named their daughter born in 2008 夏帆 Nao. They both love the sea and so they looked for a name related to the sea. [...] The characters create their favorite image of a sail (帆) shining on a summer (夏) day.*
- b. *Parents named their daughter born in 2008 志帆 Shiho. They included in the name a wish for her to have her own hopes and aspirations (志) and set her sail (帆) towards the future.*

*Other parents named their daughter born in 2010 咲帆 Saho. 咲 (‘bloom’ and also ‘smile’) expresses their wish for her to always have a smiling face and also points to spring, the season of the year she was born in. 帆 expresses their wish for her to take a good wind (the support of her family) and head towards her dreams.*

*A couple named their daughter born in 2010 真帆 Maho, wishing her to set the sails (帆) and head straight (真) into the big ocean called life.*

### 4.3.7 Human activity

In addition to flying and sailing discussed above, there are a number of characters used in male names signifying various other activities, which, in various ways, allude to the child’s future life. The most frequent are 介 (‘to help, assist, mediate’) and 生 (‘to live, life, be born’), ranking 8<sup>th</sup> (2.9%) and 16<sup>th</sup> (2.3%), followed by 奏 (‘to play an instrument, succeed, accomplish’),

拓 ('to clear /the land/, to open up, to cut through, to cultivate'), 汰 ('wash off by water, select'), and 佑 ('to help, assist'), ranking between the 25<sup>th</sup> and 44<sup>th</sup> position, and occurring in 1.5–1.0 % of male names. There is one *kanji* used in female names that can be included in this group – 歩 ('to walk, progress, advance'), ranking 47<sup>th</sup> (1.1 %). Finally, the character 結 ('to tie, bind, join') is popular in both male and female names (26<sup>th</sup>, 1.5 % in male names, and 5<sup>th</sup>, 4.9 % in female names).

## 介, 佑

These two characters have been traditionally used as end characters, two of several with the reading *suke*, which have their origin in a historical official title.<sup>60</sup> As can be seen from the list of names containing these characters (see Appendix 2), 介 is used in current names exclusively as an end character (95a), frequently in the combination 之介 (*nosuke*, possessive particle + 介), creating old-style names, while 佑 (95b) is used in any position (read as *yū* when in other than final position). In addition to being popular for their traditional look, they are used for the meaning 'to help, assist', evoking an image of a kind and helping person.

(95)

- a. Parents named their son born in 2008 遥介 *Yōsuke* ('far away, distant + 介), wishing him to become a person with a kind and calm character, who helps and gets helped by others.

A couple named their son born in 2009 壮介 *Sōsuke* ('strong, brave, manly' + 介) [...], wishing him to grow up to be a strong and manly but also kind and helping person.

Another couple named their son born in 2012 将之介 *Shōnosuke* ('commander, leader, general' + 之介), because, at this time when there are so many fashionable names, they wanted their son to have an old-style name.

- b. Parents named their son born in 2010 晃佑 *Kōsuke* ('clear, bright' + 佑). They wanted to call him *Kō-chan* and wanted him to grow up to be a kind and cheerful child. They chose the character 佑 because it is brimming over with kindness.

<sup>60</sup> Under the historical law system (*Ritsuryōsei*) established in 701.

*Other parents named their son born in 2010 佑人 Yūto (佑 + ‘person’). They really liked the character 佑 for its meaning ‘to help’ and included in the name a wish for their son to become a person who is reliable and kind to the weak.*

*Another set of parents named their son born in 2011 佑輝 Yūki, wishing him to become a wonderful person who can help others (佑) and has a great, shining (輝) life.*

## 生

The character 生 is used mainly for its meaning 生きる *ikiru* ‘to live’, 人生 *jinsei* ‘life’ and less frequently 生まれる *umareru* ‘to be born’. It is usually used at the end position and, as demonstrated in (96), together with another *kanji* conveys the name givers’ wish for the child’s life.

(96) *Parents named their son born in 2008 実生 Mio (‘crop, harvest, fruit’ + 生) [...]. The characters express their wish for him to have a fruitful life and live honestly, in good faith.*

*Other parents named their son born in 2013 樹生 Itsuki [...] (‘tree’ + 生), wishing him to live upright and strong like a tree.*

## 奏

The character 奏 usually stands for 奏でる *kanaderu* ‘to play an instrument’ and is chosen by parents who play some musical instrument themselves or at least love music. It is used to make various associations comparing the child’s life to playing music. 奏 can also mean ‘to succeed, to accomplish something’. As can be understood from examples in (97b), it is also this combination of meanings that makes the *kanji* appealing.

(97)

a. *Parents named their son born in 2008 奏太 Kanata (奏 + ‘big around, grand’). The father can play various musical instruments and wanted his son to do so too. Therefore the parents looked for a kanji associated with music [...].*

*Other parents named their son born in 2010 奏生 Sōsei (奏 + ‘life’). They both really love music – the father plays the piano and cello, and the mother’s hobby is playing the mandolin – so they immediately decided*

for the character 奏. They included in the name their wish for their son to walk through his life like playing a fantastic melody.

- b. A couple named their son born in 2009 奏人 Kanato (奏 + ‘person’). In their words, there is no one who would hate music; music cures people, encourages them, fills them with tenderness – and they wanted their son to become this kind of person. In addition, they found out that the character also means ‘to accomplish, to fulfill’ and they liked that it feels tender but includes a strong meaning.

Parents named their son born in 2011 奏 Kanade. In addition to the meaning ‘to play a musical instrument’, the character 奏 also means ‘to be successful’. They included in his name their wish for him to grow up to be a boy who does not give up but sticks with things until they are completed, and who, of course, loves music like his parents.

## 拓

The character 拓 is used exclusively in male names. It means ‘to clear (the land), to open up, to cut through, to cultivate’ and describes a strong, manly person who can make his own way in life, who can “open up” his future.

- (98) Parents named their son born in 2010 拓暉 Hiroki (拓 + ‘to shine, light’). First they decided the number of strokes they wanted to have in the name, and then they chose characters with a good sound and meaning. The characters include their hope for him to grow up to be a positive and cheerful boy (暉), able to cut his way clear (拓) to his future.

Other parents named their son born in 2012 拓真 Takuma so that he would be, as the name says, takumashii [‘strong’ and ‘sturdy’] and cut his way clear (拓) straight ahead (真).

## 汰

The character 汰 (‘wash off with water, select’) is used mainly as an end character in male names. It is usually used just for its sound, without special concern for the meaning, as an alternative to the character 太, for example due to a more favorable number of strokes (see 1.6.3). It gives the feeling of strength and manliness, like the character 太, and is used to describe a strong man who can overcome difficulties and select the good from the bad.

- (99) *Parents named their son born in 2011 遙汰 Yōta. [...] They like it because it possesses strength that can wash away (汰) any difficulty or catastrophe, like a river flowing far away (遙).*

*Other parents named their son born in 2009 桜汰 Ōta. They chose the character 桜, wishing him to become a child who has the ability like sakura blossoms to cheer people up. The second character, 汰, includes the meaning 'to know right from wrong', which is an ability they wished for him [...].*

*A couple named their son born in 2010 昊汰 Kōta ('sky' + 汰). [...] They included in the name their wish for him to become a boy with a mind as broad and positive as the sky, who can tell right from wrong.*

## 歩

The character 歩 is used in both male and female names, but ranks among the fifty most frequent *kanji* only in female names. It means 'to walk' and also 'to progress, advance'. It is used figuratively to mean 'to live', 'to walk through one's life'. The most common motivations for its selection include aspirations for the child to live looking ahead, to the future, to live at one's own pace, to do things step by step, to live happily and make others happy.

- (100) *Parents named their daughter born in 2009 未歩 Miho, wishing her to advance step by step (歩) towards the future (未).*

*Other parents named their daughter born in 2010 歩美 Ayumi (歩 + 'beautiful'), wishing her not to rush through her life but instead walk step by step, to grow up to be a beautiful person.*

*A couple named their daughter born in 2014 真歩 Maho ('straight, honest' + 歩), wishing her to walk straightforward throughout her life (to be an honest person).*

*Another set of parents named their daughter born in 2014 花歩 Kaho. They included in her name a wish for her to live (歩) in a way which makes other people happy, as do flowers (花).*

## 結

The character 結, 'to tie, bind, join', is popular in both male and female names, referring to human relationships: 人と人(の心)を結びつける/結んでいく *hito to hito (no kokoro) o musubitsukeru/musunde iku* 'to con-

nect people, people's hearts' (101a). In addition, it is sometimes used to allude to 愛の結晶 *ai no kenshō* 'fruit of love, beloved child' (101b).

(101)

- a. *Parents named their daughter born in 2008 結衣 Yui (結 + 'garment, clothes, dress'), wishing her to become a kind person who connects other people.*

*Other parents named their daughter born in 2010 心結 Miyu ('heart, mind, spirit' + 結), wishing her to connect people's hearts and make numerous friends.*

*A couple named their son born in 2012 結人 Yuito (結 + 'person'). [...]. They included in the name their wish for him to treasure bonds between people (to treasure human relationships).*

- b. *A couple named their daughter born in 2008 結愛 Yua. Through the characters used they expressed that their daughter is the fruit of their love (愛の結晶), their beloved child, and also their wish for her future – to get connected (結) with a wonderful person and become happy, to love and to be loved (愛).*

*Other parents gave their daughter born the same year also the name 結愛 Yua. The characters express that she is 'the fruit of their love' and also their wish to be forever connected (結) with her in their hearts, through their love (愛).*

### 4.3.8 Other *kanji*

The remaining *kanji* from each table are listed here by popularity. In male names they are usually in the final position, where their use is motivated more often by their sound than their meaning, and often also by the desire to choose a traditional, easy-to read Japanese-style name, rather than a "new-type" name. The first of them, ranking 6<sup>th</sup> (3.9 %), is 人, signifying a person. Depending on the preceding character(s) it describes a person of various qualities. Similarly, the character 郎 has been traditionally used as an end character with the meaning 'son' (see 2.2.1). Another character signifying a person is 士 (27<sup>th</sup>, 1.4 %). It means 'gentleman, samurai' and therefore evokes an image of a person who is strong, manly and possessing moral qualities (102).

- (102) *Parents named their son born in 2008 優士 Yūto ('kind' + 士). The father chose the character 優 so that he would grow up to be a kind boy, and they added the character 士 wishing him to become strong and well-mannered like a samurai.*

Another *kanji* listed here is 也 ('to be'), ranking 41<sup>st</sup> (1 %), which is used merely for its sound *ya* as an end character, and similarly, the character 之 (possessive particle), ranking 47<sup>th</sup>, is used mostly in the old-style combination 之介 *nosuke* (for 介 see above). Lastly, also with the reading *ya*, is 弥 ('long', '3<sup>rd</sup> month of the lunar calendar'), ranking 48<sup>th</sup> (0.9 %).

## 弥

In names 弥 usually means 'for a long time, always, forever' (103a), although it can also stand for 弥生, the third month of the lunar calendar, but now meaning March (103b).

### (103)

- a. *Parents named their son born in 2011 稔弥 Toshiya ('harvest' + 弥) [...]. They included in the name a wish for him to have a long (弥) and productive (稔) life.*

*Other parents named their son born in 2014 咲弥 Sakuya ('bloom, smile' + 弥), wishing him to be always (弥) kind and smiling (咲).*

- b. *Parents named their son born in 2013 優弥 Yūya. They wanted a gentle-looking name and so they chose the character 優. He was born in March (弥生) so they used the character 弥, which is also in the name of his grandfather.*

*Other parents named their son born in 2014 駿弥 Shun'ya ('good horse, speed, fast person' + 弥). They chose the *kanji* based on the number of strokes and the second character reflects the month he was born, March.*

Here are the remaining seven *kanji* used in the female "top fifty": 奈 ('Nara'), ranking 6<sup>th</sup>, the traditional *tomeji* 子 ('girl, child'), which is now experiencing an increasing occurrence again, ranking 15<sup>th</sup> (for more see 2.2.2), 里 (one's hometown, one's native place), ranking 22<sup>nd</sup> (2.4 %), 理 ('reason, principle, logic'), ranking 39<sup>th</sup> (1.2 %) and 未 ('future'), ranking 50<sup>th</sup> (1 %), and two

more, only briefly mentioned characters, which are used in female names almost exclusively for their sound. The first one is 乃 (possessive particle, ‘namely, in the past’), the 14<sup>th</sup> most frequent character and a popular end character in female names, and the second one is 々, ranking 30<sup>th</sup>, which is an iteration mark used to represent a duplicated character representing the same morpheme.

## 奈

奈 is used exclusively in female names. Together with 菜 (see 4.2.1) it became very popular as an end character for its reading *na*. It stands for 奈良 *Nara*, the capital of the Nara prefecture and one of Japan’s former capitals.

- (104) *A grandfather chose for his granddaughter born in 2009 the name 奈美 Nami (奈 + ‘beautiful’) [...]. He chose the character 奈 as they live in Nara, and the name thus can be interpreted as a beautiful girl from Nara, a Nara beauty.*

*Parents named their daughter born in 2010 桜奈 Sana (‘sakura’ + 奈) [...], wishing her to make flowers bloom [to become a successful person], as beautiful as the cherry blossoms in Nara.*

## 里

The character 里 means ‘hometown’ or ‘place of birth’, which, for the Japanese, is a strong cultural motif appearing frequently in songs and literature. Appearing mainly in female names, it means ‘to cherish one’s home, not to forget one’s home’, etc. Its use is also strongly motivated by the reading *ri*, which is perceived as gentle and is quite popular in female names.

- (105) *Parents named their daughter born in 2009 里緒 Rio (里 + ‘beginning, end, cord, strap’). They considered the sound and the number of strokes, and since their girl will one day get married to a different family they included in her name their wish for her not to forget her hometown or her parents.*

*Other parents named their daughter born in 2014 輝里 Kagari, wishing her to be always shining (輝) and always returning to her hometown (里).*

## 理

The character 理 ('reason, principle, logic') is used in both male and female names, but only in female names does it rank among the top fifty (39<sup>th</sup>). A few instances were found in the corpus that referred to its meaning, to convey the parents' wish for their daughter to become a person who sticks to one's principles, to become good at science, etc. However, in most cases it is used, like the previous character 里, for its pronunciation *ri*, and the favorable number of strokes in the chosen combination. Its use is also often motivated by the desire to adopt a *kanji* from the name of a parent or grandparent.

## 未

The character 未 has various meanings such as 'un-, not yet, still, even now, the eighth sign in the Chinese zodiac', but in names it stands for the word 未来 'future' (usually distant). It is used in female names in a similar way as the character 羽 ('wings'), wishing the girl a good future life.

(106) *Parents named their daughter born in 2008 未花 Mika (未 + 'flower'), wishing her to have a bright, successful future.*

*Other parents named their daughter born the same year 未空 Miku (未 + 'sky'), wishing her to fly towards the future sky.*

*Parents named their daughter born in 2009 未桜 Mio (未 + 'sakura'). They chose the character 桜 because she was born in March. The second character includes their wish for her to become a big personality in the future.*

The analysis of the fifty most frequent *kanji* used in male names and fifty most frequent *kanji* used in female names in the corpus demonstrated the continuing popularity of *kanji* related to the natural world, which first became noticeable in the 1990s. These *kanji* are selected for their readings to represent the desired phonological form and for the richness of images they can evoke. The analysis also indicated that the majority of the desired qualities and aspirations current parents have for their children are being expressed both directly and indirectly, using either *kanji* that denote the particular meaning, or *kanji* related to the natural world or other areas which, through various poetic associations or symbolism (including even

the language of flowers) express the desired qualities or aspirations, reflect or commemorate the season or circumstances of birth, etc. The latter method allows for a wider selection of *kanji*, and thus more easily accommodates the other criteria of the name selection the name givers consider important.

## 5 HUMAN QUALITIES, PARENTS' ASPIRATIONS AND OTHER PRIORITIES REFLECTED IN CURRENTLY BESTOWED NAMES

The previous chapter explored meanings represented by the most frequent *kanji* used in current male and female names and various motivations that lie behind their selection. This chapter shall look at the larger themes related to the priorities and aspirations. These include physical and character qualities the name givers wish the children to possess, various hopes and aspirations for their future, reflections upon the time the child was born and commemoration of important events the parents had experienced. The importance of human relationships is also a frequent theme.

### 5.1 Desired qualities

Traditional gender differences have been diminishing in various areas, including language, fashion, self-image, careers, life goals, etc.<sup>61</sup> This convergence can be seen in naming practice as well, although most of the prevailing desired qualities are still typically male or female.

If one looks at the most frequent *kanji* used in male names through the prism of the meanings and associations for which they are used, one obtains a composite picture of a man who is **big and strong**, both physically and mentally (*takumashii* in Japanese), and who can do big things. These qualities are represented in names by the two most frequently used *kanji* in male names, 太 ('big around, grand') and 大 ('big, large, great'). They are also expressed symbolically through *kanji* signifying entities of the natural world and natural phenomena associated with these qualities, such as the stars, in

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<sup>61</sup> For examples of changes in the language behavior of young Japanese see Barešová and Zawiszová (2012).

particular the Big Dipper (斗), the land (陸) and the sea (海), animals, such as the dragon (龍), the horse (馬) and the tiger (虎), and even the lotus (蓮), which is also associated with strength. Most of these are not found in female names, with the exception of the sea and the lotus.

Another set of character traits that is currently desired in men is **magnanimity, big-heartedness, generosity and broad-mindedness**. These traits are expressed through similar associations as the previous qualities, alluding to the mind and heart. The character 大 ('big, large, great') and characters evoking largeness, greatness, such as the sky (空), the sea (海) and the land (陸) contribute to an image of a person who has a big heart and a broad mind, a person who is generous and forgiving, tolerant, and liberal in his views.

The top three most frequent *kanji* in the corpus of female names expressing qualities, 愛, 美 and 優, suggest what contemporary society appreciates in women. The present generation of new parents wish for their daughters to grow up to be loving and affectionate, loved by others (愛), beautiful (美) in their appearance as well as character, and also tender, kind and gentle-mannered (優).

**Beauty**, both physical and spiritual, is expressed directly by 美, and less frequently by 佳 and 那, and symbolically through associations with various flowers, and also, for example, by the moon (月) or a gemstone (瑠 'lapis lazuli'). Similarly, **cuteness** and **adorability**, highly appreciated in girls and women, are also symbolically expressed through various flowers. Flowers and blossoms are usually appreciated for their beauty, and thus the characters 花 and 華 (both meaning 'flower, blossom') as well as most of the characters signifying particular flowers or blossoms (e.g., 菜 'rapeseed', 莉 'jasmine', 桜 'sakura', 梨 'pear', 杏 'apricot'), and also those related to flowers, such as 咲 ('to bloom'), 香 ('fragrance'), etc., are used to evoke an image of a girl who is beautiful, lovely and adorable, gentle, tender, and who is loved and appreciated just as flowers are.

An important character trait that is desired especially in girls is **kindness, kind-heartedness** (*yasashisa* in Japanese). Although it is not a quality stereotypically attributed to men, it has increasingly appeared in male names as well. The desire for an empathetic, kind-hearted and caring person, gentle in his or her behavior, is expressed through the character 優 ('tender, kind, gentle-mannered') and 心 ('heart, mind, spirit'), in male names also 仁 ('humane, benevolent'), and the traditional *kanji* 介 ('to help, assist, medi-

ate’) and 佑 (‘to help, assist’), which evoke an image of a kind and helping person. Warm-heartedness is evoked by the character 陽 (‘sun’).

A **positive, energetic and cheerful** character (*akarusu*) is another disposition desired in both boys and girls. In male names this is expressed by *kanji* of bright objects, such as 陽 (‘the sun’) and 斗 (‘the stars’), together with *kanji* signifying light and radiance (輝, 煌, 光), and also the *kanji* 晴 (‘clear, sunny’). Female names use 陽 (‘the sun’), 夏 (‘summer’) and characters signifying flowers – 菜 (‘rapeseed’) and 葵 (‘sunflower’), and also the character 彩 (‘colorful’). The traditionally used character 明 (‘bright, light, cheerful’) continues to be chosen as well.

## 5.2 Hopes and aspirations for the future

In addition to desired qualities, many parents include in the names of their offspring various hopes and aspirations for their future. One of the common hopes is that the child will **grow up healthy and prosper**, sometimes expressed directly through the character 健 (‘health’), used in male names, but more often indirectly expressed through associations with plants – to grow quickly and be healthy like that plant. In male names it is usually 樹 (‘tree’), female names make use of a number of *kanji* associated with growth, such as 菜 (‘rapeseed’), which grows and blossoms in the spring, in the summer it is the hollyhock and sunflower (both 葵), which are also known for their height, and yuzu (柚), which symbolizes health in the language of flowers. In female names, growth is also expressed through the characters signifying a bud (芽) and an ear of rice (穗).

A wish for living a **productive and fruitful life** appears in female names through *kanji* expressing crops and fruit (穗, 実, 梨). The character 咲, ‘to blossom’, through its metaphorical use ‘to make flowers bloom’ expresses **success** in life in female names, while in male names success and accomplishment are expressed through the character 奏 (‘to play a musical instrument’ and also ‘to succeed, accomplish something’). Through characters signifying light and radiance such as 輝, 煌 (‘to shine, glitter, sparkle’), and 光 (‘light’), boys are wished a **great, “shining” life**. Similarly, a gorgeous, colorful life is wished for girls through the use of the character 彩 (‘colorful’).

To have a carefree childhood and comfortable, relaxed life, to feel at ease and do things at one’s own pace is another wish that clearly reflects a prior-

ity of contemporary Japanese society. It is expressed mainly in male names through the character 悠 ('everlasting, calm, at ease').

Wishing the child to have **hope, ambitions and dreams for his or her future** is another theme that often appears in names. In addition to the character 希 ('hope, wish, aspiration'), which is very popular in both male and female names, in male names it is also conveyed by the character 志 ('aspiration, intention, ambition'), while the more romantic 夢 ('dream') is popular in female names.

A related aspiration, which clearly reflects contemporary globalized society, is the aspiration for an **active life**, reaching one's potential, having big visions and a **global outlook**, not limiting oneself to one place, to one country. This is expressed in both male and female names metaphorically, through characters related to flying (翔, 羽, 航) alluding to flapping one's wings, soaring in the sky, or flying or sailing into the wide world. The use of the character 帆 ('sail, sailing boat') in female names has a similar motivation. The character 未, which stands in female names for the word 未来 'future', is also used to represent various ideas and aspirations for the future.

### 5.3 Human relationships

A number of popular *kanji* that appear in current names express human relationships. The progression of technology and the fast pace of life is associated with a loss of actual physical contact, an atrophy of traditional interpersonal skills, and a growing depersonalization in general. Makino (2012, 87) points out that the need for human interaction is also reflected in names. He perceives the rapid increase in names containing the character 愛 ('love, affection') in the 1980s and 心 ('heart, mind') since the turn of the millennium as a manifestation of the need for feelings and emotions (also in 3.3.4).

To love and to be loved is one of the most pronounced wishes that appear in female names. 愛 is the most frequent character in female names in the corpus. In addition, the desire to be loved is also "hidden" in names with flower motifs – to be loved like flowers (花, 華), like cherry blossoms (桜), etc.

The importance of human relationships in current society is also manifested in both male and female names by the character 結, which means 'to link, connect, bind'. It is used to express the parents' wish for their child

to be able to ‘connect people and their hearts’, which can be interpreted as being able to interact well with others, or to unite family and others merely by one’s presence.

Parents’ love for their child and their need to express what their child means to them is reflected in characters signifying precious stones, the character 希 (‘hope, wish’), or, in male names, through the character 一 (‘one, first’). As was explained in 2.2.1, this *kanji* was traditionally used in the names of the firstborn to express that they are the oldest, those who will continue the family tradition. The *kanji* is not limited to the firstborn in current names and, as can be seen from the explanations provided by the name givers, its use is often motivated by their desire to express how important the child is to them.

## 5.4 Reflection of the season of the child’s birth

The Japanese have traditionally been very sensitive to the seasons of the year, which are reflected in many areas of Japanese culture, and given names are no exception. Parents often select a *kanji* which will in some way remind them of their child’s birth, or at least ensure their considered *kanji* is suitable for the season of birth. As in Japanese poetry, which employs the so-called *kigo*, or season words, many names refer through their *kanji* selection to a particular season. The *kanji* for spring, 春, and summer, 夏, are often used, and the latter even ranks among the fifty most popular *kanji* in female names. Frequently a *kanji* signifying a particular plant is chosen for a female name to nicely reflect the season or month of birth, as flowers and trees famed for their blossoms are usually associated with the season or even particular month in which they bloom. For example, the rapeseed (菜) and sakura (桜) are mainly associated with spring, jasmine (莉) and sunflower (葵) are typical for summer, while yuzu (柚) is, in addition to summer, also associated with fall and winter when it bears fruit. The bud (芽) and the leaf (葉), usually understood as fresh green leaves, are associated with spring and early summer, the fruit and crop (実) with fall.

Awareness of the association of plants with a particular season actually acts to limit the number of suitable names. The corpus evidences cases when a child was born earlier or later than expected, and the parents felt they had to select a different *kanji*, considering the prior choice now “out-of-season”.

## 5.5 Commemoration of important personal events

As seen in various examples in the previous section, many parents find inspiration for their child's name in important milestones of their relationship, such as their first meeting, marriage proposal, wedding day or honeymoon. They usually select a *kanji* from the name of the place, or *kanji* describing the place or the time – beautiful sky, moon, sea, etc. Currently the most popular holiday and honeymoon destination reflected in the names is Okinawa, expressed through 琉 ('gem, lapis lazuli'), which stands for the Ryūkyū Islands, and 那 ('beautiful'), which stands for the capital of Naha. Hawaii and Europe are also frequently reflected, but usually in the phonological form of the name, as in the male name *Mirano* (Milano).

The most reflected event in the names is the birth of the child. In addition to the season of the year, some parents even reflect the day or the very moment of their child's birth (or at least see some connection to a chosen *kanji*). An image of the beautiful moon or clear, cloudless sky on the day of the child's birth were among the most frequently mentioned.

## 5.6 Reflection of the 2011 Tōhoku earthquake and tsunami

As was explained in 1.6.4, name selection may also be influenced by various historical events, such as the beginning of a new era, a war, etc. The Tōhoku earthquake, which occurred on March 11, 2011, followed by the devastating tsunami and the Fukushima Daiichi nuclear disaster, caused a humanitarian crisis and has had a massive economic impact on the entire country. As evidenced in the corpus, not only expectant parents who were directly influenced by the catastrophe, but even some parents from other parts of the country reflected it in the names of their newborn babies. The following example illustrates the very joy that the child was born, despite the tragic events:

- (107) *When they looked at their newborn baby, the parents felt great gratitude that despite the earthquake disaster their child was born healthy, uttering his first cry. All the names and elaborate kanji they had thought of earlier were blown away. It is enough that their child was born healthy, simply that he is, and so they named their son 有 Yū ('to exist').*

Most of the names whose selection was influenced by the catastrophe do not really differ from other names bestowed within the examined period, as the various motifs that appear in connection with the earthquake commonly appear in other names as well, although their use was differently motivated.

In the context of the catastrophe, in which more than 18 thousand people lost their lives and half a million had to leave their homes, the birth of a new life was felt even stronger, as hope for the future. The motif of hope appears in both male and female names, especially through the character 希 ('hope, wish').

- (108) *A couple decided to name their son 来希 Raiki ('come' + 'hope'), reflecting their unceasing hope during the mother's long hospitalization, which started on the day the quake hit Tōhoku, and also their hope for Japan's recovery.*

*Before the birth of their daughter the great earthquake occurred, in which many people died and many suffered losses. When the parents saw the face of their daughter who overcame the disaster and was born healthy, they were moved to tears. That very moment they decided on the name 希望 Nozomi ('hope'), wishing for her to always have hope for the future.*

Another related motif is light, referring to 'light of hope', 'light in the gloomy days', 'shiny future despite the gloomy present', expressed mainly through the character 輝 ('to shine, glitter, sparkle'), but also, for example 照 ('to shine, illuminate') or 明 ('bright, light', and also 'cheerful'), and the character 陽 ('sun').

- (109) *When the mother was in her seventh month of pregnancy, the great Tōhoku earthquake occurred. In the area she and her husband lived they felt only a weak shaking, but in the affected area many people suffered from the quake or the tsunami. Inspired by the idea that everyone needed light (akari) in the gloomy, cold days the parents named their daughter 明莉 Akari ('bright, light' + 'jasmine'), wishing her to grow up to be a positive, kind-hearted girl.*

The disaster gave rise to a great wave of solidarity. The importance of human relationships is conveyed in names through the characters 結 ('to tie, bind,

join') and 絆 ('bond'), and also through characters signifying the heart (心), love (愛) and kindness (優).

- (110) *A mother named her son born in 2011 結人 Yuito ('to tie, bind, join' + 'person'). The day she found out she was pregnant the great Tōhoku earthquake occurred. She felt very uneasy and was scared of the after-shocks, which could occur any time, but many people encouraged and supported her during her pregnancy. She reflected this experience in the name, wishing for her son to become a kind person who cherishes human relationships.*

*Parents named their daughter born in Iwate prefecture, where the Tōhoku earthquake struck, 心結 Miyu ('heart' + 'to tie, bind, join'). After the disaster they strongly felt the importance of human relationships. The moment they saw their newborn daughter they decided to give her this name, wishing for her to become a person who will connect people's hearts.*

Other common wishes include happiness and prosperity despite the tragic events, expressed in female names, for example, by the *kanji* 笑 ('laugh') and 咲 ('blossom, bloom' and 'laugh'), and strength to overcome hardships, expressed in male names, for example, by the character 蓮 ('lotus').

As shown in 2.3, Japanese names have been changing with the times, reflecting the latest developments in society. The analysis of the names in the corpus and especially of the motivations for their selection has provided a colorful mosaic depicting the current generation of parents – which values and qualities they find important and desirable, what they wish for their children's future, and even their devotion to a leisure time pursuit. Traditional themes which have been common throughout the past century or even before, such as a long, prosperous and virtuous life for manly boys and pretty girls, are now being expressed in new and innovative ways, and so are not always so immediately obvious from the graphic form. There are also some relatively new themes, increasingly appearing in names over the last several decades. These include the importance of human feelings and kindness, which is expressed in the names of both boys and girls, and the need for traditional human relationships and interaction, which are being eclipsed by the virtual world. Progressing globalization is reflected in paren-

tal hope for their child to master their worldwide possibilities. A number of *kanji* popular in current names express Japanese style traditions, which, in fact, is also a reflection of globalization, but viewed from a different angle. The choice of female names often reflects the Japanese sensitivity to nature and the traditional importance of the seasons of the year, because for many the perfect name should be in harmony and “in season”.

## 6 SUMMARY OF IMPORTANT ASPECTS OF CURRENTLY BESTOWED JAPANESE NAMES

Japan is seen as a country adhering to strong traditions, but, surprisingly, the selection of Japanese names is quite dynamic. Complete given names are not passed down within the family, although individual *kanji* or other aspects of a name often are, and many names reflect the historical period in their *kanji* selection. The current selection of bestowed names has been greatly influenced by the gradual changes during the second half of the twentieth century, and especially the last two decades of the millennium. These include changes in external influences upon the name selection of current parents (where they find inspiration, with whom or what sources they consult their ideas), changes in the method of name selection, and the criteria for the selection (i.e. what is the starting point of their selection process, which aspects they prioritize), changes in the way parents perceive their children (now with an emphasis on the individual qualities, originality and uniqueness of their child), and increasingly name selection based on the child's place in the family rather than in respect to the child's future social roles.

In contemporary Japan, parents selecting a name for their child are confronted with many more external influences than in the past, especially the ubiquitous mass media, including the Internet and its various social media sites and websites, and numerous maternity publications and magazines, which publish various rankings, share examples of name selection, ideas and opinions of their readers and create lists of criteria for the selection of the “perfect name” – “the first gift a child receives from their parents”, as advertised by the influential Tamahiyo publications, thus to a certain degree setting fashion trends. At the same time, they create enormous pressure on the parents to choose a name that would follow all their various recom-

mentations, including to be somehow original to match the individuality and uniqueness of their child.

Although many current parents strive for unique names, at the same time many of them succumb to fashion trends. The most popular current names are names of singers, actors, main characters of TV series, manga and anime, names from popular songs, etc., to which the name givers are frequently exposed in mass media and by which they are influenced.

The key criteria of current name selection include the sound, the meaning of the *kanji*, and the overall image the name evokes. An example of the great care that is invested in name selection by many parents, and also of the encouragement they receive to pay attention to such details, is the significance ascribed to the number of strokes in the name as one of the most important criteria of the name selection. As was pointed out in 1.6.3, the methods of calculation by various schools of thought differ, resulting in different sets of numbers for the same name, and consequently foretelling different and sometimes contradictory fates, which is all further complicated by the fact that upon marriage a girl's surname will change, resulting in different numbers. Nevertheless, parents do not resist the influence of these countless fortune-telling publications, phone-applications and readily available websites, and try over and over for some ideal combination.

Current names are not very diverse in terms of their orthography. Despite the various possibilities Japanese script offers, the majority of both male and female names are, like the names of older generations, two-*kanji* compounds. Names written in *kanji* are richer in expression than names written in *hiragana* and *katakana*, which only record the phonological form of the name. *Kanji* provide names with another dimension and therefore they are strongly preferred.

The phonological length of current names is not particularly diverse either. Male names are two to four mora long, female names two or three. The most common length is three morae, and, compared to the past, there is a tendency towards shorter forms, accomplished by the use of *on* readings of *kanji*, or an abbreviation of the standard readings (as was described in 3.3).

The most striking differences between current and older names can be found in the greater variety and types of current phonological forms, in the selection of *kanji*, and, most dramatically, in an increasingly common discordance in the character-sound relationship, all of which are related to the new style of name creation. Formerly, the name creation process usually

began with the selection of some combination of *kanji*, which determined the reading of the name. Currently, however, parents commonly begin with an appealing sound to which chosen *kanji* are subsequently assigned. Since it has become normal to talk to one's baby already during pregnancy, an endearment or nickname often becomes the starting point for name selection.

While the majority of older names end in a limited number of syllables corresponding to end characters commonly used in male or female names at the time of their bestowal, as a result of this reverse process of name selection current names show a greater variety of end syllables, which is especially apparent in female names (formerly dominated by the final *ko*), although a few are more prominent (*to*, *ki*, *ta* and *ma* in male names and *na*, *ka*, *ki*, *ri* and *mi* in female names). Increasingly, phonological forms resemble foreign names and words, or are at least meant to sound European. In contrast, a number of the current two-mora names are reminiscent of Meiji period female names. Many names are a result of a mere combination of syllables appealing to the ear. Traditional phonological forms are still chosen, but with a widening selection of *kanji* and justifications for their selection.

The great variety of phonological forms is evidenced in the corpus by the relatively low occurrence of even the most frequent forms (the most popular male name had a frequency of only 2.09 %, the top female name just 1.54 %). Furthermore, each of these is written in a number of different *kanji* combinations. The growing trend of finding a unique name is resulting in an increasing array of graphic forms for each phonological form, and an increasing variety of phonological forms for each graphic form. This phenomenon has become characteristic of new Japanese names.

*Kanji* are increasingly selected not only for the meanings they denote, but also for the various images and associations they evoke, through which one expresses parental aspirations and/or in some manner commemorates some aspect or circumstances of the child's birth or some other important event. Naturally, the popularity of a particular *kanji* is heavily influenced by its possible readings. *Kanji* related to various aspects of the natural world, a trend starting in the 1990s and quite evident in the corpus, offer many alternatives to express good wishes for the child or reflect the time of his or her birth, allowing the accommodation of other criteria considered important, such as the desired phonological form, the right numbers of strokes, etc. The various meanings the parents include in the name through various associations or symbolism, even including the language of flowers, usually

remain known only to the family members, satisfying their need for a well-thought of, custom-made name, whose origin they can one day explain to their child.

The creative demands of current parents are so intense that even the vast artistic material (the nearly three thousand *kanji*, each with multiple readings) and innumerable combination possibilities are sometimes not enough. The number of *kanji* permitted for use in names is officially limited, but there is no legal restriction on their readings, which is interpreted by some name givers to mean that *kanji* in names can be assigned any reading of their choice, and recent publications on naming support these tendencies by listing many such names as examples to choose from. The desire of parents to create a name that would sound modern (and international), reflect fashion trends in *kanji* selection and at the same time would be somewhat unique, has led to the rise of so-called *kirakira* (or DQN) names, which are characterized by unusual phonological and graphic forms, and typically also by a discordant character-sound relationship, which sometimes makes them almost impossible to read. This trend, which has been growing over the recent several decades, is causing a serious dysfunction and unreliability of the writing system in the area of names. Such names cannot be read on the basis of traditional methods, but only based on experience with similar names. Even as some nonstandard readings of popular *kanji* are becoming somewhat common, even more keep emerging.

Many of these new, unusual names are not only hard to read, but they also lack gender-marking, i.e. they do not make clear whether their bearer is a man or a woman, and some are, gently put, extremely unconventional. It is true that very unconventional names can be found everywhere, although some countries are more permissive than others. A couple in New Zealand wanted to name their child *4Real*, but as it is not permitted there to use numbers in names, they instead settled on *Superman* (BBC News 10 Aug. 2007). Although the media present many similar examples of elaborate, unusual or even bizarre names, the complicated culture of current Japanese name selection with all its complexities and peculiarities is probably quite unique.

It should also be stressed, however, that not all currently bestowed Japanese names follow these latest trends. Many name givers deliberately choose established names, appreciating their tradition, simplicity and clear reading. These formerly common names now seem to stand out more than those which were meant to be unique.

## CONCLUSION

In the quest for expressing their child's individuality and uniqueness, recent generations of parents have been investing a great deal of effort into name selection. While in every culture parents care about the name of their child, the Japanese name selection process is often quite extensive, an interplay involving semantic, visual and phonological dimensions. The resultant name becomes a unique choice for the particular child by reflecting the child's time of birth, expressing the parents' aspirations for their child and/or together with the family name (surname) creating a favorable, fortunate combination that would not work for another child. The creation of an elaborate name selection story (*nazuke no episōdo* in Japanese), which the parents can share with other people and especially with their child, has become the final ritual of the name giving process.

As a result of the recent changes described above, current names are characterized by a variety of sound and structure patterns, a variety of *kanji* used, and increasingly by an unusual and often unanticipated reading. Many of the hard-to-read names were chosen in respect to the family environment, being perceived mainly as "privately meaningful symbols of new members of one's family" (Watanabe 2009, 350), rather than in respect to their future role of "socially recognized and culturally accepted public signs" (Ibid.). The rather negative consequences of these *kirakira* (or DQN) names began to appear only recently, when generations with a high concentration of such names started to become socially active (attending schools, entering the workforce, etc.). Teachers complain about unreadable student lists, doctors report complications in identifying patients, especially in emergency situations. Employers hesitate to employ young people whose names suggest that they were brought up by parents who lack common sense and whose names could potentially cause misunderstandings in business. Most importantly, such names are a burden to their bearers, who have to put up with them their entire life, as to officially change one's name is not an easy thing, requiring an approval by family courts who must be convinced that the

reasons for such a change are justified. The growing awareness of problems associated with these names has not reversed the growing selection of such names. It remains to be seen whether the coming generations of parents will continue in the current trends or, realizing their negative impact on their children's lives, will return to more traditional style names.

Japanese given names are a fascinating world of meanings and images, hopes and aspirations that have a real significance for the named person and the close family, and provide an insight into how Japanese society has been changing over time. It is possible to read from them and the stories behind their creation short-term influences as well as long-term tendencies reflecting values and needs that were, at a particular time in history, considered important, desirable, or hard to obtain. Human values and character traits expressed through the names document the transition from traditional large hierarchically organized families based on Confucian values to the present nuclear family based mainly on the psychological (emotional) bond between its members. The aspirations and themes parents included in the names of their children testify to the life conditions and needs of each period.

Wishes for good health and prosperity, strength for boys and beauty for girls, have been common throughout the past century, but are now being expressed in new and innovative ways, and priorities are shifting from the need for physical and economic survival, up Maslow's (1943) hierarchy of needs, towards love, esteem, and self-actualization. Despite spending the majority of their lives in front of a computer, the new generation is hoped to emphasize human feelings, kindness, human relationships and interaction (both within the family and in larger society) and find love and happiness. No longer content for their children merely to fit smoothly into their local community, the unique individuals are expected to be active worldwide, and succeed in their global opportunities.

Whichever direction they go in the future, Japanese given names will continue to provide an interesting window into Japanese society.

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# APPENDIX 1: TOP TEN RANKING MALE AND FEMALE NAMES BY MEIJI YASUDA

## Male names

### The Taishō period (大正 1912–1926)

|      | 1. | 2. | 3. | 4. | 5. | 6. | 7. | 8. | 9. | 10. |
|------|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|-----|
| 1912 | 正一 | 清  | 正雄 | 正  | 茂  | 武雄 | 正治 | 三郎 | 正夫 | 一郎  |
| 1913 | 正二 | 茂  | 正雄 | 正  | 清  | 三郎 | 正一 | 武雄 | 義雄 | 正男  |
| 1914 | 正三 | 清  | 正雄 | 三郎 | 正  | 正一 | 勇  | 実  | 秀雄 | 茂   |
| 1915 | 清  | 三郎 | 茂  | 正雄 | 正  | 実  | 武雄 | 一郎 | 義雄 | 正一  |
| 1916 | 辰雄 | 清  | 三郎 | 勇  | 一郎 | 茂  | 実  | 正雄 | 秀雄 | 辰男  |
| 1917 | 三郎 | 清  | 勇  | 一郎 | 実  | 正雄 | 博  | 正一 | 正  | 茂   |
| 1918 | 清  | 三郎 | 勇  | 一郎 | 義雄 | 実  | 茂  | 正  | 博  | 正雄  |
| 1919 | 三郎 | 清  | 勇  | 実  | 一郎 | 義雄 | 正雄 | 正  | 茂  | 弘   |
| 1920 | 清  | 茂  | 三郎 | 勇  | 実  | 一郎 | 博  | 弘  | 正  | 正雄  |
| 1921 | 清  | 三郎 | 茂  | 勇  | 博  | 一郎 | 実  | 弘  | 正  | 正雄  |
| 1922 | 清  | 三郎 | 勇  | 博  | 茂  | 正  | 一郎 | 実  | 弘  | 秀雄  |
| 1923 | 清  | 三郎 | 勇  | 茂  | 博  | 一郎 | 実  | 正  | 弘  | 進   |
| 1924 | 清  | 茂  | 三郎 | 勇  | 博  | 実  | 弘  | 一郎 | 正  | 武   |
| 1925 | 清  | 茂  | 勇  | 三郎 | 博  | 実  | 弘  | 正  | 一郎 | 進   |

## The Shōwa period (昭和 1926–1989)

|      | 1. | 2. | 3. | 4. | 5. | 6. | 7. | 8. | 9. | 10. |
|------|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|-----|
| 1926 | 清  | 勇  | 博  | 実  | 茂  | 三郎 | 弘  | 正  | 進  | 一男  |
| 1927 | 昭二 | 昭  | 和夫 | 清  | 昭一 | 博  | 勇  | 茂  | 実  | 弘   |
| 1928 | 昭三 | 茂  | 昭  | 清  | 勇  | 辰雄 | 博  | 弘  | 三郎 | 和夫  |
| 1929 | 茂  | 清  | 勇  | 実  | 博  | 弘  | 三郎 | 和夫 | 昭  | 進   |
| 1930 | 清  | 勇  | 実  | 進  | 茂  | 博  | 和夫 | 三郎 | 弘  | 幸雄  |
| 1931 | 清  | 勇  | 博  | 弘  | 茂  | 実  | 進  | 三郎 | 幸雄 | 稔   |
| 1932 | 勇  | 弘  | 清  | 実  | 進  | 博  | 茂  | 稔  | 正  | 和夫  |
| 1933 | 清  | 実  | 弘  | 茂  | 勇  | 博  | 進  | 明  | 武  | 正   |
| 1934 | 明  | 実  | 弘  | 清  | 博  | 進  | 勇  | 茂  | 昇  | 三郎  |
| 1935 | 弘  | 清  | 勇  | 実  | 博  | 進  | 正  | 茂  | 隆  | 稔   |
| 1936 | 清  | 弘  | 実  | 博  | 勇  | 進  | 正  | 茂  | 稔  | 勉   |
| 1937 | 清  | 勇  | 弘  | 進  | 博  | 勝  | 実  | 正  | 茂  | 武   |
| 1938 | 勝  | 進  | 弘  | 勇  | 清  | 勲  | 武  | 博  | 功  | 実   |
| 1939 | 勇  | 勝  | 清  | 進  | 弘  | 博  | 勲  | 稔  | 武  | 隆   |
| 1940 | 勇  | 清  | 進  | 博  | 弘  | 勲  | 勝  | 武  | 稔  | 茂   |
| 1941 | 勇  | 進  | 清  | 勲  | 弘  | 稔  | 勝  | 博  | 功  | 昇   |
| 1942 | 勝  | 勇  | 進  | 勲  | 功  | 清  | 昭  | 弘  | 博  | 稔   |
| 1943 | 勝  | 勇  | 進  | 勲  | 武  | 功  | 清  | 博  | 弘  | 勝利  |
| 1944 | 勝  | 勇  | 勝利 | 進  | 勲  | 清  | 博  | 弘  | 武  | 功   |
| 1945 | 勝  | 勇  | 進  | 清  | 勝利 | 博  | 勲  | 弘  | 稔  | 修   |
| 1946 | 稔  | 和夫 | 清  | 弘  | 博  | 豊  | 進  | 勇  | 修  | 明   |
| 1947 | 清  | 稔  | 博  | 進  | 弘  | 修  | 茂  | 和夫 | 勇  | 明   |
| 1948 | 博  | 進  | 茂  | 清  | 実  | 明  | 修  | 豊  | 正  | 和夫  |
| 1949 | 博  | 茂  | 清  | 進  | 実  | 修  | 明  | 隆  | 豊  | 誠   |
| 1950 | 博  | 茂  | 隆  | 実  | 清  | 進  | 明  | 修  | 豊  | 誠   |
| 1951 | 茂  | 博  | 隆  | 修  | 和夫 | 進  | 誠  | 清  | 実  | 明   |
| 1952 | 茂  | 博  | 誠  | 隆  | 稔  | 進  | 昇  | 修  | 清  | 勉   |
| 1953 | 茂  | 誠  | 隆  | 博  | 稔  | 修  | 進  | 清  | 勉  | 明   |
| 1954 | 茂  | 誠  | 隆  | 修  | 博  | 進  | 稔  | 清  | 正  | 豊   |
| 1955 | 隆  | 誠  | 茂  | 修  | 豊  | 博  | 稔  | 進  | 清  | 勉   |
| 1956 | 隆  | 誠  | 修  | 豊  | 茂  | 稔  | 博  | 明  | 昇  | 進   |
| 1957 | 誠  | 隆  | 茂  | 博  | 修  | 浩  | 勝  | 明  | 勉  | 豊   |
| 1958 | 誠  | 隆  | 浩  | 修  | 茂  | 博  | 豊  | 明  | 徹  | 勝   |
| 1959 | 誠  | 修  | 隆  | 徹  | 茂  | 豊  | 明  | 浩  | 進  | 博   |

Japanese Given Names

|      | 1. | 2. | 3.  | 4. | 5. | 6. | 7. | 8. | 9.  | 10. |
|------|----|----|-----|----|----|----|----|----|-----|-----|
| 1960 | 浩  | 浩一 | 誠   | 浩二 | 隆  | 修  | 徹  | 浩之 | 聡   | 博   |
| 1961 | 浩  | 誠  | 浩一  | 徹  | 剛  | 隆  | 和彦 | 修  | 浩二  | 聡   |
| 1962 | 誠  | 浩  | 豊   | 徹  | 浩一 | 修  | 和彦 | 剛  | 隆   | 秀樹  |
| 1963 | 誠  | 浩  | 豊   | 修  | 隆  | 浩一 | 和彦 | 哲也 | 徹   | 直樹  |
| 1964 | 誠  | 浩  | 修   | 隆  | 達也 | 豊  | 和彦 | 直樹 | 浩一  | 勉   |
| 1965 | 誠  | 浩  | 修   | 直樹 | 哲也 | 和彦 | 豊  | 剛  | 学   | 隆   |
| 1966 | 誠  | 浩  | 和彦  | 哲也 | 健一 | 学  | 剛  | 直樹 | 浩二  | 秀樹  |
| 1967 | 誠  | 健一 | 哲也  | 浩  | 剛  | 学  | 和彦 | 修  | 直樹  | 隆   |
| 1968 | 健一 | 誠  | 剛   | 哲也 | 浩二 | 修  | 浩  | 学  | 徹   | 淳   |
| 1969 | 誠  | 健一 | 哲也  | 剛  | 浩二 | 直樹 | 徹  | 健  | 浩   | 和彦  |
| 1970 | 健一 | 誠  | 哲也  | 剛  | 博  | 直樹 | 学  | 博之 | 英樹  | 修   |
| 1971 | 誠  | 哲也 | 剛   | 直樹 | 健一 | 英樹 | 学  | 浩二 | 崇   | 淳   |
| 1972 | 誠  | 哲也 | 剛   | 健一 | 学  | 直樹 | 秀樹 | 徹  | 英樹  | 淳   |
| 1973 | 誠  | 剛  | 哲也  | 直樹 | 健一 | 秀樹 | 学  | 淳  | 英樹  | 大輔  |
| 1974 | 誠  | 大輔 | 剛   | 健一 | 淳  | 哲也 | 直樹 | 学  | 聡   | 大介  |
| 1975 | 誠  | 大輔 | 学   | 剛  | 大介 | 直樹 | 健一 | 淳  | 崇   | 亮   |
| 1976 | 誠  | 大輔 | 直樹  | 剛  | 淳  | 大介 | 竜也 | 学  | 健一  | 亮   |
| 1977 | 誠  | 大輔 | 健太郎 | 剛  | 大介 | 学  | 健一 | 亮  | 直樹  | 洋平  |
| 1978 | 誠  | 大輔 | 直樹  | 剛  | 亮  | 大介 | 聡  | 健  | 健一  | 学   |
| 1979 | 大輔 | 誠  | 直樹  | 亮  | 剛  | 大介 | 学  | 健一 | 健   | 哲也  |
| 1980 | 大輔 | 誠  | 直樹  | 哲也 | 剛  | 学  | 大介 | 亮  | 健一  | 聡   |
| 1981 | 大輔 | 大介 | 健太  | 直樹 | 誠  | 哲也 | 亮  | 健  | 健太郎 | 淳   |
| 1982 | 大輔 | 誠  | 健太  | 大介 | 直樹 | 剛  | 亮  | 和也 | 健太郎 | 翔   |
| 1983 | 大輔 | 健太 | 直樹  | 誠  | 拓也 | 翔  | 和也 | 徹  | 大介  | 達也  |
| 1984 | 大輔 | 健太 | 誠   | 直樹 | 拓也 | 祐介 | 翔  | 雄太 | 和也  | 優   |
| 1985 | 大輔 | 拓也 | 直樹  | 健太 | 和也 | 達也 | 亮  | 翔  | 洋平  | 徹   |
| 1986 | 大輔 | 達也 | 健太  | 拓也 | 和也 | 翔  | 翔太 | 亮  | 雄太  | 直樹  |
| 1987 | 達也 | 拓也 | 翔太  | 大輔 | 健太 | 和也 | 翔  | 直樹 | 大樹  | 亮   |
| 1988 | 翔太 | 達也 | 拓也  | 大輔 | 健太 | 和也 | 亮  | 竜也 | 翔   | 大樹  |

## The Heisei period (平成 1989–2015)

|      | 1.  | 2.  | 3.   | 4.   | 5.     | 6.   | 7.   | 8.      | 9.   | 10.    |
|------|-----|-----|------|------|--------|------|------|---------|------|--------|
| 1989 | 翔太  | 拓也  | 健太   | 翔    | 達也     | 雄太   | 翔平   | 大樹      | 亮    | 健太郎    |
| 1990 | 翔太  | 拓也  | 健太   | 大樹   | 亮      | 駿    | 雄太   | 達也      | 翔平   | 大輔     |
| 1991 | 翔太  | 拓也  | 健太   | 翔    | 大樹     | 翔平   | 大輔   | 直樹      | 達也   | 雄太     |
| 1992 | 拓也  | 健太  | 翔太   | 翔    | 大樹     | 大貴   | 貴大   | 達也      | 大輔   | 和也     |
| 1993 | 翔太  | 拓也  | 健太   | 大樹   | 大輝翼    | -    | 大輔   | 大地      | 翔    | 直樹達也   |
| 1994 | 健太  | 翔太  | 拓也   | 翼    | 翔      | 大樹   | 大輔   | 亮太      | 大輝   | 大貴     |
| 1995 | 拓也  | 健太  | 翔太   | 翼    | 大樹     | 大貴   | 翔    | 亮太      | 拓哉   | 雄大     |
| 1996 | 翔太  | 健太  | 大輝   | 翼    | 大樹     | 拓海   | 直人達也 | -       | 翔    | 康平雄大亮太 |
| 1997 | 翔太  | 翔   | 健太   | 大輝   | 陸      | 拓海   | 大地   | 大樹      | 翼駿   | -      |
| 1998 | 大輝  | 海斗  | 翔    | 翔太   | 大地大樹拓海 | -    | -    | 一輝      | 涼太   | 匠智也    |
| 1999 | 大輝  | 拓海  | 海斗   | 大輔陸翔 | -      | -    | 大樹   | 翔太      | 健太蓮  | -      |
| 2000 | 翔   | 翔太  | 大輝   | 優斗拓海 | -      | 海斗   | 竜也   | 陸蓮      | -    | 一輝健太竜  |
| 2001 | 大輝  | 翔   | 海斗   | 陸    | 蓮翼     | -    | 健太拓海 | -       | 優太翔太 | -      |
| 2002 | 駿   | 拓海翔 | -    | 蓮    | 翔太颯太   | -    | 海斗   | 健太      | 大輝   | 大樹優    |
| 2003 | 大輝  | 翔   | 大翔翔太 | -    | 匠      | 太陽拓海 | -    | 蓮       | 悠斗   | 海斗翼    |
| 2004 | 蓮   | 颯太  | 翔太拓海 | -    | 大翔     | 颯    | 翔優斗陸 | -       | -    | 翼      |
| 2005 | 翔大翔 | -   | 拓海   | 翔太   | 颯太     | 翼    | 海斗輝  | -       | 太陽大和 | -      |
| 2006 | 陸   | 大翔  | 大輝蓮  | -    | 翼      | 悠斗   | 翔太   | 海斗空優太陽斗 | -    | -      |

Japanese Given Names

|      | 1.      | 2. | 3.       | 4.            | 5.                  | 6.                | 7.       | 8.      | 9.                   | 10.            |
|------|---------|----|----------|---------------|---------------------|-------------------|----------|---------|----------------------|----------------|
| 2007 | 大翔      | 蓮  | 大輝       | 翔太            | 悠斗<br>陸             | -                 | 優太<br>優斗 | -       | 大和                   | 健太<br>悠希<br>翔  |
| 2008 | 大翔      | 悠斗 | 陽向       | 翔太            | 悠人<br>颯太            | -                 | 悠太<br>翔  | -       | 蓮                    | 駿<br>陸         |
| 2009 | 大翔      | 翔  | 瑛太<br>大和 | -             | 蓮                   | 悠真<br>陽斗          | -        | 悠斗      | 颯真<br>颯太             | -              |
| 2010 | 大翔      | 悠真 | 翔        | 颯太<br>歩夢      | -                   | 颯真<br>蒼空<br>優斗    | -        | -       | 大雅<br>颯              | -              |
| 2011 | 大翔<br>蓮 | -  | 颯太       | 樹<br>大和<br>陽翔 | -                   | -                 | 陸斗<br>太一 | -       | 海翔                   | 蒼空<br>翼        |
| 2012 | 蓮       | 颯太 | 大翔       | 大和            | 翔太<br>湊<br>悠人<br>大輝 | -                 | -        | -       | 蒼空<br>龍生             | -              |
| 2013 | 悠真      | 陽翔 | 蓮        | 大翔<br>湊       | -                   | 大和                | 颯太       | 陽向<br>翔 | -                    | 蒼空<br>大輝<br>悠人 |
| 2014 | 蓮       | 大翔 | 陽向       | 陽太            | 悠真                  | 湊<br>悠人<br>陸<br>駿 | -        | -       | -                    | 朝陽             |
| 2015 | 大翔      | 悠真 | 蓮<br>陽太  | -             | 湊                   | 颯太<br>陽翔<br>颯     | -        | -       | 陽向<br>大和<br>結翔<br>悠翔 | -              |

**Female names****The Taishō period (大正 1912–1926)**

|      | 1.  | 2.  | 3.  | 4. | 5.  | 6.  | 7.  | 8.  | 9.  | 10. |
|------|-----|-----|-----|----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|
| 1912 | 千代  | ハル  | ハナ  | 正子 | 文子  | ヨシ  | 千代子 | キヨ  | 静子  | はる  |
| 1913 | 正子  | 千代  | 静子  | キヨ | 文子  | ヨシ  | ハル  | フミ  | マサ  | きみ  |
| 1914 | 静子  | キヨ  | 千代子 | ハル | きよ  | ヨシ  | キミ  | トミ  | フミ  | 光子  |
| 1915 | 千代  | 千代子 | 文子  | 静子 | キヨ  | ハル  | 清子  | きよ  | きみ  | はる  |
| 1916 | 文子  | 千代子 | 千代  | 清子 | キミ  | 八重子 | フミ  | キヨ  | 静子  | 貞子  |
| 1917 | 千代子 | キヨ  | キミ  | 文子 | 八重子 | 愛子  | 静子  | ハル  | 美代子 | 貞子  |
| 1918 | 久子  | 静子  | 千代子 | キミ | 文子  | 清子  | キヨ  | 貞子  | 千代  | ハル  |
| 1919 | 久子  | 千代子 | 和子  | 貞子 | 静子  | 文子  | ヨシ  | キヨ  | 清子  | キミ  |
| 1920 | 文子  | 久子  | 千代子 | 静子 | 貞子  | 芳子  | 愛子  | 清子  | キヨ  | 君子  |
| 1921 | 文子  | 千代子 | 清子  | 久子 | 芳子  | 静子  | 幸子  | 美代子 | 敏子  | 愛子  |
| 1922 | 文子  | 幸子  | 美代子 | 清子 | 千代子 | 静子  | 愛子  | 久子  | 光子  | 敏子  |
| 1923 | 文子  | 千代子 | 幸子  | 清子 | 久子  | 美代子 | 愛子  | 光子  | 静子  | 貞子  |
| 1924 | 幸子  | 文子  | 千代子 | 愛子 | 美代子 | 清子  | 信子  | 敏子  | 久子  | 静子  |
| 1925 | 幸子  | 文子  | 美代子 | 久子 | 芳子  | 愛子  | 信子  | 和子  | 千代子 | 八重子 |

## The Shōwa period (昭和 1926–1989)

|      | 1. | 2.  | 3.  | 4.  | 5.  | 6.  | 7.  | 8.  | 9.  | 10. |
|------|----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|
| 1926 | 久子 | 幸子  | 美代子 | 照子  | 文子  | 和子  | 信子  | 千代子 | 光子  | 貞子  |
| 1927 | 和子 | 昭子  | 久子  | 照子  | 幸子  | 美代子 | 光子  | 文子  | 信子  | 節子  |
| 1928 | 和子 | 節子  | 幸子  | 久子  | 昭子  | 美代子 | 照子  | 典子  | 文子  | 信子  |
| 1929 | 和子 | 幸子  | 美代子 | 久子  | 節子  | 文子  | 照子  | 光子  | 貞子  | 八重子 |
| 1930 | 和子 | 幸子  | 節子  | 美代子 | 愛子  | 久子  | 文子  | 光子  | 孝子  | 敏子  |
| 1931 | 和子 | 幸子  | 節子  | 美代子 | 久子  | 文子  | 美智子 | 敏子  | 愛子  | 洋子  |
| 1932 | 和子 | 幸子  | 節子  | 文子  | 美代子 | 久子  | 弘子  | 美智子 | 愛子  | 光子  |
| 1933 | 和子 | 幸子  | 節子  | 洋子  | 弘子  | 久子  | 文子  | 美代子 | 美智子 | 信子  |
| 1934 | 和子 | 幸子  | 節子  | 久子  | 弘子  | 洋子  | 美代子 | 文子  | 美智子 | 信子  |
| 1935 | 和子 | 幸子  | 節子  | 弘子  | 久子  | 洋子  | 美智子 | 栄子  | 良子  | 美代子 |
| 1936 | 和子 | 幸子  | 節子  | 弘子  | 京子  | 久子  | 洋子  | 美智子 | 悦子  | 文子  |
| 1937 | 和子 | 幸子  | 節子  | 弘子  | 京子  | 洋子  | 久子  | 美智子 | 文子  | 悦子  |
| 1938 | 和子 | 幸子  | 節子  | 弘子  | 洋子  | 京子  | 悦子  | 美智子 | 久子  | 栄子  |
| 1939 | 和子 | 幸子  | 節子  | 弘子  | 洋子  | 悦子  | 美智子 | 京子  | 美代子 | 孝子  |
| 1940 | 紀子 | 和子  | 幸子  | 節子  | 洋子  | 弘子  | 美智子 | 久子  | 文子  | 悦子  |
| 1941 | 和子 | 幸子  | 洋子  | 節子  | 弘子  | 美智子 | 悦子  | 美代子 | 京子  | 恵子  |
| 1942 | 洋子 | 和子  | 幸子  | 節子  | 昭子  | 弘子  | 美智子 | 勝子  | 光子  | 悦子  |
| 1943 | 和子 | 洋子  | 幸子  | 節子  | 弘子  | 美智子 | 勝子  | 悦子  | 光子  | 昭子  |
| 1944 | 和子 | 洋子  | 幸子  | 節子  | 勝子  | 弘子  | 美智子 | 光子  | 悦子  | 昭子  |
| 1945 | 和子 | 幸子  | 洋子  | 節子  | 弘子  | 美智子 | 勝子  | 信子  | 美代子 | 京子  |
| 1946 | 和子 | 幸子  | 洋子  | 美智子 | 節子  | 弘子  | 京子  | 悦子  | 恵子  | 美代子 |
| 1947 | 和子 | 幸子  | 洋子  | 美智子 | 節子  | 弘子  | 恵子  | 悦子  | 京子  | 恵美子 |
| 1948 | 和子 | 幸子  | 洋子  | 節子  | 悦子  | 恵子  | 京子  | 美代子 | 恵美子 | 啓子  |
| 1949 | 幸子 | 和子  | 洋子  | 節子  | 恵子  | 悦子  | 京子  | 恵美子 | 啓子  | 久美子 |
| 1950 | 和子 | 洋子  | 幸子  | 恵子  | 節子  | 京子  | 悦子  | 恵美子 | 順子  | 由美子 |
| 1951 | 和子 | 洋子  | 恵子  | 幸子  | 京子  | 節子  | 恵美子 | 悦子  | 順子  | 由美子 |
| 1952 | 和子 | 恵子  | 洋子  | 幸子  | 京子  | 節子  | 美智子 | 悦子  | 由美子 | 順子  |
| 1953 | 恵子 | 洋子  | 和子  | 幸子  | 京子  | 美智子 | 由美子 | 節子  | 悦子  | 久美子 |
| 1954 | 恵子 | 洋子  | 幸子  | 京子  | 和子  | 由美子 | 美智子 | 久美子 | 悦子  | 順子  |
| 1955 | 洋子 | 恵子  | 京子  | 幸子  | 和子  | 久美子 | 由美子 | 裕子  | 美智子 | 悦子  |
| 1956 | 恵子 | 京子  | 洋子  | 幸子  | 和子  | 久美子 | 由美子 | 裕子  | 順子  | 典子  |
| 1957 | 恵子 | 京子  | 洋子  | 幸子  | 和子  | 久美子 | 由美子 | 裕子  | 明美  | 美智子 |
| 1958 | 恵子 | 久美子 | 洋子  | 幸子  | 由美子 | 裕子  | 美智子 | 和子  | 京子  | 明美  |
| 1959 | 恵子 | 久美子 | 智子  | 美智子 | 由美子 | 明美  | 幸子  | 洋子  | 裕子  | 京子  |

Appendix 1: Top ten ranking male and female names by Meiji Yasuda

|      | 1.  | 2.  | 3.  | 4.  | 5.  | 6.  | 7.  | 8.  | 9.  | 10. |
|------|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|
| 1960 | 恵子  | 由美子 | 久美子 | 智子  | 浩子  | 裕子  | 洋子  | 明美  | 幸子  | 和子  |
| 1961 | 恵子  | 由美子 | 久美子 | 明美  | 裕子  | 洋子  | 幸子  | 智子  | 京子  | 真由美 |
| 1962 | 久美子 | 由美子 | 恵子  | 洋子  | 智子  | 裕子  | 明美  | 幸子  | 由美  | 真由美 |
| 1963 | 由美子 | 恵子  | 久美子 | 明美  | 真由美 | 由美  | 裕子  | 幸子  | 洋子  | 智子  |
| 1964 | 由美子 | 真由美 | 明美  | 久美子 | 恵子  | 由美  | 裕子  | 智子  | 幸子  | ゆかり |
| 1965 | 明美  | 真由美 | 由美子 | 恵子  | 久美子 | 裕子  | 智子  | 由美  | 幸子  | 直美  |
| 1966 | 由美子 | 真由美 | 明美  | 智子  | 洋子  | 裕子  | 由美  | 陽子  | 久美子 | 幸子  |
| 1967 | 由美子 | 由美  | 真由美 | 洋子  | 明美  | 直美  | 智子  | 裕子  | 陽子  | 恵子  |
| 1968 | 直美  | 由美子 | 真由美 | 智子  | 裕子  | 由美  | 恵子  | 陽子  | 久美子 | 明美  |
| 1969 | 直美  | 智子  | 由美子 | 陽子  | 裕子  | 真由美 | 久美子 | 恵子  | 由美  | 幸子  |
| 1970 | 直美  | 智子  | 陽子  | 裕子  | 由美子 | 真由美 | 直子  | 久美子 | 由美  | 恵子  |
| 1971 | 陽子  | 智子  | 真由美 | 直美  | 裕子  | 由美子 | 純子  | 由美  | 恵子  | 久美子 |
| 1972 | 陽子  | 真由美 | 智子  | 裕子  | 純子  | 恵子  | 恵美  | 美香  | 直美  | 由美  |
| 1973 | 陽子  | 裕子  | 真由美 | 智子  | 純子  | 恵美  | 香織  | 恵   | 美穂  | 美香  |
| 1974 | 陽子  | 裕子  | 真由美 | 久美子 | 純子  | 智子  | 優子  | 美香  | 恵美  | 美穂  |
| 1975 | 久美子 | 裕子  | 真由美 | 智子  | 陽子  | 優子  | 純子  | 香織  | 美穂  | 美紀  |
| 1976 | 智子  | 裕子  | 真由美 | 陽子  | 久美子 | 香織  | 裕美  | めぐみ | 恵   | 美穂  |
| 1977 | 智子  | 陽子  | 久美子 | 裕子  | 真由美 | 香織  | 裕美  | 幸子  | 恵   | 優子  |
| 1978 | 陽子  | 久美子 | 智子  | 裕子  | 恵   | 理恵  | 香織  | 愛   | 真由美 | 恵子  |
| 1979 | 智子  | 久美子 | 陽子  | 裕子  | 理恵  | 真由美 | 香織  | 恵   | 愛   | 優子  |
| 1980 | 絵美  | 裕子  | 久美子 | 恵   | 智子  | 愛   | 香織  | 恵美  | 理恵  | 陽子  |
| 1981 | 恵   | 愛   | 裕子  | 香織  | 恵美  | 陽子  | 久美子 | 智子  | 絵美  | 理恵  |
| 1982 | 裕子  | 愛   | 香織  | 恵   | 智子  | 麻美  | 美穂  | 理恵  | 陽子  | 久美子 |
| 1983 | 愛   | 裕子  | 麻美  | 麻衣  | 恵   | 香織  | 明日香 | 智子  | 美穂  | 美香  |
| 1984 | 愛   | 麻衣  | 恵   | 裕子  | 麻美  | 美香  | 智美  | 美穂  | 麻衣子 | 友美  |
| 1985 | 愛   | 麻衣  | 麻美  | 恵   | 香織  | 彩   | あゆみ | 友美  | 舞   | 裕子  |
| 1986 | 愛   | 美穂  | 麻衣  | 彩   | 麻美  | 恵   | 香織  | 由佳  | あゆみ | 友美  |
| 1987 | 愛   | 愛美  | 沙織  | 彩   | 美穂  | 香織  | 麻美  | 恵   | 麻衣  | 舞   |
| 1988 | 愛   | 彩   | 美穂  | 麻衣  | 沙織  | 舞   | 麻美  | 愛美  | 恵   | 香織  |

## The Heisei period (平成 1912–1926)

|      | 1.        | 2.  | 3.       | 4.                 | 5.       | 6.            | 7.      | 8.                 | 9.                              | 10.           |
|------|-----------|-----|----------|--------------------|----------|---------------|---------|--------------------|---------------------------------|---------------|
| 1989 | 愛         | 彩   | 美穂       | 成美                 | 沙織       | 麻衣            | 舞       | 愛美                 | 瞳                               | 彩香            |
| 1990 | 愛彩        | -   | 愛美       | 千尋                 | 麻衣       | 舞             | 美穂      | 瞳                  | 彩香<br>沙織                        | -             |
| 1991 | 美咲        | 愛   | 美穂       | 彩                  | 麻衣       | 彩香            | 舞       | 愛美                 | 早紀                              | 千尋            |
| 1992 | 美咲        | 愛   | 舞        | 茜                  | 美穂       | 彩<br>麻衣       | -       | 桃子                 | 千尋                              | 愛美<br>彩香      |
| 1993 | 美咲        | 愛   | 舞        | 里奈                 | 彩<br>萌   | -             | 麻衣      | 茜                  | 彩香                              | 彩花            |
| 1994 | 美咲        | 愛   | 萌        | 愛美                 | 遥        | 千夏<br>彩香<br>葵 | -       | -                  | 舞<br>麻衣<br>桃子                   | -             |
| 1995 | 美咲        | 愛   | 遥        | 佳奈<br>舞            | -        | 葵             | 彩       | 菜摘                 | 桃子                              | 茜             |
| 1996 | 美咲        | 彩   | 明日<br>香  | 真由<br>萌            | -        | 愛             | 楓       | 奈々<br>桃子           | -                               | 彩花<br>優花      |
| 1997 | 明日<br>香   | 美咲  | 七海       | 彩花<br>優花<br>楓<br>萌 | -        | -             | -       | 未来                 | 愛<br>彩<br>葵                     | -             |
| 1998 | 萌         | 美咲  | 優花       | 舞<br>彩乃            | -        | 七海<br>葵       | -       | 玲奈                 | 明日<br>香                         | 未来            |
| 1999 | 未来        | 萌   | 美咲       | 亜美                 | 里奈       | 菜々<br>子       | 彩花      | 遥                  | 七海                              | 彩乃<br>優花<br>葵 |
| 2000 | さくら<br>優花 | -   | 美咲<br>菜月 | -                  | 七海<br>葵  | -             | 美月<br>萌 | -                  | 明日<br>香<br>愛美<br>詩織<br>彩夏<br>彩乃 | -             |
| 2001 | さくら       | 未 来 | 七海       | 美月<br>結衣           | -        | 美咲            | 玲奈      | 優花<br>萌            | -                               | 琴音<br>彩花      |
| 2002 | 美咲<br>葵   | -   | 七海       | 美羽                 | 莉子       | 美優            | 萌       | 美月<br>愛<br>優花<br>凜 | -                               | -             |
| 2003 | 陽菜        | 七海  | さくら      | 凜                  | 美咲<br>葵  | -             | 萌       | 美月<br>彩花           | -                               | 真央<br>菜月      |
| 2004 | さくら<br>美咲 | -   | 凜        | 陽菜                 | 七海<br>未来 | -             | 花音      | 葵                  | 結衣                              | 百花<br>ひな<br>た |

Appendix 1: Top ten ranking male and female names by Meiji Yasuda

|      | 1.       | 2.             | 3. | 4.              | 5.                         | 6.        | 7.                   | 8.             | 9.                   | 10.                  |
|------|----------|----------------|----|-----------------|----------------------------|-----------|----------------------|----------------|----------------------|----------------------|
| 2005 | 陽菜       | さくら            | 美咲 | 葵<br>美羽         | -                          | 美優        | 凜                    | 七海<br>美月<br>結衣 | -                    | -                    |
| 2006 | 陽菜       | 美羽             | 美咲 | さくら             | 愛葵<br>七海                   | -         | -                    | 真央             | 優衣                   | 愛美<br>杏結<br>菜優<br>奈  |
| 2007 | 葵        | さくら<br>優奈      | -  | 結衣<br>陽菜        | -                          | 七海<br>美咲  | -                    | 美優             | ひなた<br>美羽<br>優衣      | -                    |
| 2008 | 陽菜       | 結衣             | 葵  | さくら             | 優奈                         | 美優        | 心優                   | 莉子<br>美桜<br>結菜 | -                    | -                    |
| 2009 | 陽菜       | 美羽<br>美咲       | -  | 美桜              | 結愛                         | さくら<br>結菜 | -                    | 彩乃             | 七海                   | ひなた<br>愛莉<br>杏優<br>奈 |
| 2010 | さくら      | 陽菜<br>結愛<br>莉子 | -  | -               | 美桜                         | 美羽        | 葵<br>結衣              | -              | 美咲<br>結菜             | -                    |
| 2011 | 陽菜<br>結愛 | -              | 結衣 | 杏               | 莉子<br>美羽<br>結菜<br>心愛<br>愛菜 | -         | -                    | -              | -                    | 美咲                   |
| 2012 | 結衣       | 陽菜             | 結菜 | 結愛<br>ひなた<br>心春 | -                          | -         | 心愛                   | 凜              | 美桜<br>依奈<br>美結<br>心咲 | -                    |
| 2013 | 結菜       | 葵              | 結衣 | 陽菜              | 結愛                         | 凜         | ひなた<br>凜             | -              | 愛菜<br>美結<br>陽葵       | -                    |
| 2014 | 陽菜<br>凜  | -              | 結菜 | 葵               | 結愛                         | 愛莉<br>美咲  | -                    | 結衣             | 桜                    | 凜心<br>春杏<br>愛梨       |
| 2015 | 葵        | 陽菜             | 結衣 | さくら             | 凜                          | 花         | 結愛<br>花音<br>心結<br>陽葵 | -              | -                    | -                    |

## APPENDIX 2: NAMES FROM THE CORPUS CONTAINING ONE OR MORE OF THE MOST FREQUENT KANJI DISCUSSED IN CHAPTER FOUR

### Male names

#### 1) 太

新太 *Arata*, 栄太 / 永太 / 瑛太 *Eita*, 楓太 *Fūta*, 春太 *Haruta*, 陽太 *Haruta / Hinata / Hiroto / Yōta*, 晴太 *Haruta / Seita*, 温太 *Haruto*, 陽南太 *Hinata*, 一太 *Ichita*, 壹太 *Itta*, 丈太 *Jōta*, 丈太郎 / 壤太郎 / 定太郎 *Jōtarō*, 惇太 *Jundai*, 凱太 / 快太 *Kaita*, 叶太 / 哉太 *Kanata*, 奏太 *Kanata / Sōta*, 寬太 / 幹太 / 柑太 / 歡太 / 貫太 *Kanta*, 寬太郎 *Kantarō*, 啓太 / 圭太 / 惠太 / 慶太 *Keita*, 惠太良 / 慶太郎 *Keitarō*, 健太 *Kenta*, 絢太郎 *Kentarō*, 倅太 / 光太 / 孝太 / 幸太 / 康太 / 弘太 / 恒太 / 晃太 / 晁太 / 煌太 / 紘太 / 航太 *Kōta*, 冴太郎 / 冴太郎 / 小太郎 / 琥太郎 / 琥太郎 / 虎太郎 / 虎太郎 *Kotarō*, 功太郎 / 孝太郎 / 孝太郎 / 幸太郎 / 広太郎 / 晃太郎 / 洸太郎 / 浩太郎 / 煌太郎 / 皓太郎 / 虹太郎 / 輝太郎 *Kōtarō*, 球太 *Kyūta*, 直太郎 *Naotarō*, 那由太 *Nayuta*, 凰太 / 碧太 / 逢太 *Ōta*, 旺太郎 / 桜太郎 *Ōtarō*, 雷太 *Raita*, 蓮太 *Renta*, 陸太 *Rikuta*, 凜太 *Rinta*, 倫太郎 / 倫太郎 / 凜太郎 / 凜太郎 / 琳太郎 / 麟太郎 *Rintarō*, 祿太 *Rokuta*, 亮太 / 涼太 / 良太 / 遼太 / 陵太 *Ryōta*, 凌太郎 / 遼太郎 *Ryōtarō*, 琉太 / 隆太 / 龍太 *Ryūta*, 柳太郎 *Ryūtarō*, 咲太郎 / 朔太郎 *Sakutarō*, 三太 / 讚太 *Santa*, 晴太郎 / 清太郎 *Seitarō*, 重太 *Shigeta*, 信太 / 真太 *Shinta*, 信太郎 / 心太郎 / 慎太郎 *Shintarō*, 奨太 / 将太 / 彰太 / 祥太 / 笑太 / 翔太 *Shōta*, 匠太郎 / 承太郎 / 昇太郎 / 正太郎 / 祥太郎 / 翔太郎 *Shōtarō*, 俊太 / 駿太 *Shunta*, 駿太郎 *Shuntarō*, 柗太 / 蹴太 *Shūta*, 創太 / 壯太 / 想太 / 湊太 / 総太 / 蒼太 / 颯太 *Sōta*, 壯太郎 / 奏太郎 / 惣太郎 / 想太郎 / 湊太郎 / 聡太郎 / 蒼太郎 / 颯太郎 / 颯太郎 *Sōtarō*, 太克 *Taiga*, 太平洋 *Taiheiyō*, 太一 / 太智 *Taichi*, 太輝 *Taiki*, 太惺 *Taisei*, 太陽 *Taiyō*, 太朗 *Tarō*, 徹太 *Tetta*, 寅太 *Torata*,

稔太郎 *Toshitarō*, 耀太 / 謠太 / 陽太 *Yōta*, 葉太郎 / 陽太朗 *Yōtarō*, 歛太 *Yūdai* / *Kanta*, 維太 *Yuito*, 佑太 / 侑太 / 優太 / 悠太 / 祐太 / 結太 / 雄太 *Yūta*, 悠太朗 / 悠太郎 *Yūtarō*

## 2) 大

新大 *Arata*, 耀大 *Akito*, 朝大 *Asahi*, 步大 *Ayuto*, 千大 *Chihiro*, 大空 *Daia* / *Sora*, 大地 / 大智 *Daichi* / *Taichi*, 大悟 / 大剛 / 大湖 *Daigo*, 大珠 *Daiju*, 大貴 / 大揮 / 大葵 *Daiki*, 大輝 *Daiki* / *Haruki* / *Hiroki*, 大樹 *Daiki* / *Hiroki* / *Taiki*, 大希 *Daiki* / *Taiki*, 大喜知 *Daikichi*, 大夢 *Daimu* / *Hiromu*, 大夏 *Daina*, 大和 *Daina* / *Hirokazu* / *Yamato*, 大翼 *Daisuke*, 大翔 *Daito* / *Hiroto* / *Kakeru* / *Taiga* / *Yamato*, 大也 *Daiya* / *Haruya*, 大創 *Daizō*, 瑛大 *Eito*, 楓大 *Fūta*, 大 *Hajime*, 陽大 *Haruta* / *Haruhiro* / *Hinata*, 遙大 / 暖大 / 温大 *Haruto*, 大椰 *Haruya*, 颯大 *Hayata* / *Hayato* / *Sōma* / *Sōta*, 陽向大 *Hinata*, 大軌 *Hiroki*, 大都 *Hiroto*, 准大 *Jundai*, 寬大 / 幹大 *Kanta*, 慶大 *Keidai*, 惠大 *Keita*, 暁大 / 幸大 / 紘大 *Kōdai*, 航大 *Kōdai* / *Kōta* / *Wataru*, 昂大 *Kōki*, 昊大 / 倭大 / 煌大 / 暁大 / 皓大 *Kōta*, 輝大郎 / 廣大朗 / 幸大郎 *Kōtarō*, 虎弥大 *Koyata*, 優大 *Mahiro* / *Yūdai*, 眞大 *Mao*, 將大 / 昌大 *Masahiro*, 大登 *Masato*, 海大 *Midai* / *Mihiro*, 光大 *Mitsuhiro*, 夢大 *Mutta*, 桜大 *Ōdai* / *Ōta*, 大舞 *Ōma*, 旺大 *Ōta*, 蓮大 *Renta*, 怜大 *Reo*, 凜大朗 / 凜大良 *Rintarō*, 惺大 *Ruo*, 椋大 / 遼大 *Ryōta*, 諒大郎 *Ryōtarō*, 朔大 *Sakuto*, 惺大 *Seidai*, 心大 *Shinta*, 翔大 *Shōdai* / *Tsubasa*, 尚大 *Shōta*, 笑大郎 *Shōtarō*, 周大 *Shūdai*, 隼大 *Shunta*, 蒼大 / 湊大 *Sōdai* / *Sōta*, 空大 *Sora*, 想大 *Sōta*, 大知 / 大宙 *Taichi*, 大雅 / 大河 / 大海 / 大楓 / 大我 / 大芽 / 大駕 / 大賀 / 大珂 *Taiga*, 大成 / 大晴 / 大誠 / 大惺 *Taisei*, 大志 / 大紫 *Taishi*, 大心 *Taishin*, 大遙 / 大陽 / 大桜 / 大耀 *Taiyō*, 隆大 *Takahiro*, 竜大 *Tatsuhiko*, 知大 *Tomohiro*, 大斗 *Yamato*, 善大 *Yoshihiro*, 耀大 *Yōta*, 裕大 *Yūdai*, 雄大 *Yūdai* / *Yūto*, 結大 *Yuito*, 夢大 *Yumeto*, 由大 *Yūta*

## 3) 翔

陽翔 *Akito* / *Haruto* / *Hikaru*, 明翔 *Akito* / *Meito*, 葵翔 *Aoto*, 有翔 *Aruto*, 彩翔 *Ayato* / *Saito*, 大翔 *Daito* / *Haruto* / *Hiroto* / *Kakeru* / *Taiga* / *Yamato*, 永翔 / 瑛翔 *Eito*, 風翔 *Fūga*, 樂翔 *Gakuto*, 元翔 *Gento*, 翔琥 *Haku*, 晴翔 / 暖翔 / 遙翔 *Haruto*, 隼翔 / 颯翔 *Hayato*, 日々翔 *Hibito*, 翔彩 *Hihiro*, 広翔 / 翔健 *Hiroto*, 翔斗 *Hiroto* / *Shōto*, 悠翔 *Hiroto* / *Yūto*, 一翔 *Ichito* / *Kakeru* / *Kazuto*, 仁翔 *Jinto*, 翔生 *Joi* / *Kai* / *Kanaru* / *Shōsei*, 快翔 / 權翔 / 海翔 / 魁翔 *Kaito*, 空翔 *Kaito* / *Kūto* / *Sorato*, 翔夢 / 翔流 / 翔琉 *Kakeru*, 翔 *Kakeru* / *Shō*, 天翔 *Kakeru* / *Takato*, 翔要 *Kamui*, 翔奏 *Kanata*, 奏翔

*Kanata / Kanato / Sōto*, 叶翔 *Kanato*, 健翔 *Kento / Takeru / Taketo*, 煌翔 *Kirato*, 清翔 / 聖翔 *Kiyoto*, 琥翔白 *Kotoha*, 愛翔 / 眞翔 / 真翔 / 誠翔 *Manato*, 将翔 / 真翔 / 雅翔 *Masato*, 湊翔 *Minato*, 直翔 *Naoto*, 虹翔 *Nito*, 来翔 *Raito*, 玲翔 *Reito*, 蓮翔 *Rento*, 凌翔 / 凜翔 / 睦翔 / 陸翔 *Rikuto*, 吏翔 *Rito*, 墨翔 / 月翔 *Ruito*, 琉翔 *Ruito / Ryūto*, 峻翔 *Ryōto*, 龍翔 *Ryūto*, 咲翔 / 朔翔 *Sakuto*, 宣翔 *Sento*, 翔音 *Shōto*, 翔大 *Shōdai / Shōta / Tsubasa*, 翔永 *Shōei*, 翔伍 / 翔悟 *Shōgo*, 翔己 / 翔輝 *Shōki*, 翔天 / 翔真 / 翔舞 / 翔馬 *Shōma*, 翔晴 / 翔誠 *Shōsei*, 翔心 *Shōshin*, 翔太 *Shōta*, 翔太郎 *Shōtarō*, 翔哉 / 翔埜 / 翔矢 *Shōya*, 愁翔 *Shūga*, 秀翔 / 秋翔 / 翔飛 *Shūto*, 琥翔 *Taiga*, 貴翔 *Takato*, 丈翔 *Taketo*, 拓翔 / 逞翔 *Takuto*, 翔聖 *Tensei*, 輝翔 *Teruto*, 翔葵 / 翔蒼 *Toa*, 翔希 *Toki*, 翔莉 *Tōri*, 士翔 / 翔和 *Towa*, 結翔 *Yuito / Yūto*, 幸翔 / 行翔 *Yukito*, 夢翔 *Yumeto*, 優翔 / 裕翔 *Yūto*, 友翔 *Yūto / Yuyuto*

#### 4) 斗

愛斗 *Aito / Manato*, 藍斗 *Aito / Eito*, 瑛斗 / 暁斗 / 晃斗 / 士斗 / 晶輝斗 *Akito*, 千斗星 *Chitose*, 詠斗 *Eito*, 武蘭斗 *Furanto*, 陽斗 *Hāto / Haruto*, 温斗 / 治斗 / 春斗 / 悠斗 / 遥斗 / 晴斗 / 駿斗 / 颯斗 *Haruto*, 響斗 *Hibito*, 尋斗 / 皓斗 *Hiroto*, 翔斗 *Hiroto / Shōto*, 彪斗 *Hyūto*, 育斗 *Ikuto*, 樹羅斗 *Jurato*, 快斗 / 魁斗 / 海斗 / 權斗 / 煌斗 *Kaito*, 海夏斗 / 奏斗 *Kanato*, 啓斗 / 彗斗 *Keito*, 絢斗 / 健斗 / 謙斗 *Kento*, 輝斗 *Kirato*, 稀斗 *Kito*, 空斗 *Kūto*, 勝斗 / 晶斗 *Masato*, 樹斗 *Mikito*, 未来斗 *Mikuto*, 望己斗 / 湊斗 *Minato*, 夏斗 *Natsuto*, 賴斗 / 雷斗 / 徠斗 *Raito*, 嵐生斗 *Raoto*, 蓮斗 *Rento*, 耀斗 *Rihito*, 力斗 *Rikito*, 陸斗 *Rikuto*, 凜々斗 *Ririto*, 流斗 / 琉斗 / 溜依斗 *Ruito*, 琉斗 / 溜斗 *Ryūto*, 修斗 / 蹴斗 / 柊斗 *Shūto*, 泰斗 *Taito*, 鷹斗 *Takato*, 拓斗 / 逞斗 *Takuto*, 斗愛 / 斗聖 *Toa*, 斗真 / 斗磨 / 斗眞 *Tōma*, 斗嵩 *Tōshū*, 斗哉 *Tōya*, 梅斗 *Umeto*, 大斗 *Yamato*, 結斗 / 唯斗 *Yuito*, 悠紀斗 *Yukito*, 夢斗 *Yumeto / Yūto*, 行斗 / 優斗 / 勇斗 / 悠斗 / 湧斗 / 裕斗 / 侑斗 *Yūto*

#### 5) 陽

陽 *Aki / Ataru / Haru / Hinata / Yō*, 明陽 *Akiharu*, 陽翔 *Akito / Haruto / Hikaru*, 陽俊 *Akitoshi / Haruto*, 旦陽 / 旭陽 / 朝陽 / 麻陽 *Asahi*, 陽仁 *Ayato / Haruhito / Haruto*, 智陽 *Chiharu*, 陽琉 *Haru*, 陽奏 *Harua / Hinata*, 悠陽 / 春陽 *Haruhi*, 陽輝 *Haruhi / Haruki*, 陽大 *Haruhiro / Haruta / Haruto / Hinata*, 陽穗 *Haruho*, 陽喜 / 陽基 / 陽己 / 陽希 / 陽暉 / 陽樹 / 陽琉希 / 陽生 / 陽稀 / 陽葵 *Haruki*, 陽琥 *Haruku*, 陽真 *Haruma*, 陽太 *Haruta / Hinata / Hiroto / Yōta*, 陽人 / 陽永 / 陽音 / 陽飛 *Haruto*, 陽斗

*Haruto* / *Hāto*, 陽貴 *Hidaka*, 陽源 *Higen*, 陽彩 *Hihiro*, 陽夏瑠 *Hikaru*, 日陽 / 陽優 / 陽奏 / 陽遙 / 陽南太 / 陽向大 *Hinata*, 陽向 *Hinata* / *Hyūga*, 陽琉馬 *Hiruma*, 陽智 *Hisato*, 陽陸 *Hitachi*, 陽和 *Hiyori*, 陽月 *Hizuki*, 奏陽 *Kanata*, 華陽 *Kayo*, 一陽 *Kazuhi*, 聖陽 *Kiyoharu*, 匡陽 *Masaya*, 惺陽 *Seiya*, 紫陽 *Shō*, 珠陽 *Subaru*, 大陽 / 太陽 *Taiyō*, 陽介 / 陽裕 *Yōsuke*, 陽太郎 *Yōtarō*, 侑陽 / 勇陽 / 由陽 *Yūhi*

## 6) 人

心人 *Aito*, 彰人 / 晶人 *Akito*, 蒼人 *Aoto*, 麻人 *Asahito*, 篤人 *Atsuto*, 綾人 / 彩人 *Ayato*, 瑛人 *Eito*, 風人 / 楓人 *Fūto*, 博人 *Hakuto*, 遙人 *Haruhito*, 溫人 / 遙人 / 陽人 / 遼人 / 晴人 *Haruto*, 悠人 / 勇人 *Haruto* / *Yūto*, 速人 / 隼人 / 颯人 *Hayato*, 響人 *Hibito*, 秀人 *Hideto*, 嘉人 / 寬人 / 紘人 / 洋人 *Hiroto*, 育人 / 郁人 *Ikuto*, 快人 / 海人 *Kaito*, 叶人 / 奏人 *Kanato*, 啓人 / 慶人 / 慧人 *Keito*, 建人 *Kento*, 健人 *Kento* / *Taketo*, 煌人 *Kirato*, 倅人 / 向人 / 澁人 *Kōto*, 光人 *Kōto* / *Raito*, 來人 *Kuruto*, 楨人 *Makito*, 諒人 *Makoto*, 真夏人 *Manato*, 雅人 / 真人 / 聖人 / 誠人 *Masato*, 愛依人 *Meito*, 皆人 / 湊人 *Minato*, 仁希人 *Nikito*, 賴人 / 來人 *Raito*, 零人 / 黎人 *Reito*, 蓮人 *Rento*, 怜央人 *Reoto*, 理人 *Rihito*, 睦人 / 陸人 *Rikuto*, 凜人 *Rinto*, 律友人 / 琉人 / 龍人 *Ryūto*, 咲人 *Sakito* / *Sakuto*, 終人 *Shūto*, 想人 *Sōto*, 寿々人 *Suzuto*, 泰人 *Taito*, 匠人 / 拓人 *Takuto*, 天人 *Tento*, 人慧 *Toa*, 侶人 *Tomohito*, 庸人 *Yasuto*, 惟人 / 唯人 *Yuito*, 結人 *Yuito* / *Yūto*, 裕人 *Yūjin*, 夢人 / 佑人 / 優人 / 雄人 *Yūto*

## 7) 悠

悠 *Haru* / *Yū*, 悠陽 *Haruhi*, 悠維 *Harui*, 悠輝 / 悠稀 *Haruki*, 悠生 *Haruki* / *Yūki* / *Yūsei*, 悠馬 *Haruma* / *Yūma*, 悠成 *Harunari* / *Yūsei*, 悠斗 / 悠人 *Haruto* / *Yūto*, 秀悠 *Hidehisa*, 悠翔 *Hiroto*, 悠仁 *Hiroto* / *Yūto*, 悠史 *Hisafumi*, 悠海 / 悠右 / 悠羽 *Yū*, 悠雅 *Yūga* / *Yūma*, 悠伍 / 悠悟 / 悠吾 *Yūgo*, 悠平 *Yūhei*, 悠希 / 悠樹 *Yūki*, 悠貴 *Yūki* / *Yutaka*, 悠紀斗 *Yukito*, 悠真 *Yūma* / *Yūshin*, 悠之介 *Yūnosuke*, 悠空 *Yura*, 悠莉 *Yūri*, 悠晟 / 悠誠 / 悠晴 *Yūsei*, 悠介 / 悠輔 *Yūsuke*, 悠太 / 悠汰 *Yūta*, 悠太郎 *Yūtarō*, 悠登 / 悠都 / 悠永 / 悠灯 / 悠与 / 悠央 / 悠音 *Yūto*, 悠羽 / 悠和 *Yūwa*, 悠月 *Yuzuki*

## 8) 介

瑛介 / 詠介 *Eisuke*, 楓介 *Fūsuke*, 甚之介 *Jinnosuke*, 淳之介 *Junnosuke*, 啓介 / 恵介 *Keisuke*, 健介 *Kensuke*, 航之介 / 鴻之介 *Kōnosuke*, 康介 / 虹介 *Kōsuke*, 杏介 *Kyōsuke*, 旺介 / 桜介 / 風介 *Ōsuke*, 凜乃介 *Rinnosuke*, 凌介

Ryōsuke, 琉之介 / 竜乃介 / 竜之介 / 龍ノ介 / 龍之介 / 隆之介 Ryūnosuke, 隆介 Ryūsuke, 晴之介 Seinosuke, 正介 Seisuke, 心之介 Shinnosuke, 将之介 Shōnosuke, 駿之介 Shunnosuke, 俊介 Shunsuke, 壯介 / 聡介 / 蒼介 / 颯介 Sōsuke, 泰介 Taisuke, 虎之介 Toranosuke, 遥介 / 瑤介 / 陽介 Yōsuke, 優之介 / 悠之介 Yūnosuke, 優介 / 悠介 / 有介 / 祐介 / 雄介 Yūsuke

## 9) 希

碧希 Aiki, 飛希 Asuki, 大希 Daiki, 楓希 Fūki, 春希 / 遥希 / 陽希 / 陽琉希 Haruki, 葉結希 Hayuki, 拓希 Hiroki, 唯希 / 樹吹希 / 步希 Ibuki, 樹希 Itsuki, 克希 Katsuki, 一希 / 和希 Kazuki, 希威 Kei, 希隆 Kiryū, 幸希 / 恒希 / 晃希 / 煌希 / 皇希 / 航希 Kōki, 光希 Kōki / Mitsuki / Teruki, 希空 Mareku, 将希 Masaki, 優希 Masaki / Yūki, 充希 Mitsuki / Mitsuru, 元希 Motoki, 直希 Naoki, 仁希人 Nikito, 希步 / 希空 Noa, 希光 Noeru, 希望 Nozomu, 來希 / 来希 Raiki, 凌希 Riki, 律希 Ritsuki, 瑠希 Ruki, 琉希 Ruki / Ryūki, 龍希 Ryūki / Tatsuki, 志希 / 朱希 Shiki, 俊希 / 瞬希 Shunki, 希心 Soa, 創希 Sōki, 泰希 Taiki, 竜希 Tatsuki, 翔希 Toki, 智希 / 知希 Tomoki, 佳希 / 良希 Yoshiki, 侑希 Yuzuki, 勇希 / 友希 / 悠希 / 有希 / 祐希 Yūki, 佑希 Yūma, 柚希 Yuzuki

## 10) 一

橙一 Daichi, 一甫 Hajime, 春一 Haruichi, 一稀 Hazuki, 一露 / 一颯 Ibuki, 一会 Ichie, 一護 Ichigo, 一登 Ichigo / Kazuto, 一葉 Ichihana, 一珂 Ichika, 一乃 Ichino, 一路 Ichiro, 一朗 Ichirō, 一瑠 Ichiru, 一太 Ichita, 一隼 Ichitaka, 一翔 Ichito / Kakeru / Kazuto, 一樹 Ikki / Itsuki / Kazuki, 一平 Ippei, 一步 Ippo, 一冴 / 一咲 / 一惺 / 一瑳 Issa, 一清 Isse, 一成 / 一正 / 一誠 Issei, 一進 Isshin, 一匠 Isshō, 一絆 Itsuki, 一虎 Itto, 丈一郎 Jōichirō, 一陽 Kazuhi, 一補 Kazuho, 一喜 / 一季 / 一希 Kazuki, 一輝 Kazuki / Kazuteru, 一真 / 一馬 Kazuma, 一政 Kazumasa, 一実 Kazumi, 一夢 Kazumu, 一颯 Kazusa, 一優 Kazuya, 慶一 Keiichi, 慶一朗 Keiichirō, 喜一 / 揮一 / 輝一 Kiichi, 晃一 Kōichi, 杜一 Morito, 麦一 Mugūichi, 賴一 Raichi, 良一 Ryōichi, 諒一郎 Ryōichirō, 信一朗 / 信一郎 / 慎一郎 / 紳一郎 Shin'ichirō, 彰一 Shōichi, 祥一朗 Shōichirō, 秀一郎 Shūichirō, 創一朗 / 聡一郎 / 蒼一朗 / 颯一朗 Sōichirō, 太一 / 汰一 Taichi, 尊一 Tōi, 宇一 Uichi, 佑一郎 Yūichirō

## 11) 輝

愛輝 Aki, 輝瑛 Akira, 輝 Akira / Hikaru, 晶輝斗 Akito, 步輝 Ayuki, 大輝 Daiki / Haruki / Hiroki, 陽輝 Haruhi, 悠輝 / 春輝 / 晴輝 / 遥輝 Haruki, 初

輝 *Hatsuki*, 輝琉 *Hikaru*, 宇輝 / 広輝 *Hiroki*, 乙輝 *Itsuki*, 珠輝 *Juki*, 千輝 / 和輝 *Kazuki*, 一輝 *Kazuki / Kazuteru*, 輝一 *Kiichi*, 輝斗 *Kirato*, 輝空 *Kōa*, 倅輝 / 幸輝 / 昊輝 / 皇輝 / 航輝 / 虹輝 *Kōki*, 輝大郎 / 輝太郎 *Kōtarō*, 正輝 *Masaki*, 真輝 *Masaki / Masateru*, 優輝 *Masaki / Yūki*, 峰輝 *Mineki*, 七輝 *Nanaki*, 直輝 *Naoki*, 夏輝 *Natsuki*, 凰輝 *Ōki*, 来輝 *Raiki*, 凜輝 / 力輝 *Riki*, 琉輝 亜 / 龍輝 亜 *Rukia*, 凌輝 / 隆輝 / 龍輝 *Ryūki*, 星輝 *Seiki*, 将輝 / 翔輝 *Shōki*, 壯輝 / 奏輝 *Sōki*, 太輝 *Taiki*, 輝基 / 輝己 *Teruki*, 輝真 *Teruma*, 輝昌 *Terumasa*, 輝翔 *Teruto*, 永輝 / 虎輝 *Toki*, 友輝 / 朋輝 / 朝輝 *Tomoki*, 俊輝 *Toshiki*, 佳輝 *Yoshiki*, 佑輝 / 勇輝 / 有輝 *Yūki*

## 12) 優

愛優 *Ayu*, 智優 *Chihiro*, 永優 *Eisu*, 優玖 *Haruku*, 陽優 *Hinata*, 優明 *Hiroaki*, 弘優 *Hiroya*, 和優 *Kazumasa / Yūto / Yūwa*, 一優 *Kazuya*, 稀優 *Kihiro*, 光優樹 *Kōki*, 優大 *Mahiro / Yūdai*, 優雅 *Masaka / Yūga*, 優希 / 優輝 *Masaki / Yūki*, 優琉 *Masaru*, 菜優 *Nayū*, 心優 *Shū*, 優 Yū, 優空 *Yūa*, 優河 / 優海 / 優賀 *Yūga*, 優心 *Yūgo / Yūshi / Yūshin*, 優仁 *Yūjin / Yūto*, 優二郎 *Yūjirō*, 優喜 / 優記 *Yūki*, 優光 *Yūkō*, 優真 / 優磨 / 優馬 *Yūma*, 優之介 *Yūnosuke*, 優王 *Yuo*, 優吏 *Yūri*, 優成 / 優星 / 優晴 *Yūsei*, 優志 / 柚優志 *Yūshi*, 優介 / 優佑 / 優友 / 優輔 *Yūsuke*, 優太 / 優汰 *Yūta*, 優人 / 優叶 / 優士 / 優宝 / 優斗 / 優翔 *Yūto*, 優哉 / 優弥 *Yūya*, 優月 / 優槻 *Yuzuki*

## 13) 琉

葵琉 *Aeru / Aoi*, 愛琉 / 藍琉 *Airu*, 巴琉 / 波琉 / 暖琉 / 遥琉 / 陽琉 / 葉琉 *Haru*, 晴琉 *Haru / Ryūsei*, 陽琉希 *Haruki*, 暖琉多 *Haruta*, 輝琉 *Hikaru*, 陽琉馬 *Hiruma*, 飛琉 *Hiryū*, 虎琉 *Itaru*, 魁琉 *Kairu*, 翔琉 *Kakeru*, 真琉 *Maru*, 優琉 *Masaru*, 成琉 *Naru*, 来琉 *Rairu*, 琉空 / 琉紅 / 琉久 *Riku*, 琉煌 *Rion*, 琉偉 / 琉威 *Rui*, 琉生 *Rui / Ryūsei*, 琉斗 *Ruito / Ryūto*, 琉夏 / 琉海 *Ruka*, 琉葵 / 琉稀 / 琉粹 *Ruki*, 琉輝 亜 *Rukia*, 琉穩 *Ruon*, 琉愛 *Rushia*, 琉 亜 / 琉煌 *Ryūa*, 琉雅 / 琉河 *Ryūga*, 琉志 *Ryūji*, 琉林 / 琉煌 / 琉希 / 琉綺 *Ryūki*, 琉馬 *Ryūma*, 琉聖 *Ryūma / Ryūsei*, 琉真 *Ryūma / Ryūshin*, 琉之介 *Ryūnosuke*, 琉紗 *Ryūsa*, 琉星 / 琉晟 / 琉成 *Ryūsei*, 琉心 *Ryūshin*, 琉太 / 琉汰 *Ryūta*, 琉音 / 琉翔 / 琉人 / 琉仁 / 琉虎 *Ryūto*, 清琉 *Seiryū*, 颯琉 *Souru*, 壯琉 / 健琉 / 岳琉 / 武琉 / 虎琉 *Takeru*, 柚琉 *Yuzuru*

## 14) 郎

篤郎 *Atsurō*, 治太郎 *Harutarō*, 丈一郎 *Jōichirō*, 承太郎 / 丈太郎 / 定太郎 *Jōtarō*, 慶次郎 *Keijirō*, 慶太郎 *Keitarō*, 絢太郎 *Kentarō*, 琥士郎 / 琥二

郎 *Kojirō*, 宏志郎 / 幸志郎 / 康士郎 / 航志郎 *Kōshirō*, 虎太郎 / 冴太郎 / 小太郎 / 琥太郎 *Kotarō*, 輝太郎 / 輝太郎 / 功太郎 / 孝太郎 / 幸太郎 / 幸太郎 / 晃太郎 / 虹太郎 / 煌太郎 / 皓太郎 *Kōtarō*, 明次郎 *Meijirō*, 直太郎 *Naotarō*, 桜太郎 *Ōtarō*, 黎士郎 *Reijirō*, 倫太郎 / 琳太郎 / 麟太郎 / 凜太郎 *Rintarō*, 鯉郎 *Rio*, 諒一郎 *Ryōichirō*, 諒太郎 / 遼太郎 *Ryōtarō*, 柳太郎 *Ryūtarō*, 朔太郎 *Sakutarō*, 誠二郎 *Seijirō*, 誠志郎 *Seishirō*, 晴太郎 *Seitarō*, 信一郎 / 慎一郎 / 紳一郎 *Shin'ichirō*, 心太郎 / 慎太郎 *Shintarō*, 慎三郎 *Shinzaburō*, 匠太郎 / 昇太郎 / 笑太郎 / 正太郎 / 翔太郎 / 祥太郎 *Shōtarō*, 駿太郎 *Shuntarō*, 秀一郎 *Shūichirō*, 聡一郎 *Sōichirō*, 聡司郎 / 聡次郎 *Sōjirō*, 壯太郎 / 奏太郎 / 惣太郎 / 想太郎 / 聰太郎 / 蒼太郎 / 湊太郎 / 颯太郎 *Sōtarō*, 徹郎 *Tetsurō*, 稔太郎 *Toshitarō*, 葉太郎 *Yōtarō*, 佑一郎 *Yūichirō*, 優二郎 *Yūjirō*, 悠太郎 *Yūtarō*

## 15) 空

空叶 *Akito*, 蒼空 *Aoi / Sora*, 空龍 *Arata*, 空澄 *Asumu*, 知空 *Chikara*, 大空 *Daia / Sora*, 波空 *Haku*, 晴空 *Haruku*, 生空 *Iku*, 空翔 *Kaito / Kūto / Sorato*, 空和 *Kanata*, 煌空 *Kira*, 輝空 *Kōa*, 幸空 *Kōsuke*, 空雅 / 空河 *Kūga*, 空舞 *Kūma*, 空龍 *Kuryū*, 空斗 *Kūto*, 真空 *Mahiro*, 愛空 *Manato*, 希空 *Mareku*, 海空 / 希空 *Noa*, 礼空 *Raia*, 空夢 *Ramu*, 凌空 / 稜空 / 莉空 / 俐空 / 琉空 / 凜空 / 睦空 / 力空 / 里空 / 碧空 *Riku*, 璃空 *Riku / Rito*, 龍空 *Riku / Ryūku*, 凜空 *Rin'a*, 瑠空 *Rua*, 瑠空 *Rūku*, 空 *Shieru / Sora*, 奏空 / 空良 / 青空 / 空大 / 昊空 *Sora*, 拓空 *Taku*, 透空 *Tōa / Yūa*, 義空 *Yoshia*, 夢空 *Yumea*, 結空 / 悠空 *Yura*

## 16) 生

晃生 *Akito*, 愛生 / 蒼生 / 碧生 *Aoi*, 敦生 *Atsuki / Atsushi*, 瑛生 *Eiki*, 遙生 / 陽生 / 晴生 *Haruki*, 悠生 *Haruki / Yūki / Yūsei*, 寬生 *Hiroki*, 芽生 *Ibuki*, 生空 *Iku*, 生磨 *Ikuma*, 樹生 *Itsuki / Mikio*, 翔生 *Joi / Kai / Kanaru / Shōsei*, 權生 *Kai*, 健生 *Kei / Takeru*, 航生 / 剛生 *Kōki*, 興生 *Kōsei*, 京生 *Kyōsei*, 真生 *Mao / Masaki*, 雅生 / 将生 *Masaki*, 実生 *Mio*, 瑞生 *Mizuki*, 倫生 *Motoki*, 睦生 *Mutsuki*, 菜生 / 尚生 *Nao*, 直生 *Naoki*, 晟生 *Narumi*, 旺生 *Ōki*, 桜生 *Ōsei*, 嵐生斗 *Raoto*, 莉生 *Rei*, 蓮生 *Ren / Renki / Reo*, 怜生馬 *Reoma*, 流生 / 瑠生 *Rui*, 琉生 *Rui / Ryūsei*, 稜生 *Ryō*, 峻生 *Ryōsei*, 龍生 *Ryūsei / Tatsuki*, 駿生 *Shunki*, 奏生 *Sōsei*, 拓生 *Takuki*, 鉄生 *Tesshō*, 生汰 *Uta*, 結生 *Yui / Yū*, 裕生 *Yū*, 湧生 *Yūi*, 有生 *Yūki*

## 17) 真

瑛真 *Eishin*, 楓真 *Fūma* / *Sōma*, 晴真 / 暖真 / 遙真 / 陽真 *Haruma*, 悠真 *Haruma* / *Yūma* / *Yūshin*, 魁真 *Kaima*, 一真 / 和真 *Kazuma*, 光真 / 昊真 *Kōma*, 真嘉 / 真寬 / 真弘 / 真皓 / 真空 / 真紘 *Mahiro*, 真夢 *Manamu*, 真夏人 *Manato*, 真翔 *Manato* / *Masato*, 真緒 / 真葵 *Mao*, 真生 *Mao* / *Masaki*, 真琉 *Maru*, 真輝 *Masaki* / *Masateru*, 真幸 *Masaki* / *Masayuki*, 真宗 *Masamune*, 真人 / 真慧 *Masato*, 道之真 *Michinoshin*, 凧真 *Nagimasa*, 怜真 *Reima* / *Ryōma*, 琳真 *Rinji*, 稜真 / 諒真 *Ryōma*, 琉真 *Ryūma* / *Ryūshin*, 竜真 *Ryūshin*, 惺真 / 成真 *Seima*, 真 *Shin*, 真桜 *Shinsaku*, 真太 *Shinta*, 匠真 / 奨真 / 將真 / 正真 / 翔真 / 聖真 *Shōma*, 壯真 / 奏真 / 想真 / 聡真 / 蒼真 *Sōma*, 貴真 *Takamasa*, 巧真 / 拓真 / 琢真 / 逞真 *Takuma*, 天真 / 輝真 *Teruma*, 哲真 *Tetsuma*, 徳真 *Tokuma*, 兜真 / 刀真 / 叶真 / 斗真 / 柊真 / 灯真 / 燈真 / 瞳真 / 統真 / 詢真 / 透真 / 道真 *Tōma*, 夢真 *Yuma*, 佑真 / 侑真 / 優真 / 勇真 / 有真 / 祐真 / 裕真 / 雄真 *Yūma*

## 18) 樹

愛樹 *Aiki*, 明樹 *Aki*, 大樹 *Daiki* / *Hiroki* / *Taiki*, 晴樹 / 陽樹 *Haruki*, 春樹 *Haruki* / *Kazuki* / *Shunki*, 羽月樹 *Hazuki*, 広樹 *Hiroki* / *Kōki*, 樹吹希 / 依步樹 *Ibuki*, 一樹 *Ikki* / *Kazuki*, 樹生 / 樹希 / 樹稀 *Itsuki*, 樹 *Itsuki* / *Tatsuki*, 樹羅斗 *Jurato*, 和樹 *Kazuki*, 光樹 / 光優樹 / 孝樹 / 弘樹 / 煌樹 / 幸樹 *Kōki*, 雅樹 *Masaki* / *Miyabi*, 樹生 *Mikio*, 樹斗 *Mikito*, 民樹 *Minju*, 洗樹 *Mitsuki*, 睦樹 *Mutsuki*, 尚樹 / 直樹 *Naoki*, 夏樹 *Natsuki*, 里樹 *Riki*, 颯樹 *Satsuki*, 奏樹 *Sōta*, 泰樹 *Taiki*, 樹己 *Tatsuki*, 智樹 / 友樹 *Tomoki*, 佳樹 / 義樹 *Yoshiki*, 侑樹 / 祐樹 / 悠樹 *Yūki*

## 19) 龍

空龍 *Arata* / *Kuryū*, 建龍 *Kenryū*, 弘龍 *Kōryū*, 龍空 *Riku*, 龍王 *Ruki*, 龍輝 亜 *Rukia*, 龍飛 *Ryōhi* / *Ryūki*, 龍弥 *Ryōya* / *Tatsuya*, 龍 *Ryū*, 龍吾 *Ryūa*, 龍英 *Ryūei*, 龍雅 / 龍我 *Ryūga*, 龍平 *Ryūhei*, 龍志 *Ryūji* / *Ryūshi*, 龍毅 *Ryūki*, 龍輝 *Ryūki* / *Tatsuki*, 龍琥 *Ryūku*, 龍馬 *Ryūma*, 龍之介 / 龍ノ介 / 龍乃介 *Ryūnosuke*, 龍正 / 龍星 / 龍征 / 龍成 / 龍誠 / 龍晟 *Ryūsei*, 龍生 *Ryūsei* / *Tatsuki*, 龍心 / 龍眞 / 龍信 *Ryūshin*, 龍助 *Ryūsuke*, 龍汰 / 龍太 *Ryūta*, 龍人 / 龍登 / 龍虎 / 龍翔 *Ryūto*, 龍悟朗 *Tatsugorō*, 龍希 / 龍紀 *Tatsuki*, 龍己 *Tatsumi*, 龍哉 / 龍也 *Tatsuya*

## 20) 颯

颯芽 / 颯冴 *Fūga*, 颯 *Hayata / Hayate / Sō*, 颯大 *Hayata / Hayato / Sōdai*, 颯天 *Hayate*, 颯人 / 颯斗 / 颯叶 / 颯仁 / 颯士 / 颯翔 *Hayato*, 一颯 *Ibuki / Kazusa*, 瑞颯 *Mizuki*, 颯樹 *Satsuki*, 颯一朗 *Sōichirō*, 颯真 / 颯馬 / 颯眞 *Sōma*, 颯樂 *Sora*, 颯琉 *Sōru*, 颯介 / 颯佑 / 颯祐 / 颯翼 *Sōsuke*, 颯太 / 颯汰 *Sōta*, 颯太郎 / 颯太朗 *Sōtarō*, 颯矢 *Sōya*

## 21) 晴

晴琉 / 晴瑠 *Haru*, 晴 *Haru / Sei*, 晴亮 *Haruaki*, 晴仁 *Haruhito*, 晴喜 / 晴己 / 晴樹 / 晴氣 / 晴生 / 晴紀 / 晴貴 / 晴輝 *Haruki*, 晴空 *Haruku*, 晴天 / 晴真 / 晴磨 / 晴雅 *Haruma*, 晴道 *Harumichi*, 晴星 *Haruse*, 晴天 / 晴敬 *Harutaka*, 晴人 / 晴富 / 晴斗 / 晴登 / 晴翔 / 晴飛 *Haruto*, 晴哉 *Haruya / Seiya*, 快晴 / 海晴 *Kaisei*, 正晴 *Masaharu*, 央晴 *Ōsei*, 峻晴 *Ryōsei*, 琉晴 / 隆晴 *Ryūsei*, 晴之介 *Seinosuke*, 晴太 *Seita*, 晴太郎 *Seitarō*, 晴風 / 晴南 *Sena*, 翔晴 *Shōsei*, 澄晴 / 素晴 *Subaru*, 大晴 *Taisei*, 吉晴 *Yoshiharu*, 優晴 *Yūsei*

## 22) 海

步海 *Ayumu*, 千海葵 *Chiaki*, 遥海 *Harumi*, 郁海 *Ikumi*, 海 *Kai / Umi*, 海寿 *Kaiju*, 海吏 / 海里 *Kairi*, 海淚 *Kairu*, 海勢 / 海晴 / 海晟 / 海清 *Kaisei*, 海舟 *Kaishū*, 海斗 / 海翔 / 海音 / 海虎 *Kaito*, 海夏斗 *Kanato*, 海大 *Midai / Mihiro*, 海渚 *Minagi*, 海空 *Noa*, 煌海 / 桜海 *Ōmi*, 瑠海 *Rua / Rui / Ruka*, 琉海 *Ruka*, 澄海 *Sukai*, 大海 *Taiga*, 拓海 / 匠海 *Takumi*, 晃海 *Terumi*, 悠海 *Yū*, 優海 *Yūga*, 裕海 *Yūma*.

## 23) 和

大和 *Daina / Hirokazu / Yamato*, 暖和 *Haruto*, 陽和 *Hiyori*, 空和 *Kanata*, 奏和 *Kanato / Sōwa*, 和周 *Kazu*, 和希 / 和樹 / 和毅 / 和葵 / 和輝 *Kazuki*, 和慎 / 和真 / 和磨 / 和雅 *Kazuma*, 和優 *Kazumasa*, 和志 *Kazushi / Kazuyuki*, 和士 *Kazushi / Nagito*, 和寿 *Kazutoshi*, 和也 / 和哉 *Kazuya*, 和 *Nagomu / Yamato*, 音和 *Otowa*, 伶和 *Reo*, 咲和 *Sakito*, 奏和 / 湊和 *Sōwa*, 和史 *Tomofumi*, 叶和 / 杜和 / 翔和 *Towa*, 和霖 *Warin*, 志和 *Yukikazu*, 佑和 *Yūto*, 優和 *Yūto / Yūwa*, 悠和 / 結和 *Yūwa*

## 24) 蒼

蒼音 / 蒼央 *Ao*, 蒼 *Ao / Aoi / Sō / Sora*, 蒼羽 *Aoba / Sō*, 蒼唯 / 蒼天 / 蒼生 *Aoi*, 蒼空 *Aoi / Sora*, 蒼士 / 蒼志 / 蒼紫 *Aoshi*, 蒼人 / 蒼杜 *Aoto*, 蒼宙

Asora, 蒼大 *Sōdai* / *Sōta*, 蒼梧 *Sōgo*, 蒼一朗 *Sōichirō*, 蒼司 *Sōji*, 蒼眞 / 蒼眞 *Sōma*, 蒼天 *Sōma* / *Sora*, 蒼史 / 蒼志 / 蒼詩 *Sōshi*, 蒼介 / 蒼佑 / 蒼助 / 蒼甫 *Sōsuke*, 蒼太 *Sōta*, 蒼太郎 *Sōtarō*, 蒼也 / 蒼弥 *Sōya*, 翔蒼 *Toa*

## 25) 奏

陽奏 *Harua* / *Hinata*, 奏 *Kanade* / *Kanata*, 奏夢 *Kanamu*, 奏汰 / 奏風 / 奏陽 / 翔奏 *Kanata*, 奏翔 *Kanata* / *Kanato* / *Sōto*, 奏多 *Kanata* / *Sōta*, 奏音 / 奏人 / 奏斗 *Kanato*, 奏和 *Kanato* / *Sōwa*, 奏重 *Sōa*, 奏雅 *Sōga*, 奏輝 *Sōki*, 奏眞 *Sōma*, 奏音 / 奏空 / 奏来 / 奏良 *Sora*, 奏世 / 奏生 *Sōsei*, 奏士 / 奏志 *Sōshi*, 奏助 / 奏輔 / 奏佑 / 奏祐 *Sōsuke*, 奏樹 / 奏太 *Sōta*, 奏太郎 *Sōtaro*, 奏弥 *Sōya*

## 26) 結

葉結希 *Hayuki*, 結生 *Yū* / *Yui*, 結雅 *Yūga*, 結 *Yui*, 結絆 *Yuiha*, 結仁 / 結士 / 結大 / 結斗 / 結都 *Yuito*, 結人 / 結翔 / 結智 *Yuito* / *Yūto*, 結匡 *Yūkyō*, 結誠 *Yūma*, 結風 *Yūnagi*, 結星 / 結空 *Yura*, 結吏 *Yūri*, 結聖 *Yūsei*, 結心 *Yūshin*, 結太 *Yūta*, 結音 *Yūto*, 結和 *Yūwa*, 結也 / 結弥 *Yūya*, 結月 *Yuzuki*, 結弦 *Yuzuru*

## 27) 士

愛士 *Aito* / *Itoshi*, 士斗 / 晃士 *Akito*, 葵士 / 蒼士 *Aoshi*, 現士 *Arashi*, 敦士 *Atsushi*, 篤士 *Atsuto*, 綺士 *Ayato*, 步士 *Ayuto*, 英士 *Eichi*, 瑛士 *Eichi* / *Eiji* / *Eito*, 遙士 *Haruto*, 隼士 / 颯士 *Hayato*, 凱士 / 快士 *Kaito*, 和士 *Kazushi* / *Nagito*, 慶士 / 桂士 *Keiji*, 慧士 *Keishi*, 劍士 *Kenji*, 昊士 *Kōji*, 琥士郎 *Kojirō*, 康士郎 / 皓士朗 / 航士朗 *Kōshirō*, 誠士 *Masato*, 直士 *Naoto*, 桜士 *Ōshi*, 怜士 *Reiji*, 黎士郎 *Reijirō*, 蓮士 *Renji*, 廉士 *Rento*, 璃士 *Rito*, 稜士 *Ryōji*, 士温 *Shion*, 士月 *Shizuki*, 周士 *Shūto*, 創士 *Sōji*, 奏士 *Sōshi*, 泰士 *Taishi*, 恭士 *Takato*, 達士 *Tatsushi*, 暉士 *Terushi*, 士翔 *Towa*, 統士 *Tsukasa*, 結士 *Yuito*, 優士 *Yūto*

## 28) 雅

風雅 *Fūga*, 銀雅 *Ginga*, 晴雅 *Haruma*, 鵬雅 *Hōga*, 和雅 *Kazuma*, 昊雅 / 光雅 / 幸雅 / 煌雅 *Kōga*, 空雅 *Kūga*, 雅拓 *Mahiro*, 優雅 *Masaka* / *Yūga*, 雅咲 / 雅生 *Masaki*, 雅樹 *Masaki* / *Miyabi*, 雅理 *Masamichi*, 雅人 / 雅叶 / 雅翔 *Masato*, 雅之 *Masayuki*, 雅 *Miyabi*, 桜雅 *Ōga*, 蓮雅 *Renga*, 凌雅 / 遼雅 *Ryōga*, 涼雅 *Ryōga* / *Ryūga*, 琉雅 / 隆雅 / 龍雅 *Ryūga*, 星唯雅 *Seiga*, 主雅 *Shuga*, 奏雅 *Sōga*, 大雅 / 泰雅 *Taiga*, 拓雅 *Takumasa*, 悠雅 / 結雅 *Yūga*

## 29) 仁

彰仁 / 瑛仁 *Akihito*, 暁仁 *Akito*, 敦仁 *Atsuhito*, 陽仁 *Ayato / Haruhito / Haruto*, 啓仁 / 晴仁 / 遙仁 / 遙仁 *Haruhito*, 颯仁 *Hayato*, 彪仁 *Hideto*, 悠仁 / 裕仁 *Hiroto / Yūto*, 仁志 *Hitoshi*, 仁 *Hitoshi / Jin*, 壹仁 *Ichito*, 仁翔 *Jinto*, 哉仁 *Kanato*, 喜仁 *Kibito*, 仁基 *Masaki*, 湊仁 *Minato*, 仁葵 *Nia*, 仁希人 *Nikito*, 賴仁 *Raito*, 理仁 *Rihito*, 琉仁 *Ryūto*, 彩仁 *Saito*, 朔仁 *Sakuto*, 舜仁 *Shunto*, 智仁 *Tomohito*, 弥仁 *Wataru / Yahito*, 唯仁 / 結仁 *Yuito*, 優仁 *Yūjin / Yūto*, 雄仁 *Yūto*

## 30) 音

愛音 / 光音 / 秋音 *Akito*, 天音 *Amane*, 蒼音 *Ao*, 碧音 *Aoto*, 步音 *Aruto*, 瑛音 *Eito*, 風音 *Fūto*, 樂音 *Gakuto*, 陽音 *Haruto*, 海音 *Kaito*, 奏音 *Kanato / Sora*, 樺音 *Kanon*, 匡音 *Masato*, 湊音 *Minato*, 波音 *Naoto*, 音和 *Otowa*, 禮音 *Raito*, 蓮音 *Renne / Rento / Reon*, 伶音 *Reo / Reon*, 伶音 / 伶音 / 麗音 / 蓮音 *Reon*, 理音 / 里音 / 莉音 *Rion*, 璃音 *Rion / Rioto*, 瑠音 *Rune / Ruon / Ruto*, 琉音 *Ryūto*, 紫音 / 汐音 / 心音 / 聖音 *Shion*, 獅音 *Shōn*, 翔音 *Shooto*, 拓音 *Takuto*, 結音 *Yuito / Yūto*, 結音 / 悠音 *Yūto*

## 31) 拓

拓暉 / 拓希 *Hiroki*, 雅拓 *Mahiro*, 拓空 *Taku*, 拓生 *Takuki*, 拓真 / 拓馬 / 拓眞 *Takuma*, 拓磨 *Takuma / Takuto*, 拓雅 *Takumasa*, 拓未 / 拓実 / 拓海 *Takumi*, 拓夢 *Takumi / Takumu*, 拓臣 *Takuomi*, 拓人 / 拓斗 / 拓翔 / 拓音 / 拓澄 *Takuto*, 拓也 *Takuya*

## 32) 朗

日朗 *Hiro*, 一朗 *Ichirō*, 壤太朗 *Jōtarō*, 寬太朗 *Kantarō*, 慶一朗 *Keiichirō*, 幸志朗 / 恒史朗 / 航士朗 / 皓士朗 *Kōshirō*, 虎太朗 / 冴太朗 / 琥太朗 *Kotarō*, 孝太朗 / 広太朗 / 広大朗 / 浩太朗 / 洸太朗 *Kōtarō*, 旺太朗 *Ōtarō*, 朗万 *Ranma*, 倫太朗 / 凜大朗 / 凜太朗 *Rintarō*, 凌太朗 / 遼太朗 *Ryōtarō*, 咲太朗 *Sakutarō*, 清十朗 *Seijūrō*, 清太朗 *Seitarō*, 信一朗 *Shin'ichirō*, 信太朗 *Shintarō*, 祥一朗 *Shōichirō*, 創一朗 / 蒼一朗 / 颯一朗 *Sōichirō*, 颯太朗 *Sōtarō*, 太朗 *Tarō*, 龍悟朗 *Tatsugorō*, 智朗 *Tomoaki*, 朝朗 *Tomorō*, 陽太朗 *Yōtarō*, 悠太朗 *Yūtarō*

### 33) 蓮

蓮 *Aren*, 蓮月 *Hazuki*, 蓮梧 *Rego*, 蓮 *Ren*, 蓮生 *Ren / Renki / Reo*, 蓮雅 *Renga*, 蓮士 *Renji*, 蓮音 *Renne / Rento / Reon*, 蓮祐 *Rennosuke*, 蓮星 *Rensei*, 蓮心 *Renshin*, 蓮太 / 蓮大 *Renta*, 蓮斗 / 蓮翔 / 蓮虎 / 蓮人 *Rento*, 蓮弥 *Ren'ya*, 蓮旺 *Reo*, 世蓮 *Seren*

### 34) 心

心人 *Aito*, 絆心 *Ban*, 瑛心 / 永心 *Eishin*, 心広 *Hiromu*, 誉心 *Homare*, 心 *Jin / Shin*, 継心 *Keishi*, 謙心 / 健心 / 絢心 *Kenshin*, 絆心 *Kishin*, 心栞 *Kiyomasa*, 心珀 *Kohaku*, 心信 *Kokoro*, 丸心 *Maruzane*, 漣心 *Ren*, 蓮心 *Renshin*, 亮心 *Riko*, 瑠心 *Rushin*, 琉心 / 龍心 *Ryūshin*, 誠心 *Seishin*, 心吾 *Shingo*, 心之介 *Shinnosuke*, 心平 *Shinpei*, 心惺 *Shinsei*, 心大 *Shinta*, 心太郎 *Shintarō*, 心音 *Shion*, 将心 *Shōgo*, 翔心 *Shōshin*, 心優 *Shū*, 希心 *Soa*, 大心 *Taishin*, 逞心 *Takumi*, 優心 *Yūgo / Yūshi / Yūshin*, 裕心 / 結心 *Yūshin*

### 35) 平

平治 *Heiji*, 一平 / 逸平 *Ippe*, 詢平 *Junpei*, 桔平 *Kippe*, 幸平 / 康平 / 考平 / 航平 / 昊平 *Kōhei*, 恭平 / 京平 *Kyōhei*, 涼平 / 療平 *Ryōhei*, 竜平 / 龍平 *Ryūhei*, 心平 / 慎平 *Shinpei*, 匠平 / 獎平 *Shōhei*, 修平 / 秀平 *Shūhei*, 太平洋 *Taiheiyō*, 尊平 *Tappei*, 天平 *Tenpei*, 哲平 / 鉄平 *Teppe*, 悠平 *Yūhei*

### 36) 煌

煌 *Hikaru / Hinata / Kira / Kō*, 煌斗 *Kaito*, 煌空 *Kira*, 煌人 / 煌翔 *Kirato*, 煌大 *Kōdai / Kōta*, 煌雅 *Kōga*, 煌基 / 煌己 / 煌希 / 煌樹 / 煌貴 / 煌麒 *Kōki*, 煌麻 *Kōma*, 煌明 *Kōmei*, 煌晟 *Kōsei*, 煌祐 *Kōsuke*, 煌太 / 煌汰 *Kōta*, 煌太郎 *Kōtarō*, 煌夜 *Kōya*, 煌貴 *Ōki*, 煌海 *Ōmi*, 煌騎 *Raiki*, 琉煌 *Rion / Ryūa / Ryūki*, 崇煌 *Takaaki*, 煌良 *Yura*

### 37) 志

蒼志 *Aoshi / Sōshi*, 純志 / 篤志 *Atsushi*, 英志 *Eishi*, 仁志 *Hitoshi*, 育志 *Ikushi*, 賢志 *Kanji*, 和志 *Kazushi / Kazuyuki*, 清志 *Kiyoshi*, 光志 / 功志 / 孔志 *Kōshi*, 宏志郎 / 幸志郎 / 幸志朗 / 航志郎 *Kōshirō*, 志尚 *Munetaka*, 凌志 *Ryōji*, 琉志 *Ryūji*, 龍志 *Ryūji / Ryūshi*, 悟志 / 智志 / 哲志 *Satoshi*, 誠志郎 *Seishirō*, 志希 / 志貴 *Shiki*, 志温 / 志穩 / 志雄 / 志遙 *Shion*, 志粹 *Shisui*, 奏志 *Sōshi*, 大志 *Taishi*, 貴志 *Takashi*, 虎志 *Toraji*, 志和 *Yukikazu*, 志暁 *Yukimitsu*, 優志 / 柚優志 *Yūshi*

### 38) 馬

有馬 *Arima*, 春馬 *Haruma*, 悠馬 *Haruma / Yūma*, 飛雄馬 *Hyūma*, 怜生馬 *Reoma*, 竜馬 *Ryōma*, 翔馬 *Shōma*, 永馬 *Tōma*, 優馬 *Yūma*

### 39) 瑛

瑛仁 *Akihito*, 瑛 / 輝瑛 *Akira*, 瑛斗 / 瑛登 *Akito*, 瑛嗣 *Akitsugu*, 瑛也 *Akiya*, 智瑛 *Chiaki*, 瑛宜 *Eigi*, 瑛司 *Eiji*, 瑛士 *Eiji / Eira / Eito*, 瑛生 *Eiki*, 瑛心 / 瑛真 *Eishin*, 瑛介 *Eisuke*, 瑛太 *Eita*, 瑛大 *Eita / Eito*, 瑛人 / 瑛都 / 瑛音 / 瑛飛 *Eito*, 良瑛 *Ryōei*

### 40) 汰

步汰 *Ayuta*, 英汰 *Eita*, 飛那汰 *Hinata*, 叶汰 / 奏汰 *Kanata*, 栞汰 *Kanta*, 圭汰 / 慶汰 *Keita*, 幸汰 / 晃汰 / 航汰 / 虹汰 / 昊汰 / 煌汰 *Kōta*, 桜汰 *Ōta*, 玲汰 *Reita*, 凌汰 / 怜汰 *Ryōta*, 琉汰 / 龍汰 *Ryūta*, 樟汰 / 星汰 *Shōta*, 駿汰 *Shunta*, 壯汰 / 碧汰 / 颯汰 *Sōta*, 汰一 *Taichi*, 汰我 / 汰樺 *Taiga*, 汰緒 *Tao*, 生汰 *Uta*, 遙汰 *Yōta*, 優汰 / 悠汰 *Yūta*

### 41) 也

瑛也 *Akiya*, 大也 *Daiya / Haruya*, 文也 *Fumiya*, 日向也 *Hyūya*, 和也 *Kazuya*, 倅也 *Kōya*, 協也 / 響也 *Kyōya*, 征也 *Masanari*, 昌也 *Masaya*, 尚也 *Naoya*, 羚也 *Reiya*, 漣也 *Ren'ya*, 璃也 *Ri'ya*, 遼也 *Ryōya*, 龍也 *Ryūya*, 朔也 *Sakuya*, 聖也 / 誠也 *Seiya*, 隼也 *Shun'ya*, 蒼也 *Sōya*, 貴也 *Takaya*, 拓也 *Takuya*, 達也 / 竜也 / 龍也 *Tatsuya*, 哲也 *Tetsuya*, 凱也 *Tokiya*, 知也 / 智也 / 倫也 *Tomoya*, 統也 *Tōya*, 結也 / 裕也 / 雄也 *Yūya*

### 42) 幸

遼幸 *Haruyuki*, 幸 *Kō*, 幸大 *Kōdai*, 幸雅 *Kōga*, 幸平 *Kōhei*, 幸希 / 幸起 / 幸輝 / 幸樹 *Kōki*, 幸司 *Kōshi*, 幸志郎 / 幸志朗 *Kōshirō*, 幸空 / 幸輔 *Kōsuke*, 幸太 / 幸汰 *Kōta*, 幸太郎 / 幸大郎 *Kōtarō*, 幸弥 *Kōya*, 真幸 *Masaki*, 賢幸 / 真幸 *Masayuki*, 求幸 *Motoyuki*, 照幸 *Teruyuki*, 幸広 / 幸浩 / 幸洋 *Yukihiro*, 幸昌 *Yukimasa*, 幸杜 / 幸翔 *Yukito*, 幸哉 / 幸弥 *Yukiya*

### 43) 健

秀健 *Hidetake*, 翔健 *Hiroto*, 健生 *Kei / Takeru*, 健磨 *Kenma*, 健誠 / 健正 *Kensei*, 健心 / 健新 / 健迅 / 健伸 *Kenshin*, 健介 *Kensuke*, 健太 *Kenta*, 健

斗 / 健登 *Kento*, 健人 *Kento / Taketo*, 健矢 *Kenya*, 健 / 健琉 *Takeru*, 健翔 *Takeru / Taketo*

#### 44) 佑

榮佑 *Eisuke*, 逢佑 *Hōsuke*, 純之佑 *Junnosuke*, 圭佑 *Keisuke*, 孝佑 / 晃佑 *Kōsuke*, 旺佑 / 櫻佑 *Ōsuke*, 吏佑 *Riu*, 駿佑 *Shunsuke*, 宗佑 *Shūsuke / Sōsuke*, 奏佑 / 蒼佑 / 颯佑 *Sōsuke*, 佑彪 *Yūa*, 佑維 *Yūi*, 佑一郎 *Yūichirō*, 佑記 / 佑輝 *Yūki*, 佑希 / 佑真 / 佑磨 *Yūma*, 佑里 *Yūri*, 佑星 / 佑誠 *Yūsei*, 優佑 *Yūsuke*, 佑太 *Yūta*, 佑人 / 佑和 / 佑都 *Yūto*, 佑弥 *Yūya*

#### 45) 光

光音 *Akito*, 光 *Hikari / Hikaru*, 光我 / 光雅 / 巧光 *Kōga*, 光樹 / 光優樹 *Kōki*, 光稀 *Kōki / Mitsuki*, 光希 *Kōki / Mitsuki / Teruki*, 光真 *Kōma*, 光星 *Kōsei*, 光志 / 光紫 *Kōshi*, 光太 *Kōta*, 光人 *Kōto / Raito*, 光矢 *Kōya*, 國光 *Kunimitsu*, 光来 *Mirai*, 光大 *Mitsuhiro*, 光葵 / 光騎 *Mitsuki*, 希光 *Noeru*, 優光 *Yūkō*

#### 46) 陸

裕陸 *Hiromu*, 陽陸 *Hitachi*, 陸 / 陸来 *Riku*, 陸太 *Rikuta*, 陸叶 / 陸人 / 陸斗 / 陸翔 *Rikuto*, 陸矢 *Rikuya*

#### 47) 之

源之助 *Gennosuke*, 甚之介 *Jinnosuke*, 淳之介 / 純之佑 *Junnosuke*, 航之介 / 鴻之介 *Kōnosuke*, 雅之 *Masayuki*, 道之真 *Michinoshin*, 暢之 *Nobuyuki*, 琉之介 / 竜之介 / 龍之介 / 隆之介 *Ryūnosuke*, 晴之介 *Seinosuke*, 心之介 / 慎之助 *Shinnosuke*, 将之介 *Shōnosuke*, 駿之介 *Shunnosuke*, 剛之 *Takayuki*, 智之 *Tomoyuki*, 虎之介 / 虎之助 / 寅之丞 *Toranosuke*, 優之介 / 友之助 / 悠之介 *Yūnosuke*

#### 48) 弥

千弥 *Chihiro*, 治弥 *Harumi*, 遥弥 *Haruya*, 幸弥 *Kōya / Yukiya*, 虎弥大 *Koyata*, 叶弥 *Kyōya*, 桃弥 *Momoya*, 羚弥 *Rēya*, 蓮弥 *Ren'ya*, 稜弥 *Ryōya*, 龍弥 *Ryōya / Tatsuya*, 咲弥 / 朔弥 *Sakuya*, 盛弥 / 晟弥 *Seiya*, 駿弥 *Shun'ya*, 柊弥 *Shūya*, 奏弥 / 蒼弥 *Sōya*, 匠弥 / 卓弥 *Takuya*, 哲弥 *Tetsuya*, 智弥 *Tomoya*, 稔弥 *Toshiya*, 透弥 *Tōya*, 弥仁 *Wataru / Yahito*, 結弥 / 佑弥 / 優弥 *Yūya*

## 49) 航

航伎 *Kazuki*, 航大 *Kōdai / Kōta / Wataru*, 航芽 *Kōga*, 航平 *Kōhei*, 航基 / 航希 / 航生 / 航輝 *Kōki*, 航之介 *Konosuke*, 航士朗 *Kōshirō*, 航亮 / 航將 *Kōsuke*, 航太 / 航汰 *Kōta*, 航玖 *Waku*, 航 / 航瑠 *Wataru*

## 50) 虎

岳虎 *Gakuto*, 虎琉 *Itaru / Takeru*, 一虎 *Itto*, 海虎 *Kaito*, 虎冴 *Kōga*, 虎星 *Kōsei*, 虎鉄 *Kotetsu*, 虎太朗 / 虎太郎 *Kotarō*, 虎弥大 *Koyata*, 怜虎 *Reito*, 蓮虎 *Rento*, 琉虎 / 龍虎 *Ryūto*, 虎克 *Taiga*, 眈虎 *Teruto*, 虎輝 *Toki*, 虎之助 / 虎之介 *Toranosuke*, 虎志 *Toraji*

## Female names

### 1) 愛

愛 *Ai*, 愛歌 / 愛蘭 *Aika*, 愛華 *Aika / Itsuka*, 愛花 / 愛佳 *Aika / Manaka*, 愛子 *Aiko*, 愛望 *Aimi*, 愛美 / 愛未 *Aimi / Ami / Manami*, 愛海 *Aimi / Manami*, 愛依菜 *Aina*, 愛菜 *Aina / Anna*, 愛奈 *Aina / Mana*, 愛依菜 *Aina / Meina*, 愛音 *Aine / Mana / Rizumu*, 愛乃 *Aino / Ayano / Mei*, 愛來 / 愛良 *Aira*, 愛桜 *Aira / Aisa*, 愛梨 / 愛理 / 愛璃 / 愛里 *Airi*, 愛莉 *Airi / Eri*, 愛琉 *Airu / Meru*, 愛咲 / 愛彩 / 愛紗 *Aisa*, 愛加里 *Akari*, 愛希 *Aki / Ano*, 愛姬夏 *Akina*, 愛心 *Ako / Ami / Anon / Manami*, 愛真音 *Amane*, 愛実 *Ami / Manami*, 愛実香 / 愛美花 *Amika*, 碧愛 *Aoi*, 惟愛 *Aria*, 愛理奈 *Arina*, 愛梨咲 *Arisa*, 愛咲季 *Asaki*, 絢愛 *Ayame*, 朱愛 / 愛彩奈 *Ayana*, 愛悠 / 愛由 *Ayu*, 愛結 *Ayu / Ayui / Miyu*, 愛夕 *Ayū*, 愛結実 *Ayumi*, 愛純 / 愛珠美 *Azumi*, 千愛 *Chie / China / Chinari / Sena*, 大愛 *Daia*, 依愛 / 惠愛 *Emā*, 愛美理 *Emiri*, 愛莉美 *Eremi*, 愛理花 *Erika*, 風愛梨 *Fuari*, 桜愛 *Hana*, 陽愛 *Harua / Haruna / Himari / Hina / Hiyori*, 姬愛 *Himea / Hiyori*, 彩愛 *Ichika / Sāra / Sāya / Sana*, 愛女 *Itona*, 葉愛 *Kanna / Shiori*, 叶愛 *Kanoa / Noa / Toa*, 絆愛里 *Kiari*, 絆愛 *Kizuna*, 心愛 *Kokoa / Kokona / Kokora / Kokoro / Minori*, 來愛 / 來愛 / 紅愛 *Kurea*, 愛亜也 *Maaya*, 愛陽 *Mahiru*, 天愛 / 愛永 / 真愛 *Mana*, 愛果 / 愛栞 *Manaka*, 愛珠 *Manami*, 愛花月 *Manatsu*, 愛乃香 *Manoka*, 愛祐 *Mau*, 愛唯 *Mayu*, 愛留 *Meguru*, 愛依 / 愛莞 / 明愛 *Mei*, 芽愛 *Meia*, 未愛 / 深愛 *Mia*, 実愛 *Mia / Minori / Miria*, 美愛 *Miari*, 珠愛 *Minori*, 美梨愛 *Miria*, 萌愛 *Moa / Moe*, 莓愛 *Moe*, 桃愛 / 百愛 *Momoa / Yua*, 和愛 *Nagomi*, 捺愛 *Natsume*, 音愛 *Neai*, 乃愛 / 希愛 / 望愛 *Noa*, 姬心愛 *Pyua*, 愛步 *Rabuhō*, 愛々 *Rara*, 怜愛 *Rea / Reina*, 礼愛

Reira, 梨愛 *Ria*, 莉愛 *Ria / Rian / Rinoa / Rio*, 琉愛 *Ria / Riana / Riara / Runa*, 凜愛 *Ria / Rinna*, 莉愛菜 / 里愛奈 *Riana*, 麗愛 / 莉愛空 *Riara*, 理愛 *Riia / Rira*, 琉依愛 *Riina*, 凜愛 *Rio*, 綾愛 *Rion*, 璃々愛 / 莉々愛 / 莉梨愛 / 莉里愛 *Riria*, 瑠愛 *Rui / Runa / Rurua*, 愛空 *Ruka*, 瑠糸愛 *Rushia*, 紗愛 *Sae / Sara*, 咲久愛 *Sakua*, 咲愛 *Sana*, 紗愛耶 *Sāya*, 世愛 / 聖愛 *Seira*, 星愛 *Sena*, 芹愛 *Serina*, 空愛 *Soa*, 永愛 *Toa*, 友愛 *Toa / Yume*, 夢愛 / 弓愛 / 由愛 / 百愛 *Yua*, 結愛 *Yua / Yūa / Yui / Yuina / Yumana / Yume / Yūna*, 優愛 *Yua / Yūa / Yuna*, 侑愛 *Yua / Yume*, 柚愛 *Yua / Yuzuna*, 悠愛 *Yūa / Yūna*, 結愛菜 *Yuana*, 優愛羅 *Yuara*, 由希愛 *Yukia*, 唯愛 *Yume*, 優愛花 / 結愛華 *Yumeka*, 百合愛 *Yuria*

## 2) 美

愛美 *Aimi / Ami / Manami*, 亜美 *Ami*, 愛美花 *Amika*, 明日美 *Asumi*, 彩美 / 絢美 *Ayami*, 步美 *Ayumi*, 愛珠美 *Azumi*, 美日 *Bibi*, 瑛美 *Eimi*, 映美 / 笑美 *Emi*, 愛美理 *Emiri*, 愛莉美 *Eremi*, 美美乃 *Fumino*, 育美 *Hagumi*, 晴美 *Harumi*, 英美 *Hidemi*, 穗奈美 *Honami*, ここ美 / 胡々美 *Kokomi*, 心美 *Kokomi / Manami*, 好美 *Konomi*, 琴美 *Kotomi*, くる美 / 久琉美 *Kurumi*, 真美 / 舞美 *Mami*, 眞音美 *Maomi*, 円美佳 *Marumika*, 萌美 *Megumi*, 美衣莉 *Meiri*, 美亜 / 美杏 *Mia*, 美愛 *Mia / Mai*, 美竣 *Michika*, 美文 *Mifumi*, 美花 *Mihana*, 美華 *Mihana / Mika*, 美春 / 美晴 / 美陽 / 美羽瑠 *Miharu*, 美尋 *Mihiro*, 美帆 / 美星 / 美歩 *Miho*, 美帆乃 *Mihono*, 美風 *Miina / Minagi*, 美衣羽 *Miiu*, 美夏 / 美歌 / 美香 *Mika*, 美妃 / 美姬 / 美希 / 美紀 *Miki*, 美琥 / 美虹 *Miko*, 美琴 *Mikoto*, 美来 / 美玖 / 美紅 *Miku*, 美空 *Miku / Misora / Sora*, 美來 *Mikuru*, 美海 *Mimi / Miu / Miuna*, 美奈 *Mina*, 皆美 / 美波 *Minami*, 美七 *Minana*, 美乃莉 *Minori*, 美央 / 美生 / 美碧 / 美緒 / 美音 *Mio*, 美桜 *Mio / Misaki / Urara*, 美穩 *Mion*, 美織 / 美央莉 / 美音鈴 *Miori*, 美蘭 *Miran*, 美玲 / 美礼 / 美蓮 *Mirei*, 美梨 *Miri*, 美梨愛 *Miria*, 美琉 *Miru*, 美彩 *Misa*, 美咲 *Misaki / Misheru*, 美紗乃 *Misano*, 美怜 / 美聡 / 美里 / 美沙音 *Misato*, 美汐 *Mishio*, 美鈴 *Misuzu*, 美都 *Mito*, 美季 *Mitsuki*, 美月 *Mitsuki / Mizuki*, 美津子 *Mitsuko*, 美優 *Miu / Miyu / Miyū*, 美羽 *Miu / Myū / Miwa*, 美絆 *Miuna*, 美雅 *Miyabi*, 美哉子 *Miyako*, 美英 *Miyon / Miyu*, 美友 / 美夢 *Miyu*, 美結 *Miyu / Miyū*, 美優花 *Miyuka*, 美幸 *Miyuki*, 美優菜 *Miyuna*, 奈美 *Nami*, 奈々美 / 菜々美 *Nanami*, 希美 / 望美 *Nozomi*, 玲美 *Remi*, 玲美奈 *Remina*, 凜美 *Rin*, 琉美香 *Rumika*, 智美 / 里美 *Satomi*, 友美 *Tomomi / Yumi*, 美心 / 羽美 / 雨美 *Umi*, 美巴 *Uruha*, 美詩 *Uta*, 美子 *Yoshiko*, 佑美 / 由美 *Yumi*, 由美子 *Yumiko*, 有寿美 *Yuzumi*

## 3) 優

愛優 / 步優 *Ayu*, 秋優花 *Ayuka*, 知優 *Chihiro*, 優育 *Hinari*, 優 *Hiroka* / *Yū*, 妃優奈 *Hiyuna*, 季優 / 暉優 *Kiyu*, 心優 *Kokoro* / *Miyu* / *Miyū*, 茉優 / 真優 *Mayu*, 真優佳 *Mayuka*, 美優 *Miu* / *Miyu* / *Miyū*, 光優 / 実優 / 未優 *Miyu*, 彌優 *Miyū*, 心優花 / 美優花 *Miyuka*, 美優菜 *Miyuna*, 月優 *Runa*, 咲優 / 彩優 / 紗優 *Sayu*, 茉優 *Shiyu*, 春優 *Shū*, 優衣 *Ui* / *Yū* / *Yui*, 優姬 *Uki*, 優珠 *Umi*, 優奈 *Una* / *Yuna* / *Yūna*, 優 / 優海 / 優羽 *Yū*, 優衣 *Yū* / *Yui*, 優垂 *Yua*, 優愛 *Yua* / *Yūa* / *Yuna*, 優明 / 優杏 / 優空 *Yūa*, 優愛羅 *Yuara*, 優笑 *Yue*, 優芭 *Yūha*, 優日 / 優緋 *Yūhi*, 優心 *Yūhi* / *Yuyu*, 優唯 *Yui*, 優衣夏 *Yuika*, 優衣莉 *Yuiru*, 優佳 *Yuka*, 優香 *Yūka*, 優花 *Yūka* / *Yuna*, 優葵 / 優希 *Yuki* / *Yūki*, 優希奈 / 優希菜 / 優樹奈 *Yukina*, 優子 *Yūko*, 優真 *Yuma*, 優芽 *Yume*, 優愛花 *Yumeka*, 優実 *Yumi*, 優南 / 優那 *Yuna*, 優菜 *Yuna* / *Yūna*, 優音 *Yuna* / *Yune*, 優夏 / 優由菜 / 優羽奈 / 優羽菜 *Yūna*, 優乃 *Yuno*, 優桜 / 優空 *Yura*, 優里 / 優梨 *Yuri*, 優利 / 優莉 *Yūri*, 優梨亜 *Yuria*, 優里佳 / 優里香 *Yurika*, 優里菜 *Yurina*, 優沙 *Yūsa* / *Yuzuna*, 優結 *Yuyu*, 結優 *Yūyu*, 優寿 / 優珠 *Yuzu*, 優月 *Yuzuki*, 優奏音 *Yuzune*

## 4) 菜

藍菜 / 愛依菜 *Aina*, 愛菜 *Aina* / *Anna*, 亜希菜 *Akina*, 安菜 / 杏菜 *Anna*, 明日菜 *Asuna*, 彩菜 / 絢菜 *Ayana*, 知菜 *China*, 笑菜 *Emina*, 恵菜 *Ena*, 瑛伶菜 *Erena*, 江莉菜 *Erina*, 恵琉菜 *Eruna*, 楓菜 *Fūna* / *Kana*, 羽菜 / 華菜 *Hana*, 陽菜 *Hana* / *Hina* / *Haruna*, 晴菜 *Hana* / *Haruna*, 花菜 *Hana* / *Kana*, 絆菜 *Hanna*, 柊菜 *Hiina*, 妃菜 / 姬菜 / 媛菜 / 日菜 *Hina*, 陽菜步 *Hinaho*, 陽菜香 *Hinaka*, 陽菜子 *Hinako*, 姬菜乃 / 陽菜乃 *Hinano*, 日菜詩 / 陽菜多 / 陽菜汰 *Hinata*, 一菜 *Ichina*, 可菜 *Kana*, 柑菜 / 菜菜 / 甘菜 *Kanna*, 華純菜 *Kazuna*, 小日菜 *Kohina*, 恋々菜 *Kokona*, 心菜 *Kokona* / *Kona*, 真菜 *Mana*, 松菜 *Matsuna*, 愛依菜 / 芽衣菜 *Meina*, 美優菜 *Miyuna*, 桃菜実 *Monami*, 菜帆 / 菜穂 *Naho*, 菜子 / 菜孝 *Nako*, 七菜 / 菜々 *Nana*, 菜奈江 *Nanae*, 菜々花 *Nanaka*, 奈菜子 / 菜々子 / 菜那子 *Nanako*, 菜々海 / 菜々美 *Nanami*, 菜々瀬 *Nanase*, 菜羽 / 菜乃羽 *Nanoha*, 菜乃花 *Nanoka*, 菜緒 / 菜陽 *Nao*, 菜月 *Natsuki*, 菜都子 *Natsuko*, 菜芽 *Natsume*, 菜摘 *Natsumi*, 菜結 *Nayu*, 菜沙 *Nazuna*, 新菜 *Niina* / *Nina*, 仁菜 *Nina*, 麗菜 *Reina*, 玲菜 / 礼菜 *Rena*, 蓮菜 *Renna*, 莉愛菜 *Riana*, 利菜 / 理菜 / 璃菜 / 莉菜 *Rina*, 理桜菜 / 里桜菜 *Riona*, 梨莉菜 *Ririna*, 琉海菜 *Rumina*, 月菜 / 瑠菜 *Runa*, 咲菜 / 紗菜 *Sana* / *Sena* / *Suzuna*, 星菜 *Seina*, 汐菜 / 瀬菜 / 紗菜 *Sena*, 芹菜 *Serina*, 若菜 / 和日菜 *Wakana*, 結愛菜 *Yuana*, 結衣菜 *Yuina*, 結菜 *Yuina* / *Yuna* / *Yūna*, 幸菜 / 優希菜 / 柚月菜 / 結季菜 *Yukina*, 佑菜 / 友

菜 / 夢菜 / 由菜 / 癒菜 *Yuna*, 優菜 *Yuna / Yūna*, 夕菜 / 悠菜 / 優由菜 / 優羽菜 *Yūna*, 優里菜 / 結莉菜 *Yurina*, 郵珠菜 *Yuzuna*

## 5) 花

葵花 *Aika*, 和花 *Aika / Honoka / Nodoka / Waka*, 愛花 *Aika / Manaka*, 彩花里 *Akari*, 愛美花 *Amika*, 碧花 *Aoka*, 朱花 / 綺花 *Ayaka*, 彩花 *Ayaka / Iroha*, 絢花 *Ayana*, 秋優花 *Ayuka*, 千花 / 知花 *Chika*, 千陽花 *Chiyoka*, 咲花 *Emika / Sakura / Sana*, 愛理花 *Erika*, 楓花 / 風花 *Fūka*, 花 / 花南 *Hana*, 花菜 *Hana / Kana*, 花惠 / 花衣 *Hanae*, 花香 *Hanaka*, 花乃 / 花希 *Hanano*, 帆花 *Hanna / Honoka*, 悠花 / 春花 / 遙花 / 遥花 *Haruka*, 陽花 *Haruka / Hina*, 日花里 *Hikari*, 夏向花 *Himari*, 姬花 *Himeka*, 紘花 *Hiroka*, 穗乃花 *Honoka*, 穗花 *Honoka / Minori*, 萌花 *Honoka / Moeka*, 莓花 *Ichigo / Ichika / Moka*, いち花 / 一千花 / 一花 / 依茅花 *Ichika*, 唯花 *Ichika / Yuika*, 色桜花 *Iroha*, 花笑 *Kaemi*, 花帆 / 花歩 / 花穗 *Kaho*, 花音 *Kanon*, 花円 *Kaon*, 花怜 / 花恋 *Karen*, 花凜 / 花梨 *Karin*, 汐花 *Kiyoka*, 瑚花 *Kohana*, 心花 *Kohana / Koharu / Kokoa / Konoka / Mihana*, 虹花 *Koharu*, 心野花 / 虹花 *Konoka*, 采花 *Kotoka*, 舞花 *Maika*, 茉花 *Mana*, 愛花月 *Manatsu*, 舞桜花 / 麻桜花 *Maoka*, 美花 *Mihana*, 実花 *Mihana / Mika*, 未花 *Mika*, 心優花 / 美優花 *Miyuka*, 百花 *Moka / Momoka*, 桃花 *Momoha / Momoka*, 百々花 / 萌々花 *Momoka*, 夏千花 *Nachika*, 奈々花 / 菜々花 *Nanaka*, 菜乃花 *Nanoka*, 希々花 / 希乃花 / 穩々花 / 野々花 *Nonoka*, 桜花 *Ōka*, 來花 / 光花 *Raika*, 怜花 / 零花 *Reika*, 玲花 *Reika / Rena*, 莉花 *Reika / Rina*, 梨花子 *Rikako*, 六花 *Rikka / Rokka*, 凜花 / 綸花 *Rinka*, 凜花 *Rinka / Rio*, 里音花 *Rioka*, 梨々花 / 梨里花 / 琉理花 *Ririka*, 琉花 / 瑠花 *Ruka*, 琉々花 *Ruruka*, 遼花 *Ryōka*, 紗花 *Sayaka / Suzuka*, 冴花 *Seaka*, 聖花 *Seika*, 星花 *Sena*, 柊花 *Shūka*, 洵花 *Shunka*, 紫花 *Sumire*, すず花 / 涼花 / 紗花 *Suzuka*, 朋花 *Tomoka*, 和花奈 *Wakana*, 結花 *Yuika / Yūka*, 祐花 *Yūka*, 優花 *Yūka / Yuna*, 柚花 *Yūka / Yuna / Yuzuha / Yuzuna*, 優愛花 *Yumeka*, 結乃花 *Yunoka*

## 6) 結

彩結 *Ayu*, 愛結 *Ayu / Ayui / Miyu*, 愛結実 *Ayumi*, 絆結 *Kiyu*, 心結 *Kokona / Miyu / Miyū*, 結心 *Kokoro / Yui / Yuina / Yuna*, 心結希 *Koyuki*, 真結 / 茉結 *Mayu*, 夢結 *Mei*, 結来 *Miku*, 実結 / 望結 / 未結 / 桜結 / 海結 *Miyu*, 美結 *Miyu / Miyū*, 七結 / 菜結 *Nayu*, 莉結 *Riyu*, 咲結 / 紗結 *Sayu*, 結友 / 結宇 *Yū*, 結羽 *Yū / Yuwa*, 結聖 *Yua*, 結亜 *Yūa*, 結愛 *Yua / Yūa / Yui / Yuika / Yuina / Yumana / Yume / Yūna*, 結愛菜 *Yuana*, 結蘭 *Yuara*, 友結 /

結 / 結依 / 結彩 / 結衣 Yui, 結生 Yui / Yūki, 結花 / 結華 / 結衣華 Yuika, 結子 / 結瑚 Yuiko, 結奈 / 結奏 / 結衣菜 / 結衣那 Yuina, 結菜 Yuina / Yuna / Yūna, 結那 Yuina / Yūna, 結音 Yuine, 結乃 Yuino, 結香 Yuka / Yūka, 結奏 Yukana / Yuina, 結佳利 / 結香梨 Yukari, 結希 Yuki / Yūki, 結季菜 Yukina, 結希音 Yukine, 結咲 / 結芽 / 結萌 Yume, 結愛華 Yumeka, 結夏 Yūna, 結望 / 結音 Yuno, 結乃花 / 結乃香 Yunoka, 結來 / 結桜 / 結空 Yura, 結里 Yūri, 結理奈 / 結莉菜 Yurina, 結和 Yūwa, 優結 Yuyu, 結優 Yūyu, 柚結 / 結瑞 Yuzu, 結月 Yuzuki

## 7) 奈

愛奈 Aina / Mana, 杏奈 Anna, 愛理奈 Arina, 星奈 Asuna / Sena, 彩奈 / 愛彩奈 / 綾奈 Ayana, 步奈 Ayuna, 千奈 China, 笑末奈 Emina, 惠奈 / 繪奈 Ena, 英玲奈 Erena, 惠理奈 / 瑛莉奈 / 英里奈 Erina, 楓奈 Fūna, 羽奈 / 英奈 / 葉奈 Hana, 帆奈 Hanna, 陽奈 Haruna, 姬奈 / 瞳奈 Hina, 妃奈子 / 陽奈子 Hinako, 妃奈乃 Hinano, 妃優奈 Hiyuna, 穗奈美 Honami, 樹奈 Juna, 佳奈 / 加奈 / 香奈 Kana, 夏奈 Kana / Nana / Natsuna, 寬奈 / 柑奈 / 葉奈 Kanna, 希依奈 Kiina, 心奈 Kokona, 萬葉奈 Mahana, 真奈 / 茉奈 Mana, 茉奈実 Manami, 真里奈 / 茉莉奈 Marina, 芽衣奈 / 莓奈 Meina, 美衣奈 Miina, 美奈 Mina, 妃玲奈 Mirina, 瑞奈 Mizuna, 桃奈 Momona, 奈美 Nami, 和奈 / 夏奈 / 奈々 / 那奈 Nana, 菜奈江 Nanae, 奈々花 Nanaka, 奈菓子 / 奈那子 / 那奈子 Nanako, 奈々実 / 奈々美 / 奈南 Nanami, 奈乃絆 Nanoha, 奈央 / 奈緒 Nao, 奈都 Natsu, 音生奈 Neina, 虹奈 Niina, 霽奈 Reina, 札奈 / 麗奈 Reina / Rena, 玲奈 Reina / Rena / Rina, 玲美奈 Remina, 令奈 / 怜奈 Rena, 玲央奈 Reona, 里愛奈 Riana, 莉衣奈 Riina, 瑠奈 Riina / Runa, 梨奈 / 理奈 / 璃奈 / 莉奈 / 里奈 Rina, 梨緒奈 / 莉央奈 Riona, 瑠帆奈 Ruhona, 月奈 Runa, 咲奈 Sakina / Sana, 桜奈 / 沙奈 / 紗奈 Sana, 紗奈依 Sanae, 世理奈 Serina, 澄奈 Suna, 姬亞奈 Tiana, 優奈 Una / Yuna / Yūna, 和花奈 / 和香奈 Wakana, 結奈 Yuina, 由奈 Yuina / Yuna, 幸奈 / 優希奈 / 優樹奈 / 由稀奈 Yukina, 夢奈 Yumena / Yuna, 佑奈 Yuna, 侑奈 Yuna / Yūna, 優羽奈 Yūna, 友里奈 / 結理奈 Yurina, 柚奈 Yuzuna

## 8) 心

暖心 Ako, 愛心 Ako / Ami / Anon / Manami, 彩心 Ako / Ami / Ayami, 唯心 Ikorō, 椛心 Kako, 心暎 Koa, 心彩 Koa / Koīro / Kokoa, 心華 Kohana, 心花 Kohana / Koharu / Kokoa / Konoka / Mihana, 心春 / 心遙 Koharu, 心陽 Koharu / Kokoha, 心暖 Koharu / Kokono, 心姬 Kohime, 心絃 Koito, 心弧 / 心瑚 / 心虹 Koko, 心愛 Kokoa / Kokona / Kokora / Kokoro / Minori,

心葉 *Kokoha*, 心深 / 心美 *Kokomi*, 心海 *Kokomi / Kokona*, 心南 / 心奈 / 心渚 / 心結 / 心那 *Kokona*, 心菜 *Kokona / Kona*, 心和 *Kokona / Koyori / Nagomi*, 心絆 *Kokona / Shizuna*, 心寧 *Kokone*, 心音 *Kokone / Koto / Mion / Suzu*, 心希 *Kokone / Miki*, 心乃 *Kokono*, 心 / 心々桜 / 心響 / 真心 / 結心 *Kokoro*, 真心 *Kokoro / Mako*, 心優 *Kokoro / Miyu / Miyū*, 結心 *Kokoro / Yui / Yuina / Yuna*, 心待 *Komachi*, 心夏 *Konatsu*, 心乃華 *Konoha*, 心郁 / 心野花 / 心香 *Konoka*, 心実 *Konomi*, 心結希 *Koyuki*, 心桜 *Mio*, 心咲 *Misaki*, 心葵 *Misora*, 心結 *Miyu / Miyū*, 心優花 *Miyuka*, 心月 *Mizuki*, 虹心 *Niko*, 姬心愛 *Pyua*, 麗心 *Reimi*, 梨心 / 璃心 / 莉心 *Riko*, 美心 *Umi*, 陽心 *Yōko*, 優心 *Yūhi / Yuyu*

## 9) 音

愛音 *Aine / Mana / Rizumu*, 紅音 *Akane*, 天音 / 海音 / 愛真音 *Amane*, 朱音 / 杏音 *An*, 碧音 *Aone / Mio*, 彩音 / 絢音 / 綾音 *Ayane*, 楓音 *Fūne*, 華音 *Hana / Kanon*, 羽音 *Hano*, 芭音 *Hanon*, 春音 / 晴音 *Harune*, 初音 *Hatsune*, 妃音 *Hina*, 光音 *Hirono*, 帆音 *Honon*, 綸音 *Ito*, 佳音 / 奏音 / 果音 / 樺音 / 花音 / 華音 *Kanon*, 香音 *Kanon / Kaon*, 夏音 *Kanon / Nana*, 希音 *Kirara / Nono / Yukine*, きよ音 *Kiyone*, 小恋音 / 琴々音 *Kokone*, 心音 *Kokone / Koto / Mion / Suzu*, 虹音 *Koto / Kotone*, 琴音 / 綿音 *Kotone*, 舞音 *Main / Manon*, 真音 / 稀音 *Mao*, 眞音美 *Maomi*, 実音 / 碧音 *Mio*, 美音鈴 *Miori*, 美沙音 *Misato*, 百音 / 萌音 / 雲音 *Mone*, 音愛 *Neai*, 音生奈 *Neina*, 音色 *Neiro*, 寧音 / 音々 *Nene*, 音緒 *Neo*, 音巫 / 音彩 *Noa*, 桜音 *Oto*, 音羽 / 音葉 *Otoha*, 麗音 *Rene*, 璃音 *Rin / Rino / Rinon / Rio*, 凜音 / 凜音 *Rin / Rinon / Rio / Rion*, 吏音 / 梨奏音 *Rinon*, 莉音 *Rinon / Rio / Rion*, 琉音 *Rio*, 里音花 *Rioka*, 梨音 / 里音 *Rion*, 瑠音 *Rune*, 咲音 *Sakine*, 世玲音 *Serene*, 紫音 / 詩音 *Shion*, 涼音 *Suzu / Suzune*, 紗音 / 鈴音 *Suzune*, 音恋夏 *Tokona*, 友音 *Tomone / Yū*, 唯音 *Yuine*, 結音 *Yuine / Yuno*, 幸音 / 有來音 / 結希音 / 雪音 *Yukine*, 優音 *Yuna / Yune*, 優奏音 *Yuzune*

## 10) 莉

巫依莉 / 綾依莉 *Airi*, 愛莉 *Airi / Eri*, 明莉 / 朱莉 *Akari*, 愛莉美 *Eremi*, 絵莉 *Eri*, 恵莉佳 *Erika*, 瑛莉奈 / 江莉菜 *Erina*, 光莉 *Hikari / Kirari*, 妃莉 *Hinari*, 陽莉 / 陽茉莉 *Himari*, 珠莉 / 樹莉 *Juri*, 琴莉 *Kotori*, 茉莉 *Mari / Matsuri*, 茉莉亜 *Maria*, 茉莉香 *Marika / Marina*, 茉莉奈 *Marina*, 真由莉 *Mayuri*, 美衣莉 *Meiri*, 実乃莉 / 美乃莉 / 未莉 *Minori*, 美央莉 *Miori*, 莉杏 *Reia / Rian*, 莉花 *Reika*, 莉亜 *Ria*, 莉愛 *Ria / Rian / Rinoa / Rio*, 莉空樹 / 莉愛菜 *Riana*, 莉愛空 *Riara*, 莉穗 / 莉帆 *Riho*, 莉依 *Rii*, 莉衣奈 *Riina*, 莉

子 / 莉瑚 / 莉心 / 莉香 *Riko*, 莉玖 *Riku*, 莉麻 / 莉茉 *Rima*, 莉美 *Rimi*, 莉菜 / 莉奈 / 莉那 / 莉花 *Rina*, 莉乃 / 莉希 *Rino*, 莉希空 *Rinoa*, 莉桜 / 莉緒 *Rio*, 莉音 *Rio / Rion*, 凜莉 / 莉々 / 璃莉 / 莉里 *Riri*, 莉梨愛 / 莉々愛 / 莉里愛 *Riria*, 莉理衣 *Ririi*, 璃莉果 *Ririka*, 梨莉菜 *Ririna*, 莉紗 *Risa*, 莉靜 / 莉世 *Rise*, 莉結 *Riyu*, 莉月 *Rizuki*, 瑠莉 *Ruri*, 紗莉 *Sari*, 汐莉 *Shiori*, 優衣莉 *Yuri*, 優莉 / 悠莉 *Yūri*, 結莉菜 *Yurina*, 柚奈 *Yuzuna*

## 11) 咲

愛咲 *Aisa*, 有咲 / 愛梨咲 *Arisa*, 愛咲季 *Asaki*, 步咲 *Ayusa*, 智咲 *Chiemi*, 千咲希 / 千咲貴 *Chisaki*, 千咲子 *Chisako*, 咲葉 *Emiha*, 咲花 *Emika / Sakura / Sana*, 楓咲子 *Fumiko*, 日咲希 / 陽咲 *Hisaki*, 莓咲 *Mei*, 明咲 / 芽咲 *Meisa*, 実咲 *Mika / Misaki*, 光咲 / 弥咲 / 心咲 / 海咲 / 碧咲 / 咲姬 / 翠咲未 / 実咲希 *Misaki*, 美咲 *Misaki / Misheru*, 咲夢 *Miu / Sakura*, 百々咲 *Momona*, 南嬉咲 *Nagisa*, 梨咲 / 里咲 *Risa*, 里咲子 *Risako*, 咲智 *Sachi*, 咲惠 / 咲栄 *Sae*, 咲帆 / 咲步 / 咲穗 *Saho*, 咲 / 咲姬 / 咲希 / 咲樹 / 咲紀 / 咲綺 / 咲輝 *Saki*, 咲季步 *Sakiho*, 咲子 *Sakiko*, 咲奈 *Sakina / Sana*, 咲音 *Sakine*, 咲乃 *Sakino*, 咲世 *Sakise*, 咲空 *Saku / Sakura / Sara*, 咲久愛 *Sakua*, 咲來 / 咲来 / 咲夢 / 咲礼 / 咲空 *Sakura*, 咲良 *Sakura / Sara / Saya / Sayo*, 咲奈 / 咲愛 / 咲菜 / 咲那 *Sana*, 咲晶 *Sara*, 咲新 / 咲彩 / 咲絢 / 咲綾 *Sāra*, 咲蘭 *Sara / Saran*, 咲月 *Satsuki*, 咲笑 / 咲羽 *Sawa*, 咲陽 *Saya*, 咲陽乃 *Sayano*, 咲優 / 咲友 / 咲結 *Sayu*, 咲由紀 *Sayuki*, 結咲 *Yume*

## 12) 希

愛希 *Aki / Ano*, 垂希菜 *Akina*, 千咲希 / 千彩希 *Chisaki*, 花希 *Hanano*, 陽希 *Haruki*, 悠希 *Haruki / Yuno*, 蓮希 *Hasuki*, 日々希 *Hibiki*, 姬那希 *Hinano*, 日咲希 *Hisaki*, 伍希 *Itsuki*, 樹希 *Juki*, 香希 *Kanon*, 希羽 *Kihane / Noa*, 希帆 / 希穗 *Kiho*, 希衣 *Kii*, 希依奈 *Kiina*, 希姬 *Kiki*, 希好 *Kiko*, 希未 *Kimi*, 希夏 *Kina / Kinatsu*, 希藍 *Kiran*, 希星 *Kirara*, 希音 *Kirara / Nono*, 希和 *Kiwa*, 心希 *Kokone / Miki*, 心結希 *Koyuki*, 麻希 *Maki*, 美希 *Miki*, 実咲希 / 岬希 *Misaki*, 光希 *Mitsuki*, 瑞希 *Mizuki*, 夏希 *Natsuki*, 希寧 *Nene*, 仁衣希 *Niine*, 希愛 / 希秋 / 希羽 *Noa*, 希望 *Nono*, 希々花 / 希乃花 / 希風 / 希颯 *Nonoka*, 希 / 希実 / 希望 / 希泉 / 希海 / 希美 *Nozomi*, 稟希 / 莉希 *Rino*, 莉希空 *Rinoa*, 咲希 / 彩希 / 紗希 *Saki*, 紗希步 *Sakiho*, 颯希 *Satsuki*, 紗侑希 *Sayuki*, 靜希 *Shizuki*, 珠希 *Tamaki*, 透希 *Tōki*, 紬希 *Tsumugi*, 友希 / 絆希 *Yuki*, 優希 / 結希 *Yuki / Yūki*, 侑希 *Yūki*, 由希愛 *Yukia*, 祐希子 *Yukiko*, 優希奈 / 優希菜 *Yukina*, 結希音 *Yukine*, 祐希乃 *Yukino*, 柚希 *Yuzuki*

### 13) 香

葵香 *Aika* / *Aoi*, 彩香理 / 明香里 *Akari*, 愛実香 *Amika*, 明日香 *Asuka*, 彩香 / 文香 / 綾香 *Ayaka*, 智香 *Chika*, 鬱金香 *Chūri*, 瑛里香 / 衣里香 *Erika*, 楓香 / 風香 / 楓羽香 *Fūka*, 花香 *Hanaka*, はる香 / 春香 / 晴香 / 遙香 / 遙香 / 陽香 *Haruka*, 日芽香 *Himeka*, 陽菜香 *Hinaka*, 帆香 / 穗香 / 和香 / ほの香 / 帆乃香 *Honoka*, 衣千香 *Ichika*, 香安 *Kaan*, 香恵 *Kae*, 香帆 / 香穗 *Kaho*, 香奈 *Kana*, 香希 / 香穩 *Kanon*, 香音 *Kanon* / *Kaon*, 香里 *Kaori*, 香恋 / 香玲 *Karen*, 香凜 *Karin*, 香理南 *Karina*, 香澄 / 香純 *Kasumi*, 香弥 *Kaya*, 心香 / 木乃香 *Konoka*, 京香 / 杏香 *Kyōka*, 真都香 *Madoka*, 舞香 *Maika*, 愛乃香 *Manoka*, 茉莉香 *Marika*, 明香 *Meika* / *Sayaka*, 美香 *Mika*, 杏香 / 桃香 / 百香 / 萌々香 *Momoka*, 桃仁香 *Monika*, なの香 *Nanoka*, 桧ノ香 *Nonoka*, 伶香 *Reika*, 里香 *Rika*, 莉香 *Riko*, 凜香 / 凜香 *Rinka*, 瑠香 *Ruka*, 琉美香 *Rumika*, 涼香 *Ryōka*, 冴香 *Saeka*, 明香 / 沙耶香 *Sayaka*, 成香 *Seika*, 澄香 *Sumika*, 天香 *Tenka*, 和香奈 / 和香那 *Wakana*, 芳香 *Yoshika*, 結香 *Yuika* / *Yuka* / *Yūka*, 柚香 *Yuka* / *Yuzuka*, 佑香 / 優香 / 悠香 / 有香 *Yūka*, 友香南 *Yukana*, 結香梨 *Yukari*, 夢香 *Yumeka*, 結乃香 *Yunoka*, 優里香 *Yurika*

### 14) 乃

愛乃 *Aino* / *Ayano* / *Mei* / *Yuno*, 亜綺乃 *Akino*, 綾乃 / 彩乃 *Ayano*, 美美乃 *Fumino*, はな乃 / 花乃 *Hanano*, 榛乃 / 悠乃 / 遙乃 / 陽乃 *Haruno*, 陽乃 *Haruno* / *Hinano* / *Hino*, 媛乃 *Himeno*, ひな乃 / 妃夏乃 / 妃奈乃 / 姫菜乃 / 媛那乃 / 陽菜乃 / 陽那乃 *Hinano*, 萌乃 *Hono* / *Moeno*, 帆乃佳 / 帆乃香 / 穗乃佳 / 穗乃果 / 穗乃花 *Honoka*, 一乃 *Ichino*, 佳乃 *Kano*, 奏乃 *Kanon* / *Sono*, 心乃 *Kokono*, 瑚乃 *Kono*, 心乃華 / 木乃香 *Konoka*, 愛乃香 *Manoka*, 芽乃 *Meno*, 美帆乃 *Mihono*, 実乃理 / 実乃莉 / 美乃莉 / 未乃莉 *Minori*, 美紗乃 *Misano*, 菜乃羽 / 奈乃絆 *Nanoha*, 菜乃花 *Nanoka*, 乃愛 / 乃彩 *Noa*, 乃衣 *Noi*, 暖乃 *Nono*, 希乃花 / 乃々華 / 乃々椛 *Nonoka*, 梨乃 / 理乃 / 凜乃 / 莉乃 / 璃乃 *Rino*, 桜乃亜 *Rinoa*, 咲乃 *Sakino*, 沙也乃 / 咲陽乃 *Sayano*, 志乃 / 紫乃 *Shino*, 詩乃葉 *Shinoha*, 想乃 *Sono*, 想乃和 *Sonoka*, 寿々乃 *Suzuno*, 歌乃 / 詩乃 *Utano*, 結乃 *Yuino*, 雪乃 / 祐希乃 *Yukino*, 夢乃 *Yumeno*, 悠乃 / 柚乃 *Yuno*, 柚乃 *Yuno* / *Yūno* / *Yuzuno*, 結乃花 / 結乃香 *Yunoka*, 柚璃乃 *Yurino*

### 15) 子

愛子 / 藍子 *Aiko*, 亜子 / 明子 *Ako*, 朝子 *Asako*, 史子 *Ayako*, 智夏子 / 智佳子 / 千歌子 *Chikako*, 千咲子 *Chisako*, 恵理子 *Eriko*, 楓子 *Fūko*, 楓咲

子 *Fumiko*, 華子 *Hanako*, 治子 / 晴子 / 暖子 *Haruko*, 向子 / 陽菜子 / 陽南子 / 陽奈子 / 妃奈子 *Hinako*, 佳子 *Kako*, 馨子 *Kaoruko*, 希好 *Kiko*, 瑚子 *Koko*, 真彩子 / 真衣子 / 舞依子 / 莓子 *Maiko*, 真子 / 眞子 *Mako*, 麻里子 *Mariko*, 真白子 *Mashiroko*, 倍子 *Masuko*, 真悠子 *Mayuko*, 萌依子 / 芽衣子 / 芽生子 *Meiko*, 美子 *Miko*, 美津子 *Mitsuko*, 美哉子 *Miyako*, 桃子 *Momoko*, 菜子 *Nako*, 菜々子 / 奈菜子 / 那奈子 / 菜那子 / 奈那子 *Nanako*, 夏子 / 菜都子 *Natsuko*, 璃衣子 / 里維子 *Riiko*, 梨花子 *Rikako*, 璃子 / 莉子 / 俐子 / 凜子 / 理子 *Riko*, 里咲子 *Risako*, 瑠璃子 *Ruriko*, 佐智子 *Sachiko*, 桜英子 *Saeko*, 咲子 *Sakiko*, 桜子 / 櫻子 *Sakurako*, 紗和子 *Sawako*, 翔子 *Shōko*, 貴子 *Takako*, 塔子 / 透子 *Tōko*, 佑佐子 *Usako*, 陽子 *Yōko*, 美子 *Yoshiko*, ゆい子 / 結子 / 唯子 *Yuiko*, 紫子 *Yukariko*, 祐希子 *Yukiko*, 佑子 / 夕佑子 / 裕子 / 優子 *Yūko*, 由美子 *Yumiko*

## 16) 彩

愛彩 *Aisa*, 彩香理 / 彩花里 *Akari*, 彩心 *Ako* / *Ami* / *Ayami*, 彩実 *Ami*, 彩萌 *Amo*, 彩夢 *Amu* / *Ayame*, 蒼彩 *Aoi*, 彩 *Aya* / *Hikari*, 彩葉 *Ayaha* / *Iroha*, 彩加 / 彩夏 / 彩香 *Ayaka*, 彩花 *Ayaka* / *Iroha*, 彩芽 *Ayame*, 彩美 *Ayami*, 彩奈 / 彩奏 / 彩菜 / 愛彩奈 *Ayana*, 彩寧 / 彩音 *Ayane*, 彩乃 *Ayano*, 彩世 *Ayase* / *Sayo*, 彩結 *Ayu*, 千彩希 *Chisaki*, 日彩 / 陽彩 *Hiiro*, 彩吹 *Ibuki*, 彩愛 *Ichika* / *Sana* / *Sāra* / *Sāya*, 彩巴 / 彩晴 / 彩羽 / 彩葉 *Iroha*, 彩里 *Irori* / *Saeri* / *Sari*, 樹里彩 *Juria*, 心彩 *Koa* / *Koiro* / *Kokoa*, 琴彩 *Kotoa*, 真彩子 *Maiko*, 芽彩 *Mei*, 美彩 *Misa*, 七彩 *Nanase*, 乃彩 / 音彩 *Noa*, 理彩 *Risa*, 彩繪 / 彩衣 *Sae*, 彩智 *Sachi*, 彩姬 / 彩希 / 彩葵 *Saki*, 彩桜 / 彩良 *Sara*, 咲彩 / 彩朱 / 沙彩 / 紗彩 *Sāya*, 彩也華 *Sayaka*, 彩優 *Sayu*, 彩雪 *Sayuki*, 羽彩 *Ui*, 夢彩 *Yua*, 由彩 *Yua* / *Yui*, 結彩 *Yui*

## 17) 陽

陽向 *Akira* / *Hina* / *Hinata*, 朝陽 *Asahi*, 千陽 *Chihiro*, 千陽花 *Chiyoka*, 陽菜 *Hana* / *Haruna* / *Hina*, 陽空 *Harua*, 陽愛 *Harua* / *Haruna* / *Hina* / *Hiyori*, 遙陽 *Haruhi*, 春陽 *Haruhi* / *Hinata*, 陽佳 / 陽香 *Haruka*, 陽花 *Haruka* / *Hina*, 陽希 *Haruki*, 陽奈 *Haruna*, 陽乃 *Haruno* / *Hinano* / *Hino*, 陽彩 *Hiiro*, 陽梨 *Hikari*, 陽真梨 / 陽真理 / 陽茉凜 / 陽茉莉 / 陽茉里 / 陽莉 / 陽毬 *Himari*, 陽葵 *Himari* / *Himawari*, 陽風 *Hina*, 陽南 *Hina* / *Hinami*, 陽菜步 *Hinaho*, 陽菜香 *Hinaka*, 陽南子 / 陽奈子 / 陽菜子 *Hinako*, 陽菜乃 / 陽那乃 *Hinano*, 陽 / 陽菜多 / 陽菜汰 *Hinata*, 陽咲 *Hisaki*, 妃陽李 / 陽依 / 陽和 / 陽茉 *Hiyori*, 陽月 *Hizuki*, 小陽 *Koharu*, 心陽 *Koharu* /

Kokoha, 愛陽 Mahiru, 美陽 Miharu, 菜陽 Nao, 咲陽 Saya, 咲陽乃 Sayano, 陽真 Takami, 陽子 / 陽心 Yōko

## 18) 夏

葵夏 Aina, 愛姬夏 Akina, 彩夏 / 采夏 Ayaka, 智夏子 Chikako, 千夏 China / Chinatsu, 一夏 Chinatsu, 史夏 Fumika, 楓夏 / 風夏 Fūka, 羽夏 Hana, 絆夏 Hanna, 夏向花 Himari, 日那夏 Hinaka, 妃夏乃 Hinano, 妃夏 Hinatsu, 帆夏 / 穗夏 Honoka, 唯夏都 Itsuka, 夏步 / 夏穗 Kaho, 夏帆 Kaho / Naho, 夏渚 Kana, 夏奈 Kana / Nana / Natsuna, 寬夏 Kanna, 夏音 Kanon / Nana, 夏怜 Karen, 夏綾 / 夏鈴 Karin, 希夏 Kina / Kinatsu, 小夏 / 心夏 / 瑚夏 Konatsu, 実夏 / 美夏 Mika, 百夏 / 萌夏 Moka, 桃夏 Momoka, 夏千花 Nachika, 七夏 Nanami / Nanoka, 夏羽 / 夏葉 Natsuha, 捺夏 Natsuka, 夏姬 / 夏希 / 夏月 / 夏生 / 夏葵 Natsuki, 夏子 Natsuko, 夏芽 Natsume, 夏夢 / 夏実 / 夏海 Natsumi, 和夏 Nodoka, 来夏 Rana, 蓮夏 Renka, 梨夏 Rina, 凜夏 Rinna, 瑠夏 Ruka, 琉夏 Ruka / Runa, 清夏 Sayaka, 世夏 Sena, 種夏 Shuna, 珠々夏 Suzuna, 音恋夏 Tokona, 月姬夏 Tsukina, 若夏 Wakana, 優衣夏 / 唯夏 Yuina, 柚夏 Yuna, 優夏 / 結夏 Yūna

## 19) 月

葉月 / 遙月 Hazuki, 陽月 Hizuki, 華月 Kazuki, 稀月 Kizuki, 愛花月 Manatsu, 滿月 Mitsuki, 美月 Mitsuki / Mizuki, 水月 / 翠月 / 心月 Mizuki, 菜月 / 夏月 / 渚月 Natsuki, 玲月 Reina, 莉月 Rikki / Rizuki, 月 / 月優 / 月菜 / 月樹 / 月奈 / 月姬 / 月雫 Runa, 咲月 / 紗月 / 桜月 / 皐月 Satsuki, 詩月 / 紫月 Shizuki, 月澗 Sumire, 月映 Tsukiha, 月海 Tsukimi, 月姬夏 Tsukina, 月響 Tsukine, 柚月菜 Yukina, 結月 / 優月 / 柚月 / 唯月 / 悠月 / 侑月稀 / 友月 Yuzuki

## 20) 桜

愛桜 Aira, 和桜 Aisa, 秋桜 Ami, 有桜 Arisa, 千桜 Chisa, 桜愛 Hana, 桜琉姬 Haruhi, 桜子 Haruko / Sakurako, 色桜花 Iroha, 心々桜 Kokoro, 杏桜 Koo, 舞桜 Maisa / Mao, 茉桜 Mao, 舞桜花 / 麻桜花 Maoka, 実桜 / 碧桜 / 未桜 / 水桜 Mio, 心桜 Mio / Misaki, 美桜 Mio / Urara, 弥桜 Miri, 桜羽 Miu / Otoha, 桜結 Miyu, 那桜 Nao, 桜叶 / 桜佳 Ōka, 桜音 / 桜都 Oto, 鈴桜 / 凜桜 / 莉桜 / 理桜 / 里桜 / 璃桜 Rio, 桜乃垂 Rinoa, 理桜 Rion, 里桜菜 / 理桜菜 Riona, 桜英 Saeko, 桜姬 / 桜季 Saki, 桜 Sakura, 櫻子 Sakurako, 桜耶 Sakuya, 桜奈 Sana, 紗桜 Sao, 才櫻 Saō, 彩桜 Sara, 桜月 Satsuki, 桜和 Sawa, 志桜里 Shiori, 結桜 / 優桜 / 悠桜 Yura

## 21) 紗

愛紗 *Aisa*, 千紗 *Chisa*, 和紗 *Kazusa*, 季紗 / 妃紗 *Kisa*, 莓紗 *Maisa*, 明紗 *Meisa*, 美紗乃 *Misano*, 瑞紗 *Mizusa*, 渚紗 / 凧紗 *Nagisa*, 濤紗 *Reisa*, 里依紗 *Riisa*, 理紗 / 里紗 / 莉紗 *Risa*, 紗幸 *Sachi / Sayuki*, 紗衣 / 紗瑛 / 紗英 / 紗笑 *Sae*, 紗愛 *Sae / Sara*, 紗希 / 紗季 / 紗輝 *Saki*, 紗希步 *Sakiho*, 紗玖良 *Sakura*, 紗奈 / 紗那 / 紗名 *Sana*, 紗菜 *Sana / Sena / Suzuna*, 紗奈依 *Sanae*, 紗桜 *Sao*, 紗空 / 紗羅 / 紗良 *Sara*, 更紗 *Sarasa*, 紗莉 *Sari*, 紗槻 / 紗月 *Satsuki*, 紗羽 *Sawa*, 紗和子 *Sawako*, 紗也 / 紗夜 / 紗弥 / 紗椰 *Saya*, 紗愛耶 / 紗綾 / 紗彩 / 紗采 *Sāya*, 紗也佳 *Sayaka*, 紗花 *Sayaka / Suzuka*, 紗麗 *Sayori*, 紗結 / 紗優 *Sayu*, 紗幸 / 紗雪 / 紗侑希 *Sayuki*, 紗 *Suzu*, 紗音 / 紗寧 *Suzune*

## 22) 衣

碧衣 / 葵衣 / 蒼衣 *Aoi*, 衣実 *Emiru*, 衣里香 *Erika*, 花衣 / 華衣 *Hanae*, 春衣 *Harui*, 衣千香 *Ichika*, 衣栞 *Iori*, 衣都 *Ito*, 希衣 / 姬衣 *Kii*, 真衣 / 麻衣 *Mai*, 真衣子 *Maiko*, 芽衣 / 惠衣 / 萌衣 / 明衣 *Mei*, 芽衣子 *Meiko*, 芽衣菜 / 芽衣奈 *Meina*, 美衣莉 *Meiri*, 美衣奈 *Miina*, 美衣羽 *Miiu*, 仁衣希 *Niine*, 乃衣 *Noi*, 玲衣 / 麗衣 / 理衣 *Rei*, 璃衣子 *Riiko*, 莉衣奈 *Riina*, 莉理衣 *Ririi*, 彩衣 / 紗衣 *Sae*, 珠衣 *Shui*, 集衣 *Tsudoi*, 紬衣 *Tsumugi*, 優衣 *Ui / Yui / Yū*, 結衣 / 唯衣 / 悠衣 / 柚衣 / 祐衣 *Yui*, 結衣華 / 優衣夏 *Yuika*, 結衣菜 / 結衣那 *Yuina*, 優衣莉 *Yuri*

## 23) 里

愛里 / 和里 / 亜依里 *Airi*, 明里 / 朱里 / 灯里 / 愛加里 / 葵佳里 / 安佳里 / 彩花里 / 明佳里 / 明香里 / 明灯里 *Akari*, 明里子 *Akariko*, 步里 *Ayuri*, 知里 *Chisato*, 笑里 *Emiri*, 衣里香 / 瑛里香 / 英里奈 *Erika*, 光里 / 日花里 *Hikari*, 日真里 / 日舞里 / 陽菜里 *Himari*, 日葉里 *Hiyori*, 彩里 *Irori / Saeri / Sari*, 珠里 / 樹里 *Juri*, 樹里彩 *Juria*, 輝里 *Kagari*, 香里 *Kaori*, 絆愛里 *Kiari*, 麻里子 *Mariko*, 真里奈 *Marina*, 美里 *Misato*, 里愛奈 *Riana*, 里娃蘭 *Riara*, 里帆 *Riho*, 里維子 *Riiko*, 里依紗 *Riisa*, 里香 *Rika*, 里琴 *Riko*, 里奈 *Rina*, 里桜 / 里緒 *Rio*, 里和 *Rio / Riwa*, 里音花 *Rioka*, 里音 *Rion*, 里桜菜 *Riona*, 里梨 / 莉里 *Riri*, 莉里愛 *Riria*, 梨里花 *Ririka*, 里沙 / 里咲 / 里紗 *Risa*, 里咲子 *Risako*, 梨里 *Risato*, 里絆 *Rizuna*, 里美 *Satomi*, 志桜里 / 紫緒里 *Shiori*, 祐里 *Yuno*, 優里 / 友里 *Yuri / Yūri*, 結里 / 佑里 / 侑里 *Yūri*, 友里惠 *Yurie*, 優里佳 / 優里香 *Yurika*, 優里菜 / 友里奈 *Yurina*

## 24) 華

藍華 *Aika*, 愛華 *Aika* / *Itsuka*, 逢華 *Aina*, 華舞 *Aroma*, 絢華 *Ayaka*, 千華 *Chihana*, 楓華 / 風華 *Fūka*, 冬華 *Fūka* / *Fuyuka*, 華 / 華菜 / 華那 / 華音 *Hana*, 華江 / 華衣 *Hanae*, 華子 *Hanako*, 悠華 *Haruka*, 姬華 *Himeka*, 穗華 *Honoka*, 一華 *Ichika*, 華楓 *Kaede*, 華帆 *Kaho*, 華海 *Kano*, 華望 / 華音 *Kanon*, 華凜 / 華凜 / 華鈴 *Karin*, 華純 *Kasumi*, 華月 *Kazuki*, 華純菜 *Kazuna*, 心華 *Kohana*, 心乃華 *Konoka*, 叶華 *Kyōka*, 美華 *Mihana* / *Mika*, 光華 *Mikka*, 百華 *Moka* / *Momoha* / *Momoka*, 萌々華 *Momoha*, 桃華 *Momoka*, 七華 *Nanaka*, 華穗 *Nao*, 尚華 *Naoka*, 似華 *Nika*, 和華 *Nodoka* / *Waka*, 乃々華 *Nonoka*, 蘭華 *Ran*, 蓮華 *Renka*, 梨華 *Rika*, 凜華 / 綸華 *Rinka*, 梨々華 *Ririka*, 琉華 / 瑠華 *Ruka*, 彩也華 *Sayaka*, 初華 *Uika*, 和華名 *Wakana*, 唯華 / 由唯華 / 結華 / 結衣華 *Yuika*, 夢華 / 結愛華 *Yumeka*

## 25) 羽

笑羽 *Emiha*, 楓羽香 *Fūka*, 史羽 *Fumiha*, 羽夏 / 羽奈 / 羽菜 *Hana*, 羽音 *Hano*, 羽柊 *Haon*, 彩羽 *Iroha*, 叶羽 / 奏羽 *Kanaha*, 希羽 *Kihane*, 倖羽 / 紘羽 *Kō*, 恋羽 *Kohane* / *Noa*, 琴羽 *Kotoha*, 空羽 *Kū*, 麻羽 *Maharo*, 美羽瑠 *Miharu*, 美衣羽 *Miiu*, 未羽 / 海羽 *Miu*, 美羽 *Miu* / *Miwa* / *Myū*, 桜羽 *Miu* / *Otoha*, 菜乃羽 / 菜羽 *Nanoha*, 夏羽 *Natsuha*, 羽舞 *Nemu*, 望羽 *Nonoha*, 音羽 *Otoha*, 咲羽 / 紗羽 *Sawa*, 爽羽 *Sowa*, 羽 *Tsubasa*, 羽彩 *Ui*, 羽海 / 羽美 *Umi*, 詩羽 *Utaha*, 羽奏 *Wakana*, 優羽 / 夜羽 / 由羽 / 祐羽 *Yū*, 結羽 *Yū* / *Yuwa*, 夢羽 *Yumeha*, 優羽奈 / 優羽菜 *Yūna*, 柚羽 *Yuzuha*

## 26) 真

愛真音 *Amane*, 瑛真 / 英真 *Emi*, 日真里 / 陽真梨 / 陽真理 *Himari*, 真心 *Kokoro* / *Mako*, 真都香 *Madoka*, 真宙 *Mahiro*, 真帆 / 真步 *Maho*, 真帆呂 *Mahoro*, 真依 / 真衣 *Mai*, 真彩子 / 真衣子 *Maiko*, 真叶 *Makana*, 真生 *Maki* / *Manami*, 真子 / 真琴 *Mako*, 真美 *Mami*, 真和 / 真奈 / 真愛 / 真捺 / 真椰 / 真菜 *Mana*, 真悠 *Manaha*, 真加 *Manaka*, 真暖 *Manon*, 真央 / 真緒 / 真音 *Mao*, 真織 *Maori*, 真理 *Mari*, 真凜 / 真凜 *Marin*, 真里奈 *Marina*, 真瑠 *Maru*, 真白 *Mashiro*, 真白子 *Mashiroko*, 真弥 / 真耶 *Maya*, 真優 / 真由 / 真結 *Mayu*, 真優佳 *Mayuka*, 真悠子 *Mayuko*, 真由莉 *Mayuri*, 真鶴 *Mazuru*, 瑠真 *Runa*, 陽真 *Takami*, 優真 / 由真 *Yuma*

## 27) 海

愛海 *Aimi* / *Manami*, 朱海 *Akemi*, 海音 *Amane*, 亜海 *Ami*, 碧海 / 葵海 *Aoi*, 明日海 *Asuka*, 華海 *Kano*, 心海 *Kokomi* / *Kokona*, 琴海 *Kotomi*, 来

海 Kurumi, 麻海 Mauna, 恵海 Megumi, 海空 Mia / Misora, 海伊 Mii, 海來 Miku / Mirai, 美海 Mimi / Miu / Miuna, 海咲 Misaki, 海羽 / 碧海 / Miu, 海友 / 海結 Miyu, 海優 Miyū, 七海 / 菜々海 Nanami, 夏海 Natsumi, 希海 Nozomi, 麗海 Reimi, 凜海 Rimi, 璃海 Riria, 瑠海 Ruka, 琉海菜 Rumina, 澄海 Sukai, 月海 Tsukimi, 海 / 羽海 Umi, 優海 Yū, 夕海 Yūmi

## 28) 実

愛実 Ami / Manami, 亜実 Ami / Tsugumi, 愛実香 Amika, 麻実 Asami, 歩実 / 愛結実 Ayumi, 衣実 Emiru, 芙実 Fumi, 葉久実 Hagumi, 叶実 Kanami, 好実 / 心実 Konomi, 久実 Kumi, 來実 / 來実 Kurumi, 茉奈実, 実愛 Mia / Minori / Miria, 実以 Mii, 実夏 / 実花 Mika, 実子 / 実虹 Miko, 実花 Minaha, 実乃理 Minori, 実音 / 実緒 Mio, 実桜 Mio / Miō, 実瑠來 Miruku, 実咲 / 実咲希 Misaki, 実生 Mitsuki / Miu, 実結 / 実佑 / 実優 / 実夢 Miyu, 桃菜実 Monami, 睦実 Mutsumi, 奈々実 Nanami, 夏実 Natsumi, 希実 / 望実 Nozomi, 恋実 Remi, 路実 Romi, 多実 Tami, 優実 Yumi, 友実子 Yumiko

## 29) 梨

愛梨 Airi, 杏梨 / 晏梨 Anri, 愛梨咲 Arisa, 風愛梨 Fuari, 陽梨 Hikari, 陽真梨 Himari, 花梨 Karin, 琴梨 Kotori, 守梨 Mamori, 美梨 Miri, 美梨愛 Miria, 梨亜 Ria, 梨愛 Ria / Rina, 梨帆 Riho, 梨華 Rika, 梨花子 Rikako, 梨月 Rikki, 梨湖 / 梨心 Riko, 梨夢 Rimu, 梨夏 / 梨那 / 鈴梨 / 梨奈 Rina, 梨乃 Rino, 梨奏音 Rinon, 梨央 / 梨織 Rio, 梨音 Rion, 梨緒奈 Riona, 依央梨 Riori, 里梨 Riri, 梨々華 / 梨里花 / 梨々花 Ririka, 梨々瑚 Ririko, 梨鈴 Ririn, 梨莉菜 Ririna, 梨瑠亜 Rirua, 梨咲 / 梨世 Risa, 梨里 Risato, 瑠梨 Ruri, 汐梨 Shiori, 珠梨 Shuri, 結香梨 Yukari, 由梨 Yuri, 優梨 / 悠梨 / 佑梨 / 釉梨 Yūri, 優梨亜 Yuria

## 30) 々

日々希 Hibiki, 瑚々 Koko, 胡々美 Kokomi, 恋々菜 Kokona, 琴々音 Kokone, 心々桜 Kokoro, 若々 / 桃々 / 萌々 Momo, 萌々華 Momoha, 百々花 / 萌々花 / 萌々香 Momoka, 百々咲 Momona, 夢々 Mumu, 奈々 / 菜々 Nana, 菜々花 / 奈々花 Nanaka, 菜々海 / 菜々美 / 奈々実 / 奈々美 Nanami, 菜々瀬 Nanase, 音々 / 寧々 Nene, 叶々 Nono, 穩々花 / 希々花 / 乃々華 / 乃々栴 / 野々花 Nonoka, 愛々 / 麗々 / 來々 Rara, 莉々 Riri, 莉々愛 / 璃々愛 Riria, 梨々花 / 梨々華 Ririka, 梨々瑚 Ririko, 琉々花 Ruruka, 珠々夏 Suzuna, 寿々乃 Suzuno, 和々葉 Wakaba, 弥々 Yaya

### 31) 柚

柚亜 *Yua*, 柚愛 *Yua / Yuzua*, 柚衣 *Yui*, 柚花 *Yūka / Yuna / Yuzuha / Yuzuka*, 柚香 *Yuka / Yuzuka*, 柚月菜 *Yukina*, 柚舞 *Yuma*, 柚芽 *Yume*, 柚夏 *Yuna*, 柚寧 *Yune*, 柚乃 *Yūno / Yuzuno*, 柚璃乃 *Yurino*, 柚 / 柚結 / 柚春 *Yuzu*, 柚羽 *Yuzuha*, 柚帆 / 柚穗 / 柚步 *Yuzuho*, 柚葵 / 柚希 / 柚月 / 柚妃 *Yuzuki*, 柚奈 / 柚那 *Yuzuna*

### 32) 和

和花 *Aika / Honoka / Nodoka / Nogoka / Waka*, 和里 *Airi*, 和桜 *Aisa*, 依和 *Ena*, 楓和 / 風和 *Fūwa*, 凜和 / 日和 / 陽和 *Hiyori*, 和香 *Honoka*, 穗和 *Howa*, 和紗 *Kazusa*, 希和 *Kiwa*, 心和 *Kokona / Koyori / Nagomi*, 真和 *Mana*, 珠和 *Miwa*, 和愛 *Nagomi*, 和 *Nagomi / Nogoka*, 和奈 *Nana*, 和夏 *Nogoka*, 和華 *Nogoka / Waka*, 和奏 *Nogoka / Wakana*, 里和 *Rio / Riwa*, 佐和 / 桜和 *Sawa*, 紗和子 *Sawako*, 想乃和 *Sonoka*, 和笑 *Wae*, 和々葉 *Wakaba*, 和佳南 / 和日菜 / 和花奈 / 和華名 / 和香奈 / 和香那 *Wakana*, 宥和 *Yui*, 結和 *Yūwa*

### 33) 千

千綾 *Chia*, 千愛 *Chia / Chie / China / Chinari / Sena*, 千秋 / 千明 *Chiaki*, 千華 *Chihana*, 千晴 / 千榮 / 千遥 *Chiharu*, 千早 *Chihaya*, 千博 / 千尋 / 千紘 / 千裕 / 千陽 *Chihiro*, 千佳 / 千花 / 千賀 *Chika*, 千歌子 *Chikako*, 千琴 *Chikoto*, 千奈 *China*, 千夏 *China / Chinatsu*, 千波 *Chinami*, 千織 *Chiori*, 千桜 / 千紗 *Chisa*, 千咲希 / 千咲貴 / 千彩希 *Chisaki*, 千咲子 *Chisako*, 千聖 / 千聡 *Chisato*, 千代 *Chiyo*, 千陽花 *Chiyoka*, 千寿 *Chizu*, 千弦 / 千鶴 *Chizuru*, 一千花 / 衣千香 *Ichika*, 夏千花 *Nachika*, 日千穗 *Nichiho*

### 34) 佳

愛佳 *Aika / Manaka*, 葵佳里 / 安佳里 / 明佳里 *Akari*, 采佳 *Ayaka*, 千佳 *Chika*, 智佳子 *Chikako*, 知佳 *Chiyo*, 惠莉佳 *Erika*, 楓佳 *Fūka*, 八佳 *Hachika*, 春佳 / 陽佳 *Haruka*, 姬佳 *Himeka*, 穗佳 / 帆乃佳 / 穗乃佳 *Honoka*, 暖佳 *Honoka / Nonoka*, 依茅佳 / 初佳 *Ichika*, 佳步 / 佳穗 *Kaho*, 佳子 *Kako*, 佳奈 *Kana*, 佳乃 *Kano*, 佳音 / 佳暖 *Kanon*, 佳凜 *Karin*, 佳純 *Kasumi*, 佳代 *Kayo*, 恭佳 *Kyōka*, 円美佳 *Marumika*, 真優佳 *Mayuka*, 桜佳 *Ōka*, 凜佳 *Rinka*, 流佳 / 瑠佳 *Ruka*, 紗也佳 *Sayaka*, 朋佳 *Tomoka*, 卯佳 *Uika*, 和佳南 *Wakana*, 由佳 *Yuika*, 優佳 *Yuka*, 結佳利 / 友佳俐 *Yukari*, 優里佳 *Yurika*, 佑佳 *Yūka*

### 35) 帆

晶帆 *Akiho*, 帆花 *Hanka / Honoka*, 帆奈 *Hanna*, 帆加 / 帆夏 / 帆栳 / 帆香 / 帆乃佳 / 帆乃香 / 帆葉 *Honoka*, 帆音 *Honon*, 花帆 / 華帆 / 香帆 *Kaho*, 夏帆 *Kaho / Nao*, 希帆 *Kiho*, 真帆 / 舞帆 / 眞帆 *Maho*, 真帆呂 *Mahoro*, 美帆 *Miho*, 美帆乃 *Mihono*, 菜帆 *Naho*, 梨帆 / 理帆 / 里帆 / 莉帆 *Riho*, 瑠帆奈 *Ruhona*, 左帆 / 咲帆 *Saho*, 史帆 / 志帆 / 詩帆 *Shiho*, 柚帆 *Yuzuho*

### 36) 芽

彩芽 *Ayame*, 日芽香 *Himeka*, 芽寿 *Ibuki*, 奏芽 *Kaname*, 倖芽 *Kōme*, 芽久 *Megu*, 芽 / 芽依 / 芽唯 / 芽彩 *Mei*, 芽生 *Mei / Meo*, 芽愛 *Meia*, 芽衣子 / 芽生子 *Meiko*, 芽衣奈 / 芽衣菜 *Meina*, 芽咲 *Meisa*, 芽氣 *Meki*, 芽乃 *Meno*, 芽璃亜 *Meria*, 菜芽 / 夏芽 *Natsume*, 優芽 / 柚芽 / 由芽 / 夢芽 / 結芽 *Yume*

### 37) 那

華那 *Hana*, 妃那 *Hina*, 日那夏 *Hinaka*, 姬那希 / 媛那乃 / 陽那乃 *Hinano*, 珠那 *Juna*, 珂那三 *Kanami*, 柑那 / 葉那 *Kanna*, 心那 *Kokona*, 琴那 *Kotona*, 莓那 *Maina*, 茉那 / 麻那 *Mana*, 茉莉那 *Marina*, 桃那 *Momona*, 凧那 / 那奈 *Nana*, 奈那子 / 菜那子 / 那奈子 *Nanako*, 那波 *Nanami*, 那桜 *Nao*, 怜那 *Reina*, 玲那 *Rena*, 梨那 / 莉那 / 麗那 *Rina*, 琉那 *Runa*, 咲那 / 沙那 / 紗那 *Sana*, 星那 *Seina / Sena*, 和香那 *Wakana*, 唯那 / 結衣那 *Yuina*, 結那 *Yuina / Yūna*, 優那 *Yuna / Yūna*, 柚那 *Yuzuna*

### 38) 杏

杏音 *An*, 杏 *An / Anzu*, 杏樹 / 杏珠 *Anju*, 杏菜 / 杏奈 / 杏捺 *Anna*, 杏梨 *Anri*, 杏瑠 *Anru*, 杏由璃 *Ayuri*, 奏杏 *Kanoa*, 子杏 / 杏桜 *Koa*, 杏香 *Kyōka*, 美杏 *Mia*, 萌杏 / 桃杏 *Moa*, 玲杏 / 麗杏 *Rean*, 莉杏 *Reia / Rian*, 理杏 *Rian*, 瑠杏 *Ruan*, 優杏 *Yūa*

### 39) 理

愛理 *Airi*, 彩香理 / 朱理 *Akari*, 愛理奈 *Arina*, 愛美理 *Emiri*, 笑理 *Eri*, 愛理花 *Erika*, 惠理子 *Eriko*, 惠理奈 *Erina*, 陽真理 *Himari*, 香理南 *Karina*, 真理 *Mari*, 理 *Michi*, 実乃理 *Minori*, 理愛 *Ria / Rira*, 理杏 *Rian*, 理衣 / 理惠 *Rie*, 理帆 *Riho*, 理琴 / 理子 *Riko*, 理菜 / 理奈 / 理名 *Rina*, 理乃 *Rino*, 理央 / 理緒 *Rio*, 理桜 *Rio / Rion*, 理桜菜 *Riona*, 莉理衣 *Ririi*, 琉理花 *Ririka*, 理彩 / 理紗 *Risa*, 世理奈 *Serina*, 珠理 *Shuri*, 悠理 / 由理 *Yuri*, 結理奈 *Yurina*

#### 40) 葵

葵香 Aika / Aoi, 葵佳里 Akari, 葵 / 葵依 / 葵琉 / 葵海 Aoi, 日葵 Himari, 陽葵 Himari / Himawari, 向日葵 Hinata, 日葵 Hiyori, 葵蘭 Kiira, 心葵 Misora, 夏葵 Natsuki, 葵友 Rito, 彩葵 Saki, 紬葵 Tsumugi, 優葵 Yuki / Yūki, 柚葵 / 夕葵 Yuzuki

#### 41) 空

晴空 / 陽空 Harua, 空羽 Kū, 海空 Mia / Misora, 未空 Miku, 美空 Miku / Misora / Sora, 舞空 Muku, 莉空樹 Riana, 莉愛空 Riara, 莉希空 Rinoa, 愛空 Rua, 咲空 Saku / Sakura / Sara, 冴空 / 紗空 Sara, 星空 Seira / Sera / Sesora, 穩空 Shizuku, 空愛 Soa, 空 / 空良 / 蒼空 Sora, 空初 Soraha, 優空 Yūa / Yura, 結空 Yura, 佑空 Yūku

#### 42) 凜

明凜 Akari, 陽茉凜 Himari, 凜和 Hiyori, 佳凜 / 花凜 / 華凜 / 香凜 Karin, 真凜 Marin, 凜愛 Ria / Rinna, 凜子 Riko, 凜海 Rimi, 凜 Rin, 凜音 Rin / Rinon / Rio, 凜佳 / 凜花 / 凜華 / 凜香 Rinka, 凜子 Rinko, 凜愛 / 凜南 Rinna, 凜乃 Rino, 凜桜 / 凜緒 Rio, 凜莉 Riri

#### 43) 瑠

杏瑠 Anru, 葉瑠 / 芭瑠 / 波瑠 Haru, 真瑠 Maru, 望瑠 Michiru, 美羽瑠 Miharu, 実瑠来 Miruku, 梨瑠亜 Rirua, 瑠杏 Ruan, 瑠愛 Rui / Runa / Rurua, 瑠帆奈 Ruhona, 瑠花 / 瑠華 / 瑠佳 / 瑠夏 / 瑠海 / 瑠葉 / 瑠香, 瑠日 Ruka, 瑠奈 / 瑠菜 / 瑠南 / 瑠真 Runa, 瑠音 Rune, 瑠梨 / 瑠璃 / 瑠莉 Ruri, 瑠璃子 Ruriko, 瑠糸愛 Rushia, 葉瑠 Shieru

#### 44) 葉

青葉 Aoba, 彩葉 Ayaha, 双葉 / 二葉 / ふた葉 Futaba, 葉久実 Hagumi, 葉奈 Hana, 葉瑠 / 葉琉 Haru, 葉月 Hatsuki / Hazuki, 日葉里 Hiyori, 彩葉 Iroha, 心葉 Kokoha, 琴葉 Kotoha, 紅葉 Kureha, 万葉奈 Mahana, 瑞葉 Mizuha, 萌葉 Moyuha, 七葉 Nanaha, 成葉 Naruha, 夏葉 Natsuha, 音葉 / 乙葉 Otoha, 四葉 Yotsuha

#### 45) 穗

秋穗 / 晶穗 Akiho, 文穗 Fumiho, 穗奈美 Honami, 穗佳 / 穗夏 / 穗歌 / 穗華 / 穗香 / 萌楓 / 穗ノ歌 / 穗乃佳 / 穗乃果 / 穗乃花 Honoka, 穗花

*Honoka / Minori*, 穂和 *Howa*, 佳穂 / 夏穂 / 花穂 / 香穂 *Kaho*, 希穂 *Kiho*, 穂 *Konomi*, 瑞穂 *Mizuho*, 菜穂 *Naho*, 華穂 *Nao*, 日千穂 *Nichiho*, 莉穂 *Riho*, 咲穂 *Saho*, 志穂 / 珠穂 *Shiho*, 自穂 *Yoriho*, 幸穂 / 薰穂 *Yukiho*, 柚穂 *Yuzuho*

#### 46) 歩

歩優 *Ayu*, 歩実 / 歩美 / 歩良 *Ayumi*, 歩 *Ayumu*, 歩奈 *Ayuna*, 歩里 *Ayuri*, 歩咲 *Ayusa*, 知歩 *Chisa*, 笑歩 *Ea*, 陽菜歩 *Hinaho*, 歩南 *Honami*, 佳歩 / 夏歩 / 果歩 / 花歩 *Kaho*, 真歩 / 麻歩 / 茉歩 *Maho*, 実歩 / 美歩 / 未歩 *Miho*, 愛歩 *Rabuhu*, 玲歩 *Rea*, 凜歩 *Riho*, 咲歩 *Saho*, 咲季歩 / 紗希歩 *Sakiho*, 志歩 / 詩歩 *Shiho*, 柚歩 *Yuzuho*

#### 47) 日

明日香 / 明日奏 / 明日榎 / 明日海 *Asuka*, 明日美 *Asumi*, 明日菜 *Asuna*, 美日 *Bibi*, 日々希 *Hibiki*, 日彩 *Hiiro*, 日花里 *Hikari*, 日真里 / 日舞里 *Himari*, 向日葵 *Himari / Himawari*, 日葵 *Himari / Hiyori*, 日芽香 *Himeka*, 日菜 *Hina*, 日那夏 *Hinaka*, 日向子 *Hinako*, 日向 / 日菜詩 *Hinata*, 日咲希 *Hisaki*, 日和 / 日葉里 *Hiyori*, 小日菜 *Kohina*, 日千穂 *Nichiho*, 日恋 / 日虹 *Niko*, 瑠日 *Ruka*, 和日菜 *Wakana*, 優日 *Yūhi*

#### 48) 夢

巫夢 *Amu*, 彩夢 *Amu / Ayume*, 瑛夢 *Eimu*, 笑夢 *Emu*, 夢結 *Mei*, 咲夢 *Miu / Sakura*, 実夢 / 美夢 / 未夢 *Miyu*, 望夢 *Moa*, 夢々 *Mumu*, 夏夢 *Natsumi*, 夢 *Nozomi*, 徠夢 *Raimu*, 星夢 / 羅夢 *Ramu*, 梨夢 *Rimu*, 涼夢 *Rinon*, 叶夢 *Towa*, 夢愛 / 夢彩 / 夢采 *Yua*, 夢芽 *Yume*, 夢羽 *Yumeha*, 夢華 / 夢叶 / 夢香 *Yumeka*, 夢乃 *Yumeno*, 夢満 *Yumiru*, 夢菜 / 夢奈 / 夢絆 *Yuna*, 夢來 *Yura*

#### 49) 明

明凜 / 明莉 / 明里 / 明灯里 / 明佳里 / 明香里 *Akari*, 明 *Akari / Mei*, 明里子 *Akariko*, 明笑 *Akie*, 明子 *Ako*, 明朱 *Asu*, 明日奏 / 明日榎 / 明日海 / 明日香 *Asuka*, 明日美 *Asumi*, 明日菜 *Asuna*, 千明 *Chiaki*, 明葵 *Himari*, 舞明 *Maia*, 明愛 / 明衣 *Mei*, 明香 *Meika*, 明咲 / 明沙 / 明紗 *Meisa*, 明香 *Sayaka*, 夕明 *Yua*, 優明 *Yūa*

## 50) 未

愛未 *Aimi / Ami / Manami*, 笑未果 *Emika*, 笑未奈 *Emina*, 遙未 *Harumi*,  
希未 *Kimi*, 琴未 *Kotomi*, 久未 *Kumi*, 惠未 *Megumi*, 未愛 *Mia*, 未歩 *Miho*,  
未花 *Mika*, 未采 *Mikoto*, 未空 *Miku*, 未来 *Miku / Mirai*, 未來 *Mikuru /*  
*Mirai*, 未虹依 *Minii*, 未莉 / 未乃莉 *Minori*, 未央 / 未桜 / 未緒 *Mio*, 未咲  
姫 *Misaki*, 未羽 *Miu*, 未弥 *Miya*, 未優 / 未夢 / 未結 *Miyu*, 続未 *Tsuzumi*,  
悠未 *Yuma / Yumi*

# APPENDIX 3: ALPHABETICAL LISTS OF PHONOLOGICAL FORMS OF NAMES IN THE CORPUS

## Male names

### A

Adamu  
Aeru  
Aga  
Aikei  
Aiki  
Airi  
Airu  
Aito  
Akari  
Akashi  
Akesame  
Aki  
Akiharu  
Akihiko  
Akihiro  
Akihito  
Akiho  
Akira  
Akito  
Akitoshi  
Akitsugu  
Akiya  
Akiyoshi  
Akua  
Amane  
Anji  
Ao  
Aoba  
Aoi  
Aoshi

Aoto  
Aran  
Aranjuna  
Arashi  
Arata  
Aren  
Arihiro  
Arima  
Aru  
Aruku  
Aruto  
Asahi  
Asahito  
Asei  
Asora  
Asuha  
Asuki  
Asura  
Ataru  
Atsuhito  
Atsuki  
Atsurō  
Atsushi  
Atsuto  
Ayato  
Ayu  
Ayuki  
Ayume  
Ayumi  
Ayumu  
Ayuta  
Ayuto

Azuma

### B

Ban

### C

Chiaki  
Chiharu  
Chihiro  
Chikai  
Chikara  
Chisato  
Chitose  
Chōsei

### D

Daia  
Daichi  
Daigo  
Daiki  
Daikichi  
Daimu  
Daina  
Daisuke  
Daito  
Daiya  
Daizō  
Dan

Appendix 3: Alphabetical lists of phonological forms of names in the corpus

|           |           |           |
|-----------|-----------|-----------|
| <b>E</b>  | Hakuto    | Hijiri    |
| Eichi     | Haru      | Hikari    |
| Eigi      | Harua     | Hikaru    |
| Eiji      | Haruaki   | Hinata    |
| Eiki      | Haruhi    | Hira      |
| Eikichi   | Haruhiro  | Hirito    |
| Eishi     | Haruhito  | Hiro      |
| Eishin    | Haruho    | Hiroaki   |
| Eisu      | Harui     | Hiroha    |
| Eisuke    | Haruichi  | Hirokazu  |
| Eita      | Haruka    | Hiroki    |
| Eitei     | Haruki    | Hironmu   |
| Eito      | Haruku    | Hironori  |
| Etsu      | Haruma    | Hirotake  |
|           | Harumi    | Hiroto    |
|           | Harumichi | Hirotochi |
| <b>F</b>  | Harunari  | Hiroya    |
| Fū        | Haruo     | Hiroyuki  |
| Fubuki    | Haruse    | Hiruma    |
| Fūga      | Harushi   | Hiryū     |
| Fūki      | Haruta    | Hisafumi  |
| Fukuhiro  | Harutaka  | Hisato    |
| Fūma      | Harutarō  | Hitachi   |
| Fumitake  | Haruto    | Hitoshi   |
| Fumitoshi | Haruya    | Hiyori    |
| Fumiya    | Haruyuki  | Hiyū      |
| Furanto   | Hāto      | Hizuki    |
| Fūsuke    | Hatsuki   | Hodaka    |
| Fūta      | Hayata    | Hōga      |
| Fūto      | Hayate    | Hokuto    |
| Fuyū      | Hayato    | Homare    |
|           | Hayuki    | Hōsuke    |
|           | Hayuma    | Hotaka    |
| <b>G</b>  | Hazuki    | Hozumi    |
| Gaku      | Heiji     | Hyūga     |
| Gakuto    | Hibiki    | Hyūgo     |
| Gen       | Hibito    | Hyūma     |
| Genbu     | Hidaka    | Hyūto     |
| Genki     | Hideaki   | Hyūya     |
| Gennosuke | Hidehisa  |           |
| Gento     | Hidemitsu | <b>I</b>  |
| Ginga     | Hidenari  | Ibuki     |
| Gō        | Hidenobu  | Ichie     |
| Gōki      | Hidetada  | Ichigo    |
|           | Hidetake  | Ichiha    |
|           | Hideto    | Ichika    |
| <b>H</b>  | Hidetoshi | Ichino    |
| Hai       | Higen     | Ichiro    |
| Hajime    | Hiiro     | Ichirō    |
| Haku      |           |           |

|           |           |           |
|-----------|-----------|-----------|
| Ichiru    | Junpei    | Kazuhi    |
| Ichita    | Junsei    | Kazuho    |
| Ichitaka  | Junsuke   | Kazuki    |
| Ichito    | Jurai     | Kazuma    |
| Ikkei     | Jurato    | Kazumasa  |
| Ikki      | Jūsuke    | Kazumi    |
| Ikoru     |           | Kazumu    |
| Iku       | <b>K</b>  | Kazuna    |
| Ikuma     | Kaede     | Kazusa    |
| Ikumi     | Kagura    | Kazushi   |
| Ikushi    | Kai       | Kazuteru  |
| Ikuto     | Kaichi    | Kazuto    |
| Inase     | Kaiju     | Kazutoshi |
| Io        | Kaima     | Kazuya    |
| Iori      | Kairi     | Kazuyuki  |
| Ipppei    | Kairu     | Kei       |
| Ippo      | Kaisei    | Keidai    |
| Iro       | Kaishi    | Keigo     |
| Isamu     | Kaishū    | Keiichi   |
| Ishū      | Kaita     | Keiichirō |
| Issa      | Kaito     | Keiji     |
| Isse      | Kakeru    | Keijirō   |
| Issei     | Kaku      | Keishi    |
| Isshin    | Kamui     | Keisuke   |
| Isshō     | Kan       | Keita     |
| Itaru     | Kanade    | Keitarō   |
| Ito       | Kaname    | Keito     |
| Itoshi    | Kanamu    | Keizō     |
| Itsuki    | Kanaru    | Ken       |
| Itta      | Kanata    | Kengo     |
| Itto      | Kanato    | Kenji     |
|           | Kanau     | Kenma     |
| <b>J</b>  | Kanēi     | Kenryū    |
| Jasutisu  | Kanetsugu | Kensei    |
| Jin       | Kanji     | Kenshin   |
| Jinnosuke | Kanon     | Kensuke   |
| Jinto     | Kanshū    | Kenta     |
| Jōei      | Kanta     | Kentarō   |
| Joi       | Kantarō   | Kento     |
| Jōiichirō | Kantetsu  | Ken'ya    |
| Jōsei     | Kaoru     | Kenzō     |
| Jōsuke    | Kaoto     | Kibiro    |
| Jōta      | Kara      | Kihiro    |
| Jōtarō    | Katsuhiko | Kiichi    |
| Juan      | Katsuki   | Kiku      |
| Juki      | Katsuma   | Kinnosuke |
| Jun       | Katsumasa | Kippeï    |
| Jundai    | Kayo      | Kira      |
| Junosuke  | Kazu      | Kirato    |

Appendix 3: Alphabetical lists of phonological forms of names in the corpus

|           |             |           |
|-----------|-------------|-----------|
| Kirito    | Kuruto      | Mikio     |
| Kiryū     | Kuryū       | Mikisada  |
| Kishin    | Kūto        | Mikito    |
| Kito      | Kyō         | Mikuto    |
| Kiyoharu  | Kyōgo       | Minagi    |
| Kiyomasa  | Kyōhei      | Minato    |
| Kiyoshi   | Kyōka       | Minechika |
| Kiyotaka  | Kyōsei      | Mineki    |
| Kiyoto    | Kyōsuke     | Minju     |
| Kizuki    | Kyōya       | Mio       |
| Kizuku    | Kyūta       | Mirai     |
| Kō        |             | Misaki    |
| Koa       | <b>M</b>    | Mitsuhiro |
| Kōa       |             | Mitsuki   |
| Kōdai     | Mahiro      | Mitsuru   |
| Kōei      | Maji        | Miyabi    |
| Kōga      | Makito      | Mizuho    |
| Kohachi   | Makoto      | Mizuki    |
| Kohaku    | Manamu      | Momoharu  |
| Kōhei     | Manato      | Momoya    |
| Kōichi    | Mao         | Morito    |
| Kōji      | Mareku      | Motoki    |
| Kōjirō    | Maru        | Motoyuki  |
| Kōki      | Maruko      | Muga      |
| Kokoro    | Maruzane    | Mugen     |
| Kōma      | Masachika   | Mugiichi  |
| Komatsu   | Masachiyo   | Munetaka  |
| Kōmei     | Masaharu    | Musashi   |
| Kona      | Masahiro    | Mutsuki   |
| Kōnosuke  | Masaka      | Mutta     |
| Kōryū     | Masaki      |           |
| Kōsei     | Masamichi   | <b>N</b>  |
| Kōshi     | Masamune    |           |
| Kōshirō   | Masana      | Nagi      |
| Kōsuke    | Masanari    | Nagimasa  |
| Kōta      | Masaru      | Nagisa    |
| Kotarō    | Masataka    | Nagito    |
| Kōtarō    | Masateru    | Nagomu    |
| Kotetsu   | Masato      | Nakaya    |
| Koto      | Masaya      | Namiki    |
| Kōto      | Masayoshi   | Nanaki    |
| Kotoha    | Masayuki    | Nanato    |
| Kōya      | Matsuri     | Nao       |
| Koyata    | Mei         | Naoaki    |
| Kōyō      | Meijirō     | Naofumi   |
| Kūga      | Meitāru     | Naoi      |
| Kūma      | Meito       | Naoki     |
| Kunimitsu | Michinoshin | Naomasa   |
| Kuon      | Midai       | Naotarō   |
|           | Mihiro      | Naoto     |

Japanese Given Names

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|           |           |           |
|-----------|-----------|-----------|
| Naotsugu  | Raki      | Rinnosuke |
| Naoya     | Raku      | Rinta     |
| Nariaki   | Ramu      | Rintarō   |
| Naru      | Ranma     | Rinto     |
| Narumi    | Ranmaru   | Rin'ya    |
| Natsu     | Raoto     | Rio       |
| Natsuki   | Rego      | Rion      |
| Natsune   | Rei       | Rioto     |
| Natsuto   | Reiji     | Ririto    |
| Nayū      | Reijirō   | Rito      |
| Nayuta    | Reima     | Ritsu     |
| Nia       | Reira     | Ritsuki   |
| Nikito    | Reita     | Riu       |
| Nito      | Reito     | Rizu      |
| Noa       | Reiya     | Rōa       |
| Nobuaki   | Ren       | Rohan     |
| Nobuki    | Renga     | Roku      |
| Nobuyoshi | Renji     | Rokuta    |
| Nobuyuki  | Renki     | Ron       |
| Noeru     | Renne     | Rū        |
| Nozomu    | Rennosuke | Rua       |
|           | Rensei    | Rui       |
| <b>O</b>  | Renshin   | Ruito     |
| Ōdai      | Rensuke   | Ruka      |
| Ōga       | Renta     | Ruki      |
| Ōgai      | Rento     | Rukia     |
| Ōki       | Ren'ya    | Rūku      |
| Okura     | Reo       | Runa      |
| Ōma       | Reoma     | Rune      |
| Ōmi       | Reon      | Ruo       |
| Osamu     | Reona     | Ruon      |
| Ōsei      | Reoto     | Rushia    |
| Ōshi      | Retsuya   | Rushin    |
| Ōsuke     | Rēya      | Ruto      |
| Ōta       | Ria       | Ryō       |
| Ōtarō     | Rihito    | Ryōei     |
| Otowa     | Riito     | Ryōga     |
|           | Riia      | Ryōgo     |
|           | Riki      | Ryōhei    |
| <b>R</b>  | Rikito    | Ryōhi     |
| Raia      | Rikku     | Ryōichi   |
| Raichi    | Riko      | Ryōichirō |
| Raiki     | Riku      | Ryōji     |
| Raiku     | Rikuta    | Ryōki     |
| Raimei    | Rikuto    | Ryōma     |
| Raimu     | Rikuya    | Ryoo      |
| Rairu     | Rin       | Ryōsei    |
| Raita     | Rin'a     | Ryōsuke   |
| Raito     | Rinji     | Ryōta     |

Appendix 3: Alphabetical lists of phonological forms of names in the corpus

|           |             |            |
|-----------|-------------|------------|
| Ryōtarō   | Seijirō     | Shōnosuke  |
| Ryōto     | Seijūrō     | Shooto     |
| Ryōya     | Seiki       | Shōsei     |
| Ryū       | Seima       | Shōshin    |
| Ryūa      | Seinosuke   | Shōta      |
| Ryūei     | Seiryū      | Shōtarō    |
| Ryūga     | Seishin     | Shōto      |
| Ryūhei    | Seishirō    | Shōya      |
| Ryūji     | Seisuke     | Shū        |
| Ryūki     | Seita       | Shūdai     |
| Ryūku     | Seitarō     | Shuga      |
| Ryūma     | Seiya       | Shūga      |
| Ryūnosuke | Sena        | Shūgo      |
| Ryūsa     | Senri       | Shūhei     |
| Ryūsei    | Sento       | Shūichirō  |
| Ryūshi    | Seo         | Shūma      |
| Ryūshin   | Seren       | Shūmei     |
| Ryūsuke   | Shidō       | Shun       |
| Ryūta     | Shieru      | Shunji     |
| Ryūtarō   | Shigeta     | Shunki     |
| Ryūto     | Shiki       | Shunma     |
| Ryūya     | Shin        | Shunnosuke |
|           | Shinba      | Shunsuke   |
| <b>S</b>  | Shingo      | Shunta     |
| Sachika   | Shin'ichirō | Shuntarō   |
| Saichi    | Shinji      | Shunto     |
| Saito     | Shinnosuke  | Shun'ya    |
| Sakito    | Shinpei     | Shura      |
| Saku      | Shinsaku    | Shūsaku    |
| Sakuharu  | Shinsei     | Shūsuke    |
| Sakuho    | Shinta      | Shūta      |
| Sakuma    | Shintarō    | Shuto      |
| Sakunao   | Shinzaburō  | Shūto      |
| Sakutarō  | Shion       | Shūya      |
| Sakuto    | Shiori      | Sō         |
| Sakuya    | Shisui      | Soa        |
| Santa     | Shiyū       | Sōa        |
| Sara      | Shizuki     | Sōdai      |
| Satoru    | Shō         | Sōei       |
| Satoshi   | Shōdai      | Sōga       |
| Satsuki   | Shōei       | Sōgo       |
| Sea       | Shōgo       | Sōichirō   |
| Sei       | Shōhei      | Sōji       |
| Seidai    | Shōichi     | Sōjirō     |
| Seiga     | Shōichirō   | Sōken      |
| Seigi     | Shōki       | Sōki       |
| Seigo     | Shōma       | Sōma       |
| Seiha     | Shōn        | Sōmei      |
| Seiho     | Shōno       | Sona       |

|        |            |            |
|--------|------------|------------|
| Sora   | Takuya     | Tomonori   |
| Sorato | Tamaki     | Tomorō     |
| Sōru   | Tao        | Tomoshige  |
| Sōsei  | Tappei     | Tomoya     |
| Sōshi  | Tarō       | Tomoyuki   |
| Sōsuke | Tasuki     | Tomu       |
| Sōta   | Tatsugorō  | Toraji     |
| Sōtarō | Tatsuhiko  | Toranosuke |
| Sōto   | Tatsuki    | Torata     |
| Sōwa   | Tatsumi    | Tōri       |
| Sōya   | Tatsuomi   | Toride     |
| Subaru | Tatsushi   | Tōru       |
| Suguru | Tatsutoshi | Tōsei      |
| Sukai  | Tatsuya    | Toshihiro  |
| Suzuto | Tenpei     | Toshiki    |
|        | Tensei     | Toshimitsu |
|        | Tento      | Toshinaka  |
|        | Teppei     | Toshitarō  |
|        | Teruki     | Toshiya    |
|        | Teruma     | Tōshū      |
|        | Terumasa   | Towa       |
|        | Terumi     | Tōwa       |
|        | Terushi    | Tōya       |
|        | Teruto     | Toyoki     |
|        | Teruyasu   | Tsubaki    |
|        | Teruyuki   | Tsubasa    |
|        | Tesshō     | Tsukasa    |
|        | Tetsuhisa  | Tsukuru    |
|        | Tetsuma    | Tsumugu    |
|        | Tetsuro    | Tsuyoshi   |
|        | Tetsuya    | Tsuzuna    |
|        | Tetta      |            |
|        | Toa        | <b>U</b>   |
|        | Tōa        | Ui         |
|        | Tōgo       | Uichi      |
|        | Tōha       | Ukyō       |
|        | Tōi        | Umeto      |
|        | Toki       | Umi        |
|        | Tokihisa   | Uran       |
|        | Tokiya     | Uta        |
|        | Tokuma     |            |
|        | Tōma       | <b>W</b>   |
|        | Tomoaki    | Waku       |
|        | Tomofumi   | Warin      |
|        | Tomohiko   | Wataru     |
|        | Tomohiro   | Weryamu    |
|        | Tomohito   |            |
|        | Tomoki     |            |
|        | Tomonari   |            |

Appendix 3: Alphabetical lists of phonological forms of names in the corpus

|           |           |          |
|-----------|-----------|----------|
| <b>Y</b>  | Yuan      | Yume     |
| Yahito    | Yūdai     | Yumea    |
| Yamato    | Yūga      | Yumeji   |
| Yasuaki   | Yūgo      | Yumeto   |
| Yasunori  | Yūha      | Yūnagi   |
| Yasuto    | Yūhei     | Yūnosuke |
| Yō        | Yūhi      | Yuo      |
| Yoshia    | Yui       | Yura     |
| Yoshiaki  | Yūi       | Yūri     |
| Yoshiharu | Yūichirō  | Yūsei    |
| Yoshihiko | Yūiha     | Yūshi    |
| Yoshihiro | Yūito     | Yūshin   |
| Yoshiki   | Yūjin     | Yūsuke   |
| Yoshinobu | Yūjirō    | Yūta     |
| Yoshitaka | Yūki      | Yutaka   |
| Yoshitoku | Yukia     | Yūtarō   |
| Yoshitomo | Yukihiro  | Yūto     |
| Yoshiya   | Yukikazu  | Yūwa     |
| Yoshiyasu | Yukimasa  | Yūya     |
| Yosuga    | Yukimitsu | Yūyu     |
| Yōsuke    | Yukinari  | Yuyuto   |
| Yōta      | Yukito    | Yuzuki   |
| Yōtarō    | Yukiya    | Yuzuru   |
| Yōto      | Yūkō      |          |
| Yū        | Yūkyō     | <b>Z</b> |
| Yūa       | Yuma      | Zen      |
|           | Yūma      |          |

## Female names

### A

Ai  
Aika  
Aiko  
Aimi  
Aimii  
Aina  
Aine  
Aino  
Aira  
Airi  
Airu  
Aisa  
Aju  
Akane  
Akari  
Akariko  
Akemi  
Aki  
Akie  
Akiho  
Akina  
Akino  
Akira  
Ako  
Amane  
Amato  
Amei  
Ameri  
Ami  
Amika  
Amo  
Amu  
An  
Anju  
Anna  
Ano  
Anon  
Anri  
Anru  
Anzu  
Ao  
Aoba  
Aoi  
Aoka  
Aone

Aria  
Arina  
Arisa  
Arisu  
Arue  
Aruma  
Asahi  
Asaki  
Asako  
Asami  
Asu  
Asuka  
Asumi  
Asuna  
Atsuki  
Aura  
Aya  
Ayaha  
Ayaka  
Ayako  
Ayame  
Ayami  
Ayana  
Ayane  
Ayano  
Ayase  
Ayu  
Ayū  
Ayui  
Ayuka  
Ayumi  
Ayumu  
Ayuna  
Ayuri  
Ayusa  
Azuki  
Azumi  
Azusa

### B

Beni  
Bibi

### C

Chia

Chiaki  
Chie  
Chiemi  
Chieri  
Chigusa  
Chihana  
Chiharu  
Chihaya  
Chihiro  
Chihiru  
Chiho  
Chika  
Chikako  
Chikase  
Chikoto  
China  
Chinami  
Chinari  
Chinasa  
Chinatsu  
Chiori  
Chisa  
Chisaki  
Chisako  
Chisato  
Chiyo  
Chiyoka  
Chizu  
Chizuru  
Chūri

### D

Daia  
Dan

### E

Ea  
Eimi  
Eimu  
Ema  
Emi  
Emiha  
Emika  
Emina  
Emine

Appendix 3: Alphabetical lists of phonological forms of names in the corpus

|          |          |          |
|----------|----------|----------|
| Emiri    | Haruhi   | Hono     |
| Emiru    | Harui    | Honoka   |
| Emu      | Haruka   | Honon    |
| En       | Haruki   | Hotaru   |
| Ena      | Haruko   | Howa     |
| Eremi    | Harumi   |          |
| Eren     | Haruna   | <b>I</b> |
| Erena    | Harune   | Ibuki    |
| Eri      | Haruno   | Ichigo   |
| Erika    | Hasu     | Ichihō   |
| Eriko    | Hasuki   | Ichika   |
| Erina    | Hatsuki  | Ichina   |
| Eru      | Hatsune  | Ichino   |
| Eruna    | Haun     | Ikorō    |
| Esora    | Hayato   | Iona     |
|          | Hazuki   | Iori     |
| <b>F</b> | Hibari   | Iroha    |
| Fūa      | Hibiki   | Irori    |
| Fuari    | Hidemi   | Ito      |
| Fūka     | Hiiro    | Itoha    |
| Fūko     | Hikari   | Itona    |
| Fumi     | Himari   | Itoshi   |
| Fumiha   | Himawari | Itsuka   |
| Fumiho   | Himea    | Itsuki   |
| Fumika   | Himeka   |          |
| Fumiko   | Himeno   | <b>J</b> |
| Fumino   | Hina     | Jūka     |
| Fūna     | Hinaho   | Juki     |
| Fūne     | Hinaka   | Juna     |
| Futaba   | Hinako   | Juri     |
| Fūwa     | Hinami   | Juria    |
| Fuwara   | Hinano   |          |
| Fuyuka   | Hinari   | <b>K</b> |
|          | Hinata   | Kaan     |
|          | Hinatsu  | Kae      |
| <b>H</b> | Hino     | Kaede    |
| Hachika  | Hirari   | Kaemi    |
| Hagumi   | Hiroka   | Kaena    |
| Hana     | Hirono   | Kaera    |
| Hanae    | Hiruka   | Kagari   |
| Hanaka   | Hisaki   | Kagura   |
| Hanako   | Hisui    | Kaho     |
| Hanano   | Hiyoi    | Kako     |
| Hanna    | Hiyomi   | Kana     |
| Hano     | Hiyori   | Kanade   |
| Hanon    | Hiyuna   | Kanae    |
| Haon     | Hizuki   | Kanaha   |
| Haru     | Hizuru   |          |
| Harua    | Honami   |          |

Japanese Given Names

---

|         |          |          |
|---------|----------|----------|
| Kaname  | Koeda    | Kumi     |
| Kanami  | Kohaku   | Kurea    |
| Kanau   | Kohana   | Kureha   |
| Kanna   | Kohane   | Kurena   |
| Kano    | Koharu   | Kurumi   |
| Kanoa   | Kohime   | Kyōka    |
| Kanon   | Kohina   |          |
| Kaon    | Koi      | <b>M</b> |
| Kaori   | Koiki    | Madoka   |
| Kaoruko | Koiro    | Mahana   |
| Karen   | Koito    | Maharo   |
| Karin   | Kōki     | Mahiro   |
| Karina  | Koko     | Mahiru   |
| Kasumi  | Kokoa    | Mahiro   |
| Kaya    | Kokoha   | Maho     |
| Kayo    | Kokomi   | Mahoro   |
| Kazuki  | Kokona   | Mai      |
| Kazuna  | Kokone   | Maia     |
| Kazusa  | Kokono   | Maika    |
| Kei     | Kokora   | Maiko    |
| Keito   | Kokoro   | Main     |
| Kiara   | Komachi  | Maina    |
| Kiari   | Komaki   | Maisa    |
| Kihane  | Kōme     | Makana   |
| Kiharu  | Komomo   | Maki     |
| Kiho    | Kona     | Mako     |
| Kii     | Konagi   | Makoto   |
| Kiina   | Konatsu  | Mami     |
| Kiira   | Kono     | Mamori   |
| Kiki    | Konoha   | Mana     |
| Kiko    | Konoka   | Manaha   |
| Kimi    | Konomi   | Manaka   |
| Kina    | Koo      | Manami   |
| Kinatsu | Kosuzu   | Manatsu  |
| Kira    | Koto     | Manoka   |
| Kirahi  | Kotoa    | Manon    |
| Kiran   | Kotobuki | Mao      |
| Kirara  | Kotoha   | Maoka    |
| Kirari  | Kotoka   | Maomi    |
| Kisa    | Kotoki   | Maori    |
| Kiwa    | Kotomi   | Mari     |
| Kiyoka  | Kotona   | Maria    |
| Kiyone  | Kotone   | Marika   |
| Kiyora  | Kotori   | Mariko   |
| Kiyu    | Koume    | Marin    |
| Kizuki  | Koyori   | Marina   |
| Kizuna  | Koyuki   | Maru     |
| Kō      | Kū       | Marumika |
| Koa     | Kukuru   | Masaki   |
|         |          | Mashiro  |

Appendix 3: Alphabetical lists of phonological forms of names in the corpus

|           |         |          |
|-----------|---------|----------|
| Mashiroko | Mikka   | Mizuho   |
| Masuko    | Miko    | Mizuki   |
| Matsuna   | Mikoto  | Mizuna   |
| Matsuri   | Miku    | Mizusa   |
| Mau       | Mikuru  | Moa      |
| Mauna     | Mimi    | Moana    |
| Maya      | Mina    | Moe      |
| Māya      | Minagi  | Moeka    |
| Mayu      | Minami  | Moeno    |
| Mayuka    | Minana  | Moka     |
| Mayuko    | Minii   | Momiji   |
| Mayuri    | Minori  | Momo     |
| Mazuru    | Mio     | Momoa    |
| Megu      | Miō     | Momoe    |
| Megumi    | Mion    | Momoha   |
| Meguri    | Miori   | Momoka   |
| Meguru    | Mirai   | Momoko   |
| Mei       | Miran   | Momona   |
| Meia      | Mirei   | Momone   |
| Meika     | Miri    | Mona     |
| Meiko     | Miria   | Monami   |
| Meina     | Mirina  | Mone     |
| Meiri     | Miro    | Monika   |
| Meisa     | Miru    | Moyuha   |
| Meki      | Miruku  | Muku     |
| Meno      | Misa    | Mumu     |
| Meo       | Misaki  | Mutsumi  |
| Meria     | Misano  | Myū      |
| Mero      | Misato  | Myūzu    |
| Meru      | Misheru |          |
| Mia       | Mishio  | <b>N</b> |
| Miai      | Misora  | Nachika  |
| Miara     | Misuzu  | Nae      |
| Mibuki    | Mito    | Nagisa   |
| Michi     | Mitsuki | Nagomi   |
| Michika   | Mitsuko | Naho     |
| Michiru   | Miu     | Nako     |
| Midori    | Miuna   | Nami     |
| Mifumi    | Miwa    | Nana     |
| Mihana    | Miya    | Nanae    |
| Miharu    | Miyabi  | Nanaha   |
| Mihiro    | Miyako  | Nanai    |
| Miho      | Miyon   | Nanaka   |
| Mihono    | Miyu    | Nanako   |
| Mii       | Miyū    | Nanami   |
| Miina     | Miyuka  | Nanase   |
| Miiu      | Miyuki  | Nanoha   |
| Mika      | Miyuna  | Nanoka   |
| Miki      | Mizuha  | Nanoko   |

Nao  
 Naoka  
 Naruha  
 Narumi  
 Natsu  
 Natsuha  
 Natsuka  
 Natsuki  
 Natsuko  
 Natsume  
 Natsumi  
 Natsuna  
 Nau  
 Nayu  
 Nazuna  
 Neai  
 Nei  
 Neina  
 Neiro  
 Nemu  
 Nene  
 Neo  
 Nichiho  
 Niina  
 Niine  
 Niji  
 Nika  
 Niko  
 Nikoru  
 Nina  
 Noa  
 Nobara  
 Nodoka  
 Noi  
 Non  
 Nono  
 Nonoha  
 Nonoka  
 Nozomi

**O**

Ōka  
 Oto  
 Otoha

**P**

Pia  
 Pyua

**R**

Rabuho  
 Raika  
 Raiki  
 Raimu  
 Ramu  
 Ran  
 Rana  
 Ranju  
 Rara  
 Rea  
 Rean  
 Rei  
 Reia  
 Reika  
 Reimi  
 Reina  
 Reira  
 Reisa  
 Remi  
 Remina  
 Ren  
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 Riho  
 Rii  
 Riia  
 Riiko  
 Riina  
 Riisa  
 Rika  
 Rikako  
 Rikka  
 Rikki  
 Riko  
 Riku  
 Rima  
 Rimi  
 Rimo  
 Rimu  
 Rin

Rina  
 Rinka  
 Rinko  
 Rinna  
 Rino  
 Rinoa  
 Rinon  
 Rio  
 Rioka  
 Rion  
 Riona  
 Riori  
 Rira  
 Riri  
 Riria  
 Ririi  
 Ririka  
 Ririko  
 Ririn  
 Ririna  
 Rirua  
 Risa  
 Risako  
 Risato  
 Rise  
 Rishō  
 Rito  
 Ritsuka  
 Ritsuki  
 Riwa  
 Riyu  
 Rizuki  
 Rizumu  
 Rizuna  
 Romi  
 Rona  
 Rua  
 Ruan  
 Ruhona  
 Rui  
 Ruka  
 Rumi  
 Rumika  
 Rumina  
 Runa  
 Rune  
 Ruona  
 Ruri  
 Ruriko

Appendix 3: Alphabetical lists of phonological forms of names in the corpus

|          |          |          |
|----------|----------|----------|
| Rurua    | Sayuki   | Sowa     |
| Ruruka   | Sayuri   | Soyoka   |
| Rushia   | Seika    | Sukai    |
| Ryō      | Seina    | Sumika   |
| Ryōka    | Seira    | Sumire   |
|          | Sena     | Suna     |
| <b>S</b> | Sera     | Suzu     |
| Sachi    | Serene   | Suzuha   |
| Sachiko  | Serika   | Suzuka   |
| Sae      | Serina   | Suzumu   |
| Saeka    | Seshiru  | Suzuna   |
| Saeko    | Sesora   | Suzune   |
| Saena    | Setsuka  | Suzuno   |
| Saeri    | Shara    |          |
| Saho     | Sheira   | <b>T</b> |
| Saki     | Shiara   | Tae      |
| Sakiho   | Shie     | Taichi   |
| Sakiko   | Shieru   | Takako   |
| Sakina   | Shiho    | Takami   |
| Sakine   | Shiki    | Takara   |
| Sakino   | Shinba   | Tama     |
| Sakise   | Shino    | Tamaki   |
| Saku     | Shinoha  | Tamao    |
| Sakua    | Shion    | Tamara   |
| Sakura   | Shiori   | Tami     |
| Sakurako | Shioru   | Tenka    |
| Sakuya   | Shirara  | Tenshi   |
| Sana     | Shiyu    | Tiana    |
| Sanae    | Shizuki  | Toa      |
| Sāno     | Shizuku  | Tōki     |
| Sao      | Shizuna  | Tōko     |
| Saō      | Shōko    | Tokona   |
| Sara     | Shōta    | Tomoe    |
| Sāra     | Shū      | Tomoha   |
| Saran    | Shui     | Tomoka   |
| Sarasa   | Shuka    | Tomomi   |
| Sari     | Shūka    | Tomone   |
| Sato     | Shuna    | Tomoyo   |
| Satomi   | Shunka   | Towa     |
| Satsuki  | Shunshin | Tsubaki  |
| Sawa     | Shuon    | Tsubame  |
| Sawako   | Shuri    | Tsubasa  |
| Saya     | Shūto    | Tsudoi   |
| Sāya     | Soa      | Tsugumi  |
| Sayaka   | Sofia    | Tsukiha  |
| Sayano   | Sono     | Tsukimi  |
| Sayo     | Sonoka   | Tsukina  |
| Sayori   | Sora     | Tsukine  |
| Sayu     | Soraha   | Tsukushi |

Japanese Given Names

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|          |          |        |
|----------|----------|--------|
| Tsumugi  | Yūa      | Yumena |
| Tsuzumi  | Yuana    | Yumeno |
|          | Yuara    | Yumi   |
| <b>U</b> | Yue      | Yūmi   |
| Ui       | Yūha     | Yumiko |
| Uika     | Yūhi     | Yumiru |
| Uki      | Yui      | Yuna   |
| Umi      | Yūi      | Yun'a  |
| Umu      | Yuika    | Yūna   |
| Una      | Yuiko    | Yune   |
| Uran     | Yūina    | Yuno   |
| Urara    | Yuine    | Yūno   |
| Uruha    | Yuino    | Yunoka |
| Usako    | Yūiri    | Yura   |
| Uta      | Yuka     | Yuri   |
| Utaha    | Yūka     | Yūri   |
| Utako    | Yukana   | Yuria  |
| Utano    | Yukari   | Yurie  |
|          | Yukariko | Yuriha |
|          | Yuki     | Yurika |
| <b>W</b> | Yūki     | Yurina |
| Wae      | Yukia    | Yurino |
| Waka     | Yukie    | Yūsa   |
| Wakaba   | Yukiho   | Yuwa   |
| Wakana   | Yukiko   | Yūwa   |
|          | Yukimi   | Yūyu   |
|          | Yukina   | Yūyu   |
| <b>Y</b> | Yūkine   | Yuzu   |
| Yaya     | Yukino   | Yuzua  |
| Yayoi    | Yūko     | Yuzuha |
| Yōko     | Yūku     | Yuzuhō |
| Yoriho   | Yuma     | Yuzuka |
| Yoshika  | Yumana   | Yuzuki |
| Yoshiko  | Yumari   | Yuzumi |
| Yotsuha  | Yume     | Yuzuna |
| Yū       | Yumeha   | Yuzune |
| Yua      | Yumeka   | Yuzuno |

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Mgr. Ivona Barešová, Ph.D.

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