

英語と日本語における情報密度と 音節レートの相関性について

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要 約

Pellegrino, Coupé, and Marsico (2011) は言語が伝達する情報量についての大変興味深い研究を行っている。まず著者らは、7 か国語（英語、フランス語、ドイツ語、イタリア語、日本語、中国語、スペイン語）のそれぞれ複数の母語話者に同じ内容のテキストを読みあげさせ、そのスピードを計測し、それぞれの言語の平均的な速度を算出したものを「音節レート」と呼んだ。そして、各言語において一つの音節がどの程度の情報量を持っているかを計算し、これを「情報密度」と呼んだ。それらの数値を観察・分析すると、音節レートと情報密度の間には負の相関性があり、音節レートと情報密度との積を計算（これを「情報レート」と呼んだ）し、基準語としたベトナム語の数値を1とした場合、各国語ともやはり数値1前後に近い値が得られたと報告している。

しかしながら、その数値を参照すると、日本語を除く7つの言語については確かに情報レートがおおよそ1付近に収まっているものの、日本語の数値だけ0.74という、他言語と比べてかなり低い数値になっている。これについて、本論文ではまず数値そのものに対して疑問を呈する。つまり、Pellegrino らが使用した翻訳テキストの日本語版は文法的な誤りは一切含んでいないものの、他言語から日本語に訳した際に起こりがちな不自然な冗長性を含んでおり、実際には同内容のことを表す場合にはより短い文章、すなわちより少ない音節で言われるほうが自然であることを示す。また、その主張をさらに裏付けるため、映画スクリプトの原文（英文）とその日本語対訳も検討対象とする。それらの結果をもとに再計算すると、日本語においても他の言語と同様に、情報レートがおおよそ1に近い数値になり、Pellegrino らの報告に沿う形で、日本語も他言語とほぼ変わらないことを明らかにする。

Correlations of Information Density and Syllabic Rates in English and Japanese

Takahiro Iwahata

1. INTRODUCTION

Almost every learner of foreign languages would be surprised to find out how different one language can be from another. One of those differences relates to how languages sound; one language, for example, when compared with another may sound faster or slower. Additionally, there may be many differences in terms of tone, accent, and so on. Pellegrino, Coupé, & Marsico (2011) emphasized one of those differences; they investigated the correlation between syllabic rates and information density among eight different languages and claimed that the eight languages demonstrated more or less similar information rates (i. e., the multiplication of the value of syllabic rates and the value of information density). However, as explained later in this paper, they imply that the Japanese language is clearly different from other languages in that it has a much lower information rate than the other seven languages compared. Does this infer that Japanese people need relatively more time to say what they want to convey, compared with speakers of other languages? As a native speaker of Japanese and a learned speaker of English, I do not believe there is such a difference. Clearly the two languages sound different, but I did not believe that the native English speaker conveys information faster than the native Japanese speaker. Therefore, this paper investigates the above claim made by Pellegrino et al., focusing mainly on the relation between English and Japanese.

2. PELLEGRINO, COUPÉ, AND MARSICO (2011)

Pellegrino et al. chose seven languages, as well as Vietnamese to use as an external reference. They prepared some short paragraphs in English together with corresponding translations in the other languages. They analyzed the paragraphs and calculated the values of information density, or how much information was contained in one syllable. They then asked some native speakers of each language to read the paragraphs, to determine how fast a native speaker of each language reads on average, which is shown as the syllabic rate.

(2)

LANGUAGE	INFORMATION DENSITY	SYLLABIC RATE	INFORMATION RATE
	ID_L	(#syl/sec)	
English	0.91 ($\pm$ 0.04)	6.19 ($\pm$ 0.16)	1.08 ($\pm$ 0.08)
French	0.74 ($\pm$ 0.04)	7.18 ($\pm$ 0.12)	0.99 ($\pm$ 0.09)
German	0.79 ($\pm$ 0.03)	5.97 ($\pm$ 0.19)	0.90 ($\pm$ 0.07)
Italian	0.72 ($\pm$ 0.04)	6.99 ($\pm$ 0.23)	0.96 ($\pm$ 0.10)
Japanese	0.49 ($\pm$ 0.02)	7.84 ($\pm$ 0.09)	0.74 ($\pm$ 0.06)
Mandarin	0.94 ($\pm$ 0.04)	5.18 ($\pm$ 0.15)	0.94 ($\pm$ 0.08)
Spanish	0.63 ($\pm$ 0.02)	7.82 ($\pm$ 0.16)	0.98 ($\pm$ 0.07)
Vietnamese	1 (reference)	5.22 ($\pm$ 0.08)	1 (reference)

TABLE 1. Cross-language comparison of information density, syllabic rate, and information rate (mean values and 95% confidence intervals). Vietnamese is used as the external reference. (ibid., p. 544)

The table above suggests that the cited languages are more or less similar in terms of the values in information rates, with the exception of Japanese, which had a value of **0.74** (shown in shadow). English is the language with the highest information rate, at **1.08**. Next, is Vietnamese, with a rate of **1**, as it is the language providing the reference value. Third is French, at **0.99**, followed by Spanish, Italian, Mandarin, and German, which is the next lowest to Japanese but still has a value of **0.90**. This implies that

all seven languages except Japanese center around the value of 1, with a variance only to the extent of 10% higher or lower. Nevertheless, Japanese has a value of information rate 26% lower than that of the reference language, Vietnamese. What's more, Japanese has an information rate 31.5% lower than English. In other words, Japanese has only about two-thirds the information rate of English. Is Japanese therefore one-third less effective than English in terms of communication? Given the same time span, can a Japanese speaker only convey two-thirds of the information of English speakers?

In order to determine whether the claim is true, let us take a look at a piece of data cited in Pellegrino et al. Only English and Japanese sections are referred to, for ease of reference.

- (3) ENGLISH: Last night I opened the front door to let the cat out. It was such a beautiful evening that I wandered down the garden for a breath of fresh air. Then I heard a click as the door closed behind me. I realized I'd locked myself out. To cap it all, I was arrested while I was trying to force the door open!

JAPANESE: 昨夜、私は猫を外に出してやるために玄関を開けてみると、あまりに気持ちのいい夜だったので、新鮮な空気を吸おうと、ついふらっと庭へ降りたのです。すると後ろでドアが閉まって、カチッという音が聞こえ、自分自身を締め出してしまったことに気が付いたのです。挙げ句の果てに、私は無理矢理ドアをこじ開けようとしているところを逮捕されてしまったのです。

(ibid.: p. 553)

Although the translation contains no mistakes, and given that there is no finite answer to a translation, as a native speaker of Japanese I believe the translation contains some redundancy and is somewhat lengthy. I therefore attempted to write a more concise version, as below:

- (4) JAPANESE: 昨夜、私は猫を外に出そうと玄関を開けた。すると、とても気持ちのいい夜だったので、新鮮な空気を吸おうと何気なく庭へ降りた。するとカチッという音が聞こえ、ドアが閉まって

しまった。ドアが自動で閉まってもう開かなくなってしまったのだ。その後、無理矢理ドアをこじ開けようとしているところを逮捕されてしまうというオチまでついた。

This example is shorter than the original Japanese version. The original version contains 156 syllables, whereas the edited version contains only 143 syllables, which is 8.4% less.

This indicates that if the Japanese text has 8.4% more information density than the texts used in the study, the Japanese information rate quoted in the study could be increased by 8–9% to around the value of 0.80.

The value of 0.80 for Japanese sounds better, but it is still 10% lower than German and 30% lower than English. However, it was noted that the kind of text used was a narrative that does not show one of the most prominent characters of the Japanese language: the high frequency of the omission of recoverable elements. The following examples demonstrate this point:

		Number of syllables
(5)	A: Did you finally give the money back to John?	12
	B: Yeah, I gave it back to him.	7

This can be a quite natural conversation in English, but its direct translation to Japanese, as shown below, makes for a fairly unnatural impression.

		Number of syllables
(6)	A: 結局君はジョンにお金を返したの？	16
	B: ああ、僕は彼にそれを返したよ。	15

Rather, Japanese native speakers would intentionally omit the recoverable elements and the conversation would end up more like the following:

		Number of syllables
(7)	A: 結局、ジョンにお金返したの？	13

B: ああ、返したよ。 7

Without overt omission, the rather literal translation has 31 syllables, while the natural version of the dialogue has only 20 syllables, 30% less.

If this tendency is accurate, the information rate in Japanese would increase by up to 30%, especially in the realms of daily conversations. This factor goes a long way in answering the question of why only Japanese has a 16–34% less information rate in the table. In this regard, it does not.

3. DATA

Upon arguing the correlations between information density and syllabic rate across the eight different languages including English and Japanese, Pellegrino et al. only presented one set of data¹⁾. It therefore seems impossible to further investigate the appropriateness of the data, such as the accuracy or appropriateness of the translations.

Therefore, instead of examining the data collated by Pellegrino et al., I have used a different set of data: a bilingual script from the movie *Back to the Future Part 1* with the number of syllables counted shown in parentheses following each line in the dialogue. Here is one example:

	Number of syllables
(8) MARTY: Do you know where sixteen forty riverside...	11
LOU: You gonna order somethin', kid?	8
MARTY: Uh, yeah. Gimme, gimme a Tab.	8
-Marty sits down at the counter-	
LOU: Tab? I can't give you a tab unless you order somethin'.	14
MARTY: Right. Gimme a Pepsi-free.	7
LOU: You want a Pepsi, pal, you gotta pay for it!	12
MARTY: Well, just give me somethin' without any sugar in it, okay?	16
LOU: Somethin' without sugar.	6
	(p. 60)

This short dialogue in English contains 82 syllables in total.

Here is the example translated into Japanese.

	Number of syllables
(9) マーティ：リバーサイド通りの 1640 番地って	
どこか知って……。	20
ルー：何か注文するのか、ボウズ？	11
マーティ：ええ。そうだな、タブを下さい。	10
ーマーティはカウンターの席に着くー	
ルー：タブ？ 何か注文しなきゃ請求書は出せない	17
いだろ。	
マーティ：そうだね。じゃあペプシ・フリーを。	10
ルー：ペプシが欲しいなら、金を払わなきゃいけない	21
いだろ。	
マーティ：じゃあ、何でもいいから砂糖の入っ	23
てないやつにして、いい？	
ルー：砂糖抜きの何かね。	9

(p. 61)

This corresponding dialogue in Japanese contains a total of 120 syllables.

As these examples show, the Japanese translation contains more syllables than the English example, indicating that the information density of each syllable is presumably less in Japanese. It is worth noting the ratio of the syllables counted. In the examples above, the Japanese count is 120 and the English count is 82, which means the number of syllables in Japanese is 1.46 times higher than the number in English.

However, the research by Pellegrino et al. claimed that the information density of Japanese is 0.49 and that English is 0.91, indicating that the number in Japanese is 1.85 times higher than the number of syllables in English. This does represent a discrepancy in the numbers 1.46 and 1.85. However, recalling the observation made earlier regarding the text exemplified by Pellegrino et al., there's a chance that it is rather redundant and lengthy because it was too much of a direct translation and resulted in unnatural Japanese.

Let us assume for a moment that 1.46 is a better suited number than 1.85, and that we have determined a 26% decrease in the information density for Japanese. This infers that we can replace the ID with 0.61, which is 26% more than the 0.49 originally found.

In the following chart, the highlighted row labeled “Japanese” is the original row from the 2011 study by Pellegrino et al.; and the other highlighted row, labeled “JP from transcript,” refers to the numbers deducted from the bilingual text.

(10)

	Information Density	Syllabic Rate	ID*SR	ID*SR5.22	Information Rate
English	0.91	6.19	5.63	1.08	1.08
French	0.74	7.18	5.31	1.02	0.99
German	0.79	5.97	4.72	0.90	0.90
Italian	0.72	6.99	5.03	0.96	0.96
Japanese	0.49	7.84	3.84	0.74	0.74
JP from transcript	0.61	7.84	4.78	0.92	0.92
Mandarin	0.94	5.18	4.87	0.93	0.94
Spanish	0.63	7.82	4.93	0.94	0.98
Vietnamese	1.00	5.22	5.22	1.00	1.00

*ID=Information Density *SR=Syllabic Rate *5.22=divided by 5.22

As illustrated in the rightmost cell of the orange highlighted row, the information rate with the corrected Japanese text is now 0.92, which is pretty close to the other languages, and Japanese no longer stands out as different in this regard.

A Japanese native speaker would notice that the Japanese translation of the dialogue cited above still contains a fair amount of redundancy and lengthy expressions, the likely purpose being to retain the original meaning and flavor of the text. However, it is possible to change the text into the following:

Number of syllables

(11) マーティ：リバーサイド通りの 1640 番ってどこ…… 17

ルー：何か注文しないのか？	10
マーティ：ああ、そうか、タブを下さい。	9
ーマーティはカウンターの席に着くー	
ルー：タブ？ 注文しなきゃ請求書は出んだろ。	14
マーティ：だね。じゃあペプシ・フリー。	8
ルー：ペプシが欲しいなら、金を払わなきゃ。	16
マーティ：じゃあ、何でもいいけど砂糖なしののにして？	16
ルー：砂糖なしのね。	6

This corrected Japanese text contains only 98 syllables. Given that the original English text contains 82 syllables, there are 1.2 times more syllables in the Japanese than in the English text. The ratio of the number of syllables used in the original research was 1.85, which is 54% more than the 1.2 calculated from the example (11). We can therefore calculate 0.49 multiplied by 1.54, which gives us 0.75. Thus, the calculated information density would be 0.75 (0.91 instead of 0.49 as shown in the original paper), or 0.61, based on the direct translation seen in the bilingual transcript book.

(12)

	Information Density	Syllabic Rate	ID*SR	ID*SR5.22	Information Rate
English	0.91	6.19	5.63	1.08	1.08
French	0.74	7.18	5.31	1.02	0.99
German	0.79	5.97	4.72	0.90	0.90
Italian	0.72	6.99	5.03	0.96	0.96
Japanese	0.49	7.84	3.84	0.74	0.74
Corrected JP	0.75	7.84	5.88	1.13	1.13
Mandarin	0.94	5.18	4.87	0.93	0.94
Spanish	0.63	7.82	4.93	0.94	0.98
Vietnamese	1.00	5.22	5.22	1.00	1.00

We can therefore conclude that the actual information rate for Japanese lies somewhere between 0.92 and 1.13, which is more in line with the numbers seen in the other six languages.

The related numbers stay about the same with other texts from the bilingual transcript of *Back to the Future*. Here are some examples below:

- (13) GEORGE: You're right. But, uh... Biff just happens to be my supervisor and I'm afraid I'm just not very good at... confrontations. (30)

MARTY: The car, Dad! I mean, he wrecked it. He totaled it. I needed that car tomorrow night, Dad. I mean, do you have any idea how important this was to me? Do you have any clue? (36)

GEORGE: I know, and all I can say is I'm... I'm sorry. (12)

ジョージ：お前が正しい。でもな……ビフは僕の上司だし、その、パパは得意じゃないんだよ……ケンカは。(36)

マーティ：車を見てよ、パパ。ねえ、あいつが壊したんだ。メチャメチャにしたんだよ。明日の夜にあの車が要ったんだ。それがどんなに重要なことだったか分かる。それが分かるの？ (48)

ジョージ：よく分かるよ、でもパパに言えるのは……申し訳ないということだけだ。(28)

(pp. 28-9)

The original English dialogue contains 78 syllables in total, whereas the Japanese translation contains 112 syllables. This pair of dialogues reveals a Japanese count 43% higher than that of English. This indicates that it may be more accurate to use the information density value of 0.63 (i. e., 0.91 divided by 1.43), rather than 0.49.

- (14) GEORGE: Believe me, Marty, you're better off without having to worry about all the aggravation and headaches of... playing at that dance. (35)

DAVE: He's absolutely right, Marty. The last thing you need is headaches. (16)

LORRAINE: Kids... we're gonna have to eat this cake by ourselves. Your uncle Joey didn't make parole again. (25)

ジョージ：マーティ、ダンス・パーティーで演奏するのに心配して、イライラしたり、頭を痛めたりしなくなってよかったんだよ、

きつと。(45)

デーヴ：まったくパパの言うとおりで、マーティ。頭を痛める必要なんてない。(26)

ロレーン：みんな……ケーキは私たちで食べないといけなくなつたわ。ジョーイ叔父さんがまた仮釈放にならなかったの。(42)

(pp. 28-9)

The original English dialogue in this example contains 76 syllables, while the Japanese translation contains 113. This represents 48% more syllables in Japanese, which means it may be preferable to use the value of ID 0.61 (i. e., 0.91 divided by 1.48), given the dialogue in this example (14).

(15) MARTY: Too loud. I can't believe it. I'm never gonna get a chance to play in front of anybody. (24)

JENNIFER: Marty, one rejection isn't the end of the world. (13)

MARTY: Naw, I just don't think I'm cut out for music. (11)

JENNIFER: But you're good, Marty, You're really good. And this audition tape of yours is great. (21)

JENNIFER: You've gotta send it into the record company. It's like Doc always says... (20)

MARTY: Yeah, I know, I know. "If you put your mind to it, you can accomplish anything." (20)

マーティ：大きすぎるだって。信じられないよ。二度と人前で演奏できる機会なんてもうないじゃないか。(35)

ジェニファー：マーティ、1回ダメでも、それで終わりじゃないわ。(17)

マーティ：違うよ、僕には音楽の才能がないのかと思って。(22)

ジェニファー：そんなことないわ、マーティ。あなたに才能はあるのよ。このオーディション・テープなんか最高。(30)

ジェニファー：これをレコード会社に送るべきよ。いつもドクが言っているでしょ……。 (27)

マーティ：ああ、分かってるよ、分かってる。「なせば成る、何事も」だろ。(23)

(pp. 18-9)

The original English dialogue contains 109 syllables here, while the Japanese translation count is 154. The Japanese count is 41% higher, which means we might want to use the value of ID 0.65 (i. e., 0.91 divided by 1.41) for this example.

(16)

	Information Density	Syllabic Rate	ID*SR	ID*SR5.22	Information Rate
English	0.91	6.19	5.63	1.08	1.08
French	0.74	7.18	5.31	1.02	0.99
German	0.79	5.97	4.72	0.90	0.90
Italian	0.72	6.99	5.03	0.96	0.96
Japanese	0.49	7.84	3.84	0.74	0.74
JP transcript (i)	0.63	7.84	4.94	0.95	0.95
JP transcript (ii)	0.61	7.84	4.78	0.92	0.92
JP transcript (iii)	0.65	7.84	5.10	0.98	0.98
Mandarin	0.94	5.18	4.87	0.93	0.94
Spanish	0.63	7.82	4.93	0.94	0.98
Vietnamese	1.00	5.22	5.22	1.00	1.00

Given these three example dialogues, the inference is that the value of 0.61–0.65 is the appropriate value of information density for Japanese conversations. If we take this value as appropriate, then the value of the information rate would be 0.92–0.98, as shown in the chart above.

The Japanese translations (i) to (iii) contain aspects of direct translation and are therefore somewhat unnatural, just as claimed above. Thus, for the sake of reference, the translation is refined as below:

- (17) ジョージ：そうだな。でもな……ビフは上司だし、その、パパは人と衝突するのは苦手なんだよ……。 (33)
 マーティ：どうすればいいんだよ。あいつが車をメチャクチャにしたんだよ。明日の夜、あの車が要るのに。大事な夜だったんだ。パパに分かるの？ (43)
 ジョージ：分かるよ、でも……すまない、本当にすまない。 (16)

- (18) ジョージ：ダンス・パーティで演奏するなんてすごい緊張するでしょ、そうならずにすんでよかったんだよ、きっと。(33)
 デーヴ：ほんと、パパの言うとおりだよ。そんな緊張しなくてもいいじゃない。(22)
 ロレーン：みんな……せっかくケーキ作ったんだけど……。ジョーイ叔父さんがまた仮釈放にならなかったんだって。(35)
- (19) マーティ：大きすぎるって。そんなあ。もうコンサートなんかきっと一生できないんだ。(21)
 ジェニファー：マーティ、1回ダメでも、またやればいいじゃないの。(17)
 マーティ：きっと僕には音楽の才能がないんだ。(15)
 ジェニファー：そんなことないよ、マーティ。マーティには才能があるよ。このオーディション・テープ聞いたけどすごい良かったよ。(37)
 ジェニファー：レコード会社に送ったら？ いつもドクが言っているでしょ……。 (21)
 マーティ：うん、分かってるよ。「なせば成る、何事も」だろ。(18)

The numbers of syllables are: 92 for (17), 90 for (18), and 129 for (19). Each corresponding original English dialogue contains 78, 76, and 109 respectively. Thus, the Japanese translations contain 18% more in all three cases, which indicates using the value of ID 0.77 (i. e., 0.91 divided by 1.18), as per the dialogues (17)–(19).

With this number, the chart would look like this:

(20)

	Information Density	Syllabic Rate	ID*SR	ID*SR5.22	Information Rate
English	0.91	6.19	5.63	1.08	1.08
French	0.74	7.18	5.31	1.02	0.99
German	0.79	5.97	4.72	0.90	0.90
Italian	0.72	6.99	5.03	0.96	0.96

Japanese	0.49	7.84	3.84	0.74	0.74
Corrected JP	0.77	7.84	6.04	1.15	1.15
Mandarin	0.94	5.18	4.87	0.93	0.94
Spanish	0.63	7.82	4.93	0.94	0.98
Vietnamese	1.00	5.22	5.22	1.00	1.00

The value for the information rate, 1.15, is very close to the rate of 1.13 used in the main examination of the paper. The significant amount of data that appears to support the argument has been elucidated in the main body of this paper.

4. EXAMINATIONS

Now let us examine why such a difference appeared in the numbers among the Japanese text used by Pellegrino et al. and the Japanese text from bilingual text used in this study. In order to first consider the question, we need to observe the English dialogue and the corrected Japanese translation, this time line by line, to examine the difference in detail:

		Number of syllables
(21)	MARTY: Do you know where sixteen forty riverside...	11
	マーティ：リバーサイド通りの1640番ってどこ……	17

The literal Japanese translation of this example is “Riverside Street one thousand six hundred forty is where...” Note that there is no element corresponding to “Do you know.” However, the number of syllables (17) for Japanese is relatively more than that for English (11). The likely cause is the fact that in Japanese the numerical articulation is “one thousand six hundred forty” instead of just “sixteen forty” in English.

		Number of syllables
(22)	LOU: You gonna order somethin', kid?	8
	ルー：何か注文しないのか？	10

There is no Japanese expression of the explicit pronoun “you” in this sentence. We do not usually see the vocative expression such as “kid” in Japanese either, as seen in this sentence.

	Number of syllables
(23) MARTY: Uh, yeah. Gimme, gimme a Tab.	8
LOU: Tab? I can't give you a tab unless you order somethin'.	14
MARTY: Right. Gimme a Pepsi-free.	7
マーティ：ああ、そうか、タブを下さい。	9
ルー：タブ？ 注文しなきゃ請求書は出んだろ。	14
マーティ：だね。じゃあペプシ・フリー。	8

The pronouns used in the original English sentences do not appear in the Japanese translation at all, which saves a lot of syllables in Japanese. The same thing can be said about the rest of the dialogue pair.

	Number of syllables
(24) LOU: You want a Pepsi, pal, you gotta pay for it!	12
MARTY: Well, just give me somethin' without any sugar in it, okay?	16
LOU: Somethin' without sugar.	6
ルー：ペプシが欲しいなら、金を払わなきゃ。	16
マーティ：じゃあ、何でもいいけど砂糖なしのにして？	16
ルー：砂糖なしのね。	6

5. CONCLUDING REMARKS

In this paper I have demonstrated that the value of the information rate in Japanese is not less compared to that of the other languages in this study, unlike the value 0.74 for Japanese and the value around 1 for other languages such as English, Spanish, Chinese, etc. It is true that, as shown in Pellegrino et al., the information density of Japanese is significantly less than that of other languages, and that Japanese has a higher syllabic rate

than other languages to compensate for the smaller value of information density. However, what Pellegrino et al. did not state was that there are other signifiers in the Japanese language to compensate for its comparatively small value of information density. For example, the Japanese language basically omits recoverable pronouns, or has zero-pronouns, as opposed to he/she/it/they in English. Another signifier could be the fact that vocatives are rarely used in Japanese.

REFERENCES

Pellegrino, F., Coupé, C., & Marsico, E. (2011). A Cross-Language Perspective on Speech Information Rate. *Language*, 87, 539–558. doi: 10.1353/lan.2011.0057

TRANSCRIPT

Back to the Future Part 1, Screenplay Series. Nagoya, Japan: Screenplay, co., 1998.

NOTE

¹⁾ The following is the text cited in the paper, referred as “text p.8”.

ENGLISH: Last night I opened the front door to let the cat out. It was such a beautiful evening that I wandered down the garden for a breath of fresh air. Then I heard a click as the door closed behind me. I realized I'd locked myself out. To cap it all, I was arrested while I was trying to force the door open!

FRENCH: Hier soir, j'ai ouvert la porte d'entrée pour laisser sortir le chat. La nuit était si belle que je suis descendu dans la rue prendre le frais. J'avais à peine fait quelque pas que j'ai entendu la porte claquer derrière moi. J'ai réalisé, tout d'un coup, que j'étais fermé dehors. Le comble c'est que je me suis fait arrêter alors que j'essayais de forcer ma propre porte!

ITALIAN: Ieri sera ho aperto la porta per far uscire il gatto. Era una serata bellissima e mi veniva voglia di starmene sdraiato fuori al fresco. All'improvviso ho sentito un clic dietro di me e ho realizzato che la porta si era chiusa lasciandomi fuori. Per concludere, mi hanno arrestato mentre cercavo di forzare la porta!

JAPANESE: 昨夜、私は猫を外に出してやるために玄関を開けてみると、あまりに気持のいい夜だったので、新鮮な空気を吸おうと、ついふらっと庭へ降りたのです。すると後ろでドアが閉まって、カチッという音が聞こえ、自分自身を締め出してしまったことに気が付いたのです。挙げ句の果てに、私は無理矢理ドアをこじ開けようとしているところを逮捕されてしまったのです。

GERMAN: Letzte nacht habe ich die haustur geöffnet um die katze nach draussen zu lassen. Es war ein so schöner abend daß ich in den garten ging, um etwas frische luft

zu schöpfen. Plötzlich hörte ich wie tür hinter mir zufiel. Ich hatte mich selbst ausgesperrt und dann wurde ich auch noch verhaftet als ich versuchte die tür aufzubrechen.

MANDARIN CHINESE: 昨晚我打开前门放猫出去的时候, 看到夜色很美, 就走下台阶, 想到花园里呼吸呼吸新鲜空气。当时只听到身后咔哒一声, 发现自己被锁在门外了。更糟的是, 当我试图撬开门的时候被警察逮捕了。

SPANISH: Anoche, abrí la puerta del jardín para sacar al gato. Hacía una noche tan buena que pensé en dar un paseo y respirar el aire fresco. De repente, se me cerró la puerta. Me quedé en la calle, sin llaves. Para rematarlo, me arrestaron cuando trataba de forzar la puerta para entrar.