

## Origin of the Japanese Language



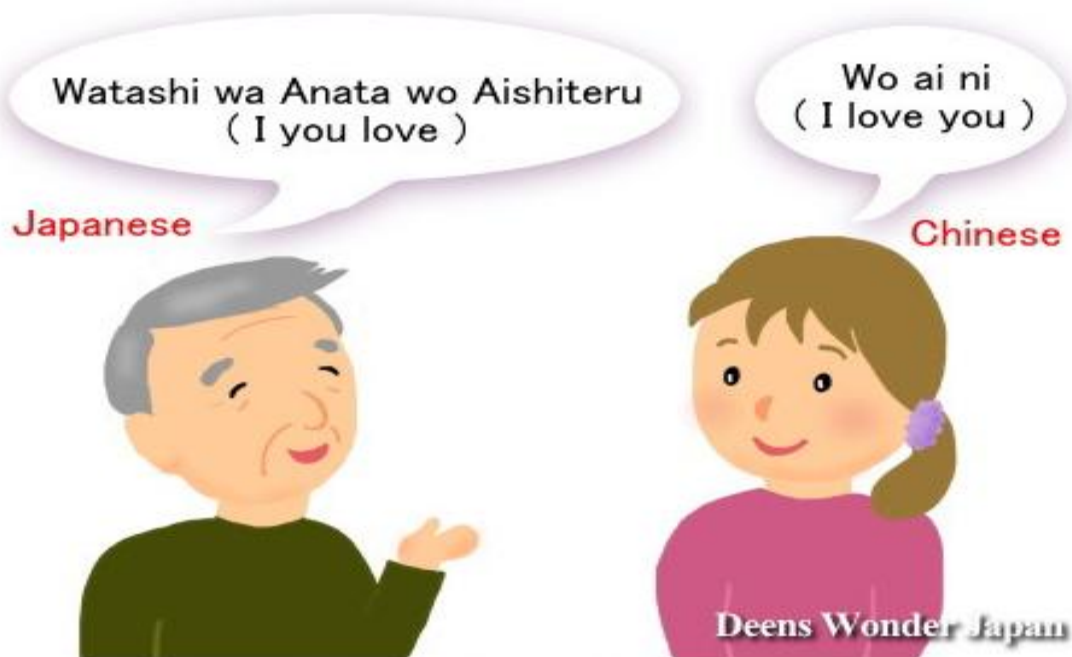
### 日本語の起源 (にほんごのきげん) Origin of the Japanese Language

Linguists are still not sure about the origins of the Japanese language. Although it shares many common features with Korean, a relationship between the two languages has not yet been proven.

Some think it belongs to the Ural-Altaic language family, like Turkish, but others say that it is similar to a Tamil language.

In terms of vocabulary, Japanese borrowed many words from China in ancient times, while today many are taken from English.

## Is the Japanese language similar to Chinese?



## 日本語と中国語 (にほんごとちゅうごくご) Japanese and Chinese

### Is the Japanese language similar to Chinese?

No, it isn't. Besides kanji that was originally borrowed from the Chinese, linguistically, Japanese is very different from Chinese.

Grammatically, Chinese is even closer to English than Japanese.

They say for example, "**Wo ai ni**", or "**I love you**", in Chinese using the same word order as English.

The Japanese word order is "**I you love**".

Chinese is also a typical tonal language, in which the difference in tones gives words different meanings even if they have the same pronunciation.