A national language is the language of a political, cultural and social unit. Each country typically (but not always) has the unique national language.

An official language is a language for government business. Some countries recognize multiple official languages.
What is the official language of Japan?

There is no law or regulation. (exception: Article 74 of the Court Act states Japanese must be used in the court.)

Japanese is just the de facto standard.

Four steps in establishing an official language

Selection: Choosing the variety or code to be developed. (Status planning)

Codification: Standardizing its linguistic features. Elaboration: Extending its functions for use in new domains. (Corpus planning)

Securing its acceptance: Enhancing its prestige through education etc. (Acquisition planning)

Regional and social dialects

- Regional dialects: Dialects defined by geographic areas.

Social dialects: Dialects defined by non-geographic factors, such as social class and profession.

Today we will focus on regional dialects.
Distinction b/w language and dialect

Linguists often use the criterion of *mutual intelligibility*: if two people understand each other, they are speaking the same language.

*cf. dialect continuum*

But in reality it depends on political and other factors.

"A language is a dialect with an army and navy"

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Isogloss

A geographical border of a linguistic feature is called *isogloss*.

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Kindaichi word class

あね (older sister), かぜ (wind), うし (cow), あめ (candy), はし (star), はな (nose), みず (water), はし (edge)
かわ (river), うた (song), いし (stone), かみ (paper), きた (north), ふゆ (winter), まち (town), ゆき (snow), はし (bridge)
あし (foot), いえ (house), いぬ (dog), かみ (god), こめ (rice), やま (mountain), はな (flower), みみ (ear)
いと (string), そら (sky), きょう (today), なに (what), うみ (sea), いき (breath), たね (seed), はし (chopsticks)
あき (fall), あめ (rain), さる (monkey), こえ (voice), はる (spring), まど (window), まえ (front), あせ (sweat)
**Difference in intonation**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>wh question (&quot;Who came?&quot;)</th>
<th>yes/no question (&quot;Did John come?&quot;)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Tokyo</td>
<td>Rising</td>
<td>Rising</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fukuoka</td>
<td>Rising</td>
<td>Falling</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Matsumoto and Hiroshima</td>
<td>Falling</td>
<td>Rising</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kagoshima</td>
<td>Falling</td>
<td>Falling</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(English)</td>
<td>Falling</td>
<td>Rising</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Dialects**

Differences between dialects are most often noted in vocabulary and in accent, but they differ in grammar, and even in the way people speak.

**progressive/resultative distinction in western dialects**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Tokyo</th>
<th>Western dialects (e.g. Hiroshima)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Flower is falling (progressive)</td>
<td>花が散ってる Hana-ga chitteru</td>
<td>花が散るよう Hana-ga chiriyoru</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Flower has fallen (resultative)</td>
<td>花が散ってる Hana-ga chitteru</td>
<td>花が散っとる Hana-ga chittoru</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Reaction paper**

Ask questions to your classmates and find differences in words between dialects. Try both English and Japanese.

Examples (But: I encourage you to find words not in the list here)

Japanese: *throw away, very, stye, bicycle, break* (between classes in school), *driving school* etc.

English: *eggplant, sidewalk, expressway, driver’s license, French fries, zip code, “for here or to go”*, etc.