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The History of Western Loanwords in the Japanese Language

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Oral Presentation 4.4

**THE HISTORY OF WESTERN LOANWORDS IN
THE JAPANESE LANGUAGE**

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Previous studies indicate that loanwords have always played a prevalent role in the Japanese language. Recently, however these loanwords have appeared in more frequency than they had in the past. There are many explanations as to why this is. One explanation is the recent explosion of western culture into the Japanese society. Many of the loanwords seen today are found in advertisements. Other areas where loanwords seem to be prevalent are technology and sciences. Much of the Japanese knowledge of these two areas is of Western origin. Therefore, many of the words used in the areas have come from Western countries. I would like to show what part of speech the loanwords are most likely to be (i.e. are nouns more likely to be used than verbs) and in what type of context they can be found. I believe that my studies will show that the changing history of Japan has allowed for an increase in the number of loanwords and that the language itself and its grammatical structure allows for loanwords to be easily integrated into the Japanese lexicon. I believe that the type of loanwords that will appear most frequently will be nouns and that they appear mostly in the form of advertisements but also frequently appear under the context of specific discussions of technology and sciences.