A Hangeul-like script for Japanese

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Kanji are hard

- Core set of kanji over 2000 characters

- Each one has multiple reading

  - 行: gyō, kō, i•ku, okona•u, oko•nau, yu•ki, ya•ru

- Students spend 6 years learning core set

- Need thousands more for serious reading

Hanja are hard

- King Sejong, Joseon, 1443: Korean is not like Chinese

- Introduced Hangeul, a script designed for Korean, to replace Chinese characters

- Alphabetic system with syllable clusters
  ㅎㅏㄴㄱㅡㄹ → 한글

Hangeul-like script for Japanese?

- Japanese isn't like Korean either – sound system is quite different

- Hangeul don't always fit

- So: Modify Hangeul for Japanese

Vowels

- ㅏ *a*, ㅣ *i*, ㅜ *u*, ㅓ *e*, ㅗ *o*

- ㅇ as null consonant

- ㅡ as long vowel mark

- ㅑ ya, ㅠ yu, ㅛ yo

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Consonants

- Korean has unaspirated, aspirated, tense

- Japanese has voiceless, voiced

- Use simple glyph for voiceless, add one stroke for voiced

- ㄱ/ㄲ k/g, ㅅ/ㅆ s/z, ㄷ/ㄸ t/d

Consonants

- Kana scripts have only 9 consonants; use various hacks to support more

- が → 까

- ぱ → 나 (ば → 바)

- しゃ → 나

- ちゃ → 자

- つ → 구

니구몬까 아리마수가。

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