



CHINESE PLACE NAMES' PRONUNCIATION IN JAPANESE

As we known that in English Chinese place names are just read according to our own pronunciation –“pinyin”. Take “黑龙江” for example, we just pronounce it as “Heilongjiang” with the first letter in the capital form while writing. While in Japanese, it’s not the same. Except some places like “ ‘北京(北京)’ ” “ ‘上海(上海)’ ” “ ‘香港(香港)’ ” which are pronounced on the basis of their English Pronunciation or their own dialect. We can see that generally there are two trends about their pronunciation in Japanese.

One is imitating their Chinese pronunciation by combining some Japanese articulation elements which are called “カタカナ” like “北京” can be read as “ペキン” .This method is not very widely used while also there are a lot of Japanese insisting on it. The other one is widely used based on Chinese character’s Japanese pronunciation which is according to one of Japanese’s spelling rule called “ローマ字”.I have listed some Chinese names’ pronunciation examples below .

北京 ペキン





上海 ショウホウ

香港 コウコン

天津 テンジン

重庆 チョウチン

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