# IP editing in Japanese

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**community dynamics**        **vandalism**        **personas**

# Introduction

This report explores the landscape of IP editing in Japanese Wikipedia, referencing cultural aspects and interview/survey responses from Wikipedia editors.

The first section covers the overview of IP editing through examining cultural attributes, community dynamics, and vandalism. The second section introduces personas of Japanese Wikipedia editors based on ethnographic interviews, highlighting their decision to log indicates in the context of their engagements.

The interviews revealed that anonymity is an indispensable prerequisite for some Japanese users to contribute to Wikipedia. Giving further accessibility to these users would likely enhance the purpose of Wikipedia, which is to benefit readers by acting as a **widely accessible and free encyclopedia**.

# Research Methodology

Data collection occurred via a recruitment survey distributed on Japanese Wikipedia. Interview participants were recruited from respondents to this survey, as well as from the Japanese recruitment company [Unii Research](#).

We selected eight respondents and conducted ethnographic interviews. We selected diverse respondents regarding the length of editing experience, patrolling experience, and the decision to log in to gain a wide range of insight.

Five respondents participated in 60 minutes long in-depth interviews via Zoom. Three respondents participated in text-based question-and-answer interviews. For these, we sent three emails with questions over five days, and the respondent emailed back their answers.
We asked relevant questions to the individual respondents, as enlisted in the exhibit section.

The recruitment survey distributed on Japanese Wikimedia received 787 responses due to the efforts of a Japanese editor who volunteered to repost the survey announcement as a [sitenotice](#). 97 duplicate responses were subsequently removed.

# IP Editing in Japan

## Anonymity and Japanese Culture

- Anonymous contribution signifies humility and genuine generosity in Japanese culture.
- Japanese online forum 2Chan set the basis for the popularity of anonymity in Japanese internet culture.
- Less experienced Wikipedia users perceive online communities as a hotbed for hostility, regardless of whether the members are logged in or not.
- Anonymity in Wikipedia is essential for users that want to avoid exposing as little personal information (that can lead to identification) as possible.
- Internet anonymity facilitates casual chats and conversations on controversial topics.
- Anonymity on Wikipedia enables users to contribute without getting involved in disputes, which is compatible with the typical Japanese personality to avoid conflicts.

Anonymity is a significantly indicative and complex trait of Japanese and Japanese internet culture. It is a culturally favored trait and the key characteristic of internet communities.

In real life, anonymous contribution has been revered in Japan as a selfless and humble act of giving in that it expects nothing in return. An example [is an anonymous donor who gave to orphanages in the early 2010s and was greatly lauded by the media](#).

“Some IP editors view contributing to Wikipedia as a form of charity. They just mean well. They don't need credits for what they do.” *– A login Wikipedia editor speaking favorably of good-intentioned IP editors*

Anonymity is also a defining characteristic of Japanese internet culture, which some Wikipedia editors mentioned as the basis for the Japanese Wikipedia community. Wikipedia editors expressly referred to [2Chan](#), one of the largest Japanese online forums established in 1999 as the primary source that normalized anonymity on the internet. Editors said that sites like 2Chan are why IP editing is so common and tolerated in Japanese Wikipedia.

It is also because of sites like 2Chan that many internet users, especially those less familiar with internet communities, fear or distrust anonymity. For example, 2Chan is notorious for its often fallacious and hateful content, enabled by the user's anonymity and consequential leeway to escape accountability for what they write. Talking behind someone's back rather than directly confronting them is often deemed a typical Japanese trait, which one respondent points out as very compatible with internet anonymity. This fear of anonymity limits the contribution of some Wikipedia users, such as not logging in or not participating in village pump discussions to avoid conflict with other editors.

**"I think the Wikipedia community is similar to 2Chan in a negative way; it's just as hostile. You can get viciously attacked for what you write."** *– A Wikipedia editor that avoids communicating with fellow editors*

Notably, there seems to be an inherently negative image of internet communities as antagonistic in this remark. The idea is built on the notion that login editors are anonymous, just like IP editors, in the sense that the internet persona and the actual person are detached, providing them with the freedom to be abusive without being held accountable for their actions.
Despite its negative aspects, anonymity is also deemed a necessary option in internet communication. Anonymity is imperative for those cautious about showing their personal information online in fear of being exploited, a sentiment that is said to be prevalent among Japanese internet users. In Wikipedia's case, even if the username alone will not immediately expose one's identity, having the edit history tied to one's account can give out clues based on the characteristics of the work. Thus, the less information associated with the internet alias, the better, the safest not to have a set persona to begin with, like IP editing. As follows, a login editor says that he does not include his real name in his username. He explains that "If the material you used as a source for your editing is only available in a certain library, people may be able to estimate where you live. If you also happen to include your real name in your username, people may combine all these clues to identify and potentially harass you."

Another benefit of internet anonymity is that it enables free speech unrestrained and uncensored by one's social position. A login editor who has experienced both anonymous and real-name internet communities state that the upside of anonymity is that "it safely enables casual chats and conversations on controversial topics. Having to reveal your true identity to have a say can be too much of a high threshold to overcome (for a Japanese person)."

This behavior is rooted in the Japanese trait to avoid conflicts and favor harmony. Five out of eight of the editors we interviewed stated that IP editing is a necessary option for those that want to contribute without being involved in disputes. One IP editor said, "It disgusts me to see disputes on Wikipedia. They shouldn't be doing it (in public)."

A telling example of how anonymity is preferred in Japan would be a comparison of the popularity of Twitter and Facebook. Fujiko Suda has participated in numerous research projects for Twitter and Facebook in Japan. The research revealed that Twitter's popularity in Japan is outstanding compared to other countries [with 58 million users in 2021, while Facebook is not as widely used as Twitter, with 22.4 million users.](#) Facebook requires the users to disclose their identity, while Twitter is anonymous, so it is unnecessary for users to publicly reveal their personal information, such as their real name. Japanese users tend to find using Twitter more comfortable as it is a safe space to communicate freely without worrying about consequences offline. In contrast, they see Facebook to be too revealing and constraining.

## Community Dynamics in Japanese Wikipedia

- **Experienced login editors think the Japanese Wikipedia community is antagonistic**.
- **Conflicts tend to occur when multiple login editors disagree about the content of an article**.
- **Conflict does not arise between login editors and IP editors because, due to the nature of IP editing, login editors cannot directly communicate with the IP editor**.
- **Cliques are often formed within the community and manipulated to realize one's agenda**.
- **Many editors opt for IP editing to avoid antagonism.**
- **Login editors do not trust IP editors' input.**

Experienced login editors find the Japanese Wikipedia community to be antagonistic. Conflicts do not arise between login editors and IP editors because login editors can not communicate directly with IP editors. The relationship then becomes one-sided, that the login editors are left frustrated while IP editors are unaware.

Regarding the antagonism within the community, it mainly stems from conflicts between login editors. Disputes tend to occur when multiple editors disagree about the content of an article. In

the interviews and surveys, several respondents resented editors that they believe exercise unfair control over editing disputes and harass fellow editors in various ways.

Cliques formed within the Japanese Wikipedia community are also alleged to affect how decisions are made. A respondent likens the scale and disposition of the Wikipedia community as a 'mura-shakai,' a Japanese term that describes a type of traditional rural society that is characterized as small, insular, and bound by exclusivity. In this context, the community members are login editors that continuously contribute to Wikipedia. This close-knit nature of the community, in which editors become very familiar with each other, is a hotbed for cliques used to actualize one's agenda. (Two respondents mention that some editors connect outside of the Wikipedia community, on social media like Twitter.) The respondent recounts a particular case where a well-known editor/administrator recently brought about a community-wide dispute by manipulating the cliques to one's advantage. The editor had created multiple accounts and caused conflicts between users. The clashes caused repeated resignations of check users and administrators. The respondent says that the situation was so grave that the Wikimedia Foundation came to check in out of concern.

The aforementioned antagonistic quality of the Japanese Wikipedia community is referred to by many editors as a crucial reason why some choose not to log in to avoid being harassed and involved in disputes. Indeed, a current IP editor states that they switched from logging in to editing anonymously after being too burned out from solving various disputes. This editor says they have no intention of logging in again.

Conflicts are caused by IP editors in the sense that login editors find it difficult to continuously and fruitfully communicate with them when disputes occur, as they are not accountable for their statements due to the nature of variable IP addresses. Thus, most login editors state that they do not take the inputs of IP editors seriously in discussions. One login editor explains, "Those that choose to join discussions are usually fairly experienced in Wikipedia. If you've been on Wikipedia for a while, you'd know that you're recommended to create an account. If you still decide not to, I would think that you'd have some underlying malicious intention." Another login editor says, "I don't think I've ever seen an input from an IP editor that steered the conversation in a better direction."

## IP Editing and Vandalism

- **Editors agree that vandalism tends to be committed by IP editors**.
- **There are obvious and discreet types of vandalism**.
- **Vandalism tends to occur in topics that attract many viewers or have polarized opinions**.
- **Editors mainly handle obvious vandalism, while administrators deal with discreet vandalism. However, the number of administrators is insufficient.**
- **Editors have had multiple discussions on IP editing regulations in the past, but no consensus has been reached.**

Some login editors strongly condemn IP editors as the primary source of vandalism, while others maintain that it is a necessary and legitimate option. In either case, both sides agree that vandalism tends to be committed by IP editors who take advantage of anonymity. Patrollers we interviewed identified the characteristics of IP vandalism as follow:

- Obvious: slander and defacement
    - Perpetrators are mainly IP editors and throwaway accounts
- Discreet: fallacious information, harassment to certain editors' work
    - Perpetrators are mainly login editors, including sock puppets and throwaway accounts
        - Fixation on a particular topic or user
        - The sockpuppet of banned users, often retaliating to those that banned them
    - The perpetrators are not identifiable

Vandalism is likely to occur in articles that attract many viewers. Frequently vandalized pages are recent media-featured topics and topics with polarized opinions, such as politics and celebrities. A recent drastically vandalized article was Shintaro Ishihara, a former mayor of Tokyo who passed away in January 2022. For example, his photo was swapped to Kim Jong-Un as a prank. (The vandalism is reverted as of now.) In addition, topics that have fanatical fans, such as Japanese railways, also tend to attract vandalism.

The community handles vandalism in two ways. Obvious vandalism is usually resolved by whichever editor discovers them. If the vandalism is excessive, administrators protect the article, blocking the perpetrator's account or the IP address. More discreet or persistent vandalism is reported to the administrators, as most editors are unsure how to handle the situation. However, editors we interviewed said that the lack of resources slows the speed of remediation. One respondent pointed out that this problem occurs because too much effort is necessary to gain the community's trust to become an administrator. In addition, the nature of the work itself makes administrators prone to be resented by other editors.

Editors already have had numerous community-wide discussions on IP editing regulation. However, so far, they found it impossible to reach a consensus due to polarized opinions. For example, some editors think IP editing must be banned to decrease vandalism. In contrast, others believe that it is a crucial option that should be kept available for those that want to avoid the negative aspects of logging in.

**"You should know that the number of meaningful edits brought about by the function of anonymous editing is more than a thousand times greater than the number of edits made by trolls. Trolls will emerge no matter what you ban, but good-intentioned IP editors will stop contributing if logging in becomes mandatory."** *– An IP editor that quit login editing after being demoralized by a dispute*

# Personas

## Personas overview

- **Two categories of personas**
    - **Editors that participate in the Wikipedia community as well as contribute to the knowledge base: the knowledge seeker, the gatekeeper, the altruist**
        - **A type of vandalism called 'vigilante' by other editors seems to bear similarities to the gatekeeper.**
    - **Editors that do not desire to be involved in the community: the hobbyist, the pragmatist, the stealth marketer**

An analysis of the interviews shows that the personas of Japanese Wikipedia editors can be divided into two types. One is those that participate in the Wikipedia community and contribute to the knowledge base. The other is those who do not desire to be involved in the community and solely edit their target article. Within the community participants category, there are three types of persona: the knowledge seeker, the gatekeeper, the altruist. The category of those that do not desire to be involved in the community has three types of persona: the hobbyist, the pragmatist,

the stealth marketer. They are distinguished by their primary motivation for their involvement in Wikipedia and other vital characteristics.

Participation in the community includes patrolling, involvement in village pump discussions and Wikipedia events.

The gender of the personas' pronouns is assigned for convenience. They do not correspond with the actual respondents.

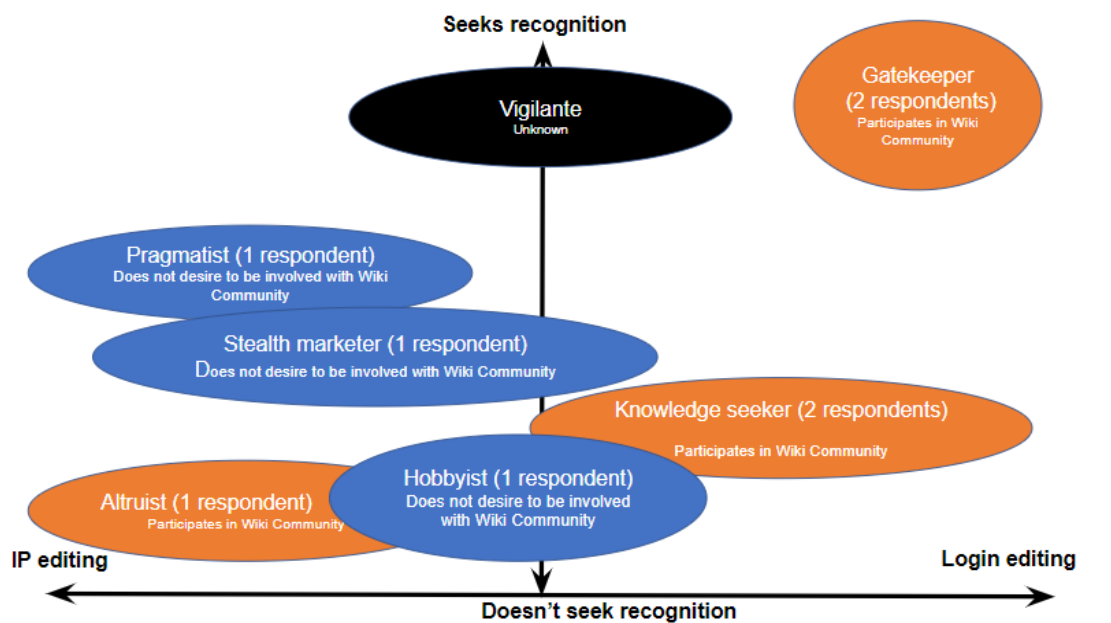*Persona chart: the personas' characteristics measured by their tendency to seek recognition, and their mode of editing*



**Chart 3**

## Participates in Wikipedia Community

**Ken: The Knowledge Seeker**

- Login editor
- His main motivation is sharing and gaining knowledge

- **He does not patrol**
- **He goes to Wikipedia events to meet fellow editors**
- **He is tolerant towards IP editors**

The knowledge seeker we interviewed has been editing Wikipedia for over 15 years. He is also involved as a volunteer in Wikipedia translation. He always logs in to directly receive inputs from fellow editors regarding his editing. He takes feedback positively, as his main goal for editing is to gain and share knowledge in a way that respects Wikipedia policies. However, he rarely patrols, only editing when he finds errors and gaps in the information he is reading.

He regularly attends Wikipedia events, offline and online, where editors discuss ways to expand the Wikipedia community. He started going to these events because he wanted to know more about the people behind the articles, drawn to their massive scale of knowledge.

The knowledge seeker is tolerant of diverse editors, including IP editors. While admitting that a portion of vandalism is attributed to IP editors, he stresses that they are essential members of the community that ensure diversity.

**Kumiko: The Gatekeeper**

- **Login editor**
- **Her main motivation is creating the ideal Wikipedia community**
- **She patrols frequently**
- **She is perceived as blunt and intimidating by fellow editors**
- **She holds receiving credits of a high value. She uses the same username for all internet accounts to associate all of her works to one account**
- **She disapproves of IP editors**

The "gatekeeper" we interviewed has been editing and patrolling daily for over 15 years. To watch out for vandalism, she adds to her watchlist recently and frequently edited pages, pages that she's edited in the past, as well as topics of her expertise.

She first started editing because she felt compelled to correct errors found in her field of expertise pages. She feels committed to keeping the Wikipedia community on the right track, so she doesn't hesitate to point out to other editors when they make errors. This attitude has created conflicts

with other editors in the past. For example, she once called an erroneous statement by a fellow editor during a discussion a 'lie,' which the editor later complained of on their talk page as offensive and slanderous since it was only an honest mistake. She was also called 'intimidating' when she sent an editor a lengthy message on what was wrong with their work. When asked whether she thinks the Wikipedia community is antagonistic, she replies as follows:

> **"I admit I can be blunt. That's because I prioritize protecting the Wikipedia policies and creating a better community over sugarcoating my words and maintaining a pleasant relationship with fellow editors."** – *Kumiko, the gatekeeper*

The gatekeeper takes pride in her work on Wikipedia. Her user page is elaborately filled with details of her contributions and achievements. She uses the same username for all her online accounts, including Wikipedia and Twitter, to link her online activities to one profile. In this sense, while her username is an alias, she says it's essentially as revealing as her real name.

She is wary about IP editors, saying that they are a significant cause of disruption within Wikipedia.

**A subset of the Gatekeeper: The Vigilante**

- **The main motivation is to control Wikipedia articles to fit their standard**

Two editors mention the presence of "vigilantes" in their interviews. One of the respondents said that some patrollers harass and stalk other editors when their works do not match their interpretation of the Wikipedia policy. These "vigilantes" tend to patrol too eagerly, and based on their standard, they would block inexperienced newbie editors that made erroneous edits, labeling them "vandals" rather than "newbies." Some of the "vigilantes" go as far as stalking and harassing editors that they disapprove of. Another editor spoke of incidents where some editors immediately resort to reverting edits that they deem unjust without first consulting its author. For example, they would instantly revert an edit for being biased or inflammatory, rather than suggesting that the author revise that aspect. Often, this forceful policing ends up being inevitably accepted as the final verdict, as the editors that opt for more pacific means of communication eventually get depleted with disputes.

While we do not have sufficient evidence about the profile of the vigilantes to form a persona, we found vigilantes to be subsets of Gatekeepers because they frequently patrol to achieve what they believe is suitable for Wikipedia.

**Yuto: The Altruist**

- **IP editor**
- **His main motivation is developing and protecting the Wikipedia community without getting involved in conflicts**
- **He stopped logging in after being involved in a dispute**
- **Thinks credits are unnecessary**

The "altruist" has been editing and patrolling Wikipedia for over 15 years. He started by editing the topics of his expertise. Although he was a login editor for the first half of his Wikipedia experience, he stopped contributing for a while after being involved in a dispute. After that, he became an IP editor. In the debate, his contribution was challenged by another editor. Though he provided thorough evidence to back up the argument and was supported by many editors, the other party's opinion was adopted in the end. This event, which he perceived as very unfair, significantly lowered his morale to contribute to Wikipedia. He stopped contributing to Wikipedia for a couple of years after that.

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**"I was so disappointed with the result of the dispute that I stopped editing for years. I stopped caring even when the articles of my expertise were vandalized and edited erroneously. I never logged back into that account."** – *Yuto, the altruist*

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The altruist started contributing to Wikipedia again as an IP editor after he happened to find an inexperienced editor being harassed by a vigilante while browsing Wikipedia. Using his expertise, he intervened and helped out the said editor. Ever since he frequently edits and patrols as an IP editor, he has no plans to log in again. He feels that he does not have to be accredited for his work as his sole goal is to contribute his knowledge to Wikipedia, so it is not necessary to log in.

## Does not desire to be involved in the Wikipedia community

**Emi: The Hobbyist**

- She alternates between logging in and IP editing. She chooses IP editing when she wants to avoid input from other editors
- Her main motivation is enjoying writing articles within the range of avoiding conflicts with other editors
- She does not join the Wikipedia community as she believes internet communities are hostile
- Is not concerned about the security risks of IP editing

The hobbyist has contributed to Wikipedia articles now and then for the past couple of years because she has always enjoyed writing as a hobby. She does not patrol but edits pages that she was browsing. Her most notable characteristic is that she alternates between logging in and editing anonymously. She logs in when she's editing minor, concrete facts like birth dates and names. She edits anonymously when she's editing larger portions, because the larger the volume of the contribution, the more prone it is for her to make errors that other editors will attack. Not being criticized is a much higher priority for the hobbyist than being accredited for her accomplishments. She finds it deeply shameful for her work to be publicly denounced.
The hobbyist tends to avoid conflicts, whether offline or online. While she has never directly experienced online harassment, her fear of being attacked on Wikipedia derives from what she has observed in various internet communities notorious for hostile netizens, such as 2Chan and the comment section of Yahoo! Japan. She believes that Wikipedia is just the same. This is why she has no intentions to join the Wikipedia community.

She is OK with her IP addresses being shown, as she believes it by itself will not expose critical personal information, such as her name, address, and bank account.

**Taro: The Pragmatist**

- IP editor
- His main motivation is enjoying contribution to Wikipedia about topics they are knowledgeable about, but the scale is limited as he does not want to overextend himself unless he receives just compensation

- He thinks engagement in the Wikipedia community is a waste of time unless they receive monetary compensation
- He is not concerned about the security risks of IP editing

The pragmatist has contributed to Wikipedia about topics that he is knowledgeable about, amounting to approximately ten articles in the span of 10 years. For example, he created a page about a relative who is a public figure as a courtesy. He does not log in when he edits because he finds it too much of a hassle to create an account. Like the hobbyist, he does not mind that his IP address will be exposed when he edits anonymously, as he believes it will not lead to vital personal information.

The pragmatist does not patrol or participate in discussions, as he thinks that is too much work to do. He turns down his nose at disputes, deeming it unsightly and a waste of time. He doesn't understand the benefit of creating an account and getting involved in the community. He suggests that he may be more invested in the Wikipedia community if he was to earn some kind of monetary compensation for his work.

 **"How about Wikipedia paying the author of the article that receives many views?"** – *Taro, the pragmatist*

Nevertheless, he appreciates receiving critiques from fellow editors, aware that he is not well-versed in Wikipedia policies.

**Kana: The Stealth Marketer**

- Her main motivation is editing in Wikipedia solely to promote their company or their brand as their job
- She has never contributed to Wikipedia outside of work
- She is not concerned about the security risks of IP editing

The stealth marketer edits in Wikipedia to promote a particular product/person or a brand solely because it is a part of her job. She has never contributed to Wikipedia outside of work. She creates Wikipedia pages of the subject she promotes and ensures that they are not vandalized. Having a Wikipedia page for the subject is vital to spread recognition and maintain a positive public image.

 **"I'm amazed at how some people voluntarily contribute to Wikipedia. I don't understand them. I just do it because it's my job."** – *Kana, the stealth marketer*

She edits anonymously, because it is less of a hassle than having to log in every time for her work. Anonymous editing is also less blatant as a form of stealth marketing than having a set user account that is frequently associated with the page. Like the hobbyist and the pragmatist, she does not think exposed IP addresses will be directly harmful to her privacy. In addition, she does not feel the need to be credited for her work, as she does it solely because it is her job, and she is not emotionally attached to it.

## Conclusion

Although interviewed editors acknowledge that IP editing is one of the main sources of vandalism, interviewed IP editors felt strongly that IP editing enables them to contribute to Wikipedia. They are primarily unconcerned with privacy risks deriving from the exposure of their IP address.

Conflicts in the community are highly stressful to both login editors and IP editors alike, to the extent that login editors switch to IP editing or give up editing altogether. However, if Wikimedia can find ways to support Japanese IP editors, Japanese Wikimedia would likely robustly expand and develop.

**Fin.**

## Additional quotes

**Q: What made you decide to participate in the community?**
"I create articles from scratch but don't comment on articles written by others because I don't want to be involved in arguments."
"I participate in online and offline Wikipedia events. If you only edit, you don't know the person behind the articles. I attended the event because I wanted to learn more about the person behind

the editing. At first, I would ask others for editing tips, but after I got used to editing, we started to discuss expanding the community actively."

"I thought that it would be better to write about my research on Wikipedia because even if I wrote about it on my blog, the site would eventually disappear, and the effort I put into it would be a waste."

"The topic I was interested in was undeveloped."

"One person never completes an article. Editors need to cooperate."

"I didn't like it that there was wrong information regarding the topic of my expertise."

**Q: What are the different reasons you think people in Japanese Wikipedia don't want to log in?**

"It's embarrassing and damaging when something you edited is corrected."

"To avoid an information leak."

"It's too much of a hassle to log in."

"To avoid conflicts with other editors."

"I feel that many editors with a certain amount of experience become self-conscious about editing because they don't want to get involved in troublesome situations."

**Q: What do you think we should know about Japanese Wikipedia? Tell us about anonymity in Japanese culture.**

"2Chan set ground for internet anonymity in Japan internet culture."

"It is easier to post negative reviews on the internet when you're anonymous."

"I don't mind commenting on Youtube with my username visible because other users don't usually bother you. But I think if you are logged in on Wikipedia, it makes it easier for other editors to attack you."

**Q: What does it mean to be anonymous on Wikipedia?**

"I understand it as a system that is necessary for people to be able to edit and speak freely and to be able to live safely, as long as they follow the policies and treat others with human decency. However, it is also a system that can be abused, so balancing the merits and demerits is difficult."

"If you edit the content anonymously, you will not be able to identify yourself with an account. The implication is that you don't want to be associated with a real-life person."

"Many editors don't create accounts because they don't intend to contribute to Wikipedia continuously."

**Q: What can you tell me about the community dynamic? Would you say it's more cooperative or more competitive?**

"I've never interacted with users, so I don't know."

"The more editors are involved in an article, the more conflicts occur."

"Controversial topics tend to have antagonism between editors as they disagree with each other's opinions."

"Conflicts are likely to occur in articles about celebrities with passionate fans."

"Some editors create cliques and cause conflicts."

**Q: Do you think the antagonistic community dynamic has anything to do with IP editing?**

"Not at all."

"I think the antagonism is deeply related to IP editing. I believe that the fluctuating IP addresses make it more difficult for editors to communicate constructively than logged-in users. Also, many IP editors end up using the site only temporarily. The insufficient communication caused by IP editors leads to conflicts."

"Yes. There are too many IP editors for us to ignore."

**Q: Do you think it makes sense to force people to log in while editing?**

"If logging in becomes mandatory, I think I will hesitate to edit."

"I think it will reduce the volume of contributions to Wikipedia."

"It may raise the bar for editors who are new to Wikipedia and discourage them from participating."

"It doesn't make sense. Japanese Wikipedia will lose meaningful contributions."

"It may be necessary to improve the contents."

**Q: What's your motivation for editing?**

"For me, it's to have many people read your articles and make use of your materials. I think that being able to edit without being bothered by malicious editors is an important factor in maintaining my motivation."

"I know that there are people who will appreciate my contribution. I know I can help people by contributing my knowledge."

"I don't like it when there is wrong information about my field of expertise, so I fix it."

**Q: Can you think of any tools used to handle vandalism that the Japanese community has found to be helpful?**

"Users of Japanese Wikipedia post information about trolls and inappropriate users on Twitter and 5chan, which plays some role in handling vandalism. Naturally, the accuracy of the posted information needs to be verified."

"No, we depend on manpower to handle vandalism."

"Watchlists and recent updates notification that indicates many IP editors have contributed."

"There is no such thing. In the current situation of AI development, where even automatic translation is not very accurate, I think it would be challenging to create a program that can automatically deal with trolls. Even if there is one, you can be sure that there will be errors, and the affected users will be more than just upset."

**Q: Do you think that the ability to edit the Japanese Wikipedia without logging in is a contributing factor to the occurrence of vandalism? Please tell us why you think so.**

"It is a contributing factor. It's certainly convenient for editors whose goal is to troll. They can troll without the hassle of getting an account or logging into one. If you have access to a variable IP address, range blocking is ineffective, and you can troll. There are virtually no penalties."

"IP editing certainly does facilitate vandalism. However, you mustn't dismiss the advantages that IP editing brings."

"To some extent, yes. But if you ban IP editing, it will slow the growth of Wikipedia."

**Q: Do you notice that some topics have more contributions from IP addresses than others?**

"Articles on celebrities."

"Politically sensitive topics. Editors tend to edit anonymously to avoid your account being bound to a particular ideology."

"Articles that have less contribution from IP editors are academic ones that require specialized knowledge to write."

**Q: Do you think that IP editors know about privacy concerns associated with IP addresses?**

"I don't think people can identify your home address or anything else from your IP address without contacting your provider. So I have no problem about that."

"They wouldn't be concerned because there is no possibility of their identity being revealed by that information alone."

"I don't think you'd know unless you have a background in technology."

"Exposed IP address doesn't mean that your important personal information will be revealed immediately."

**Q: Do you notice that some topics are vandalized more than others?**

"Topics that have been discussed in the media tend to be vandalized."

"Topics that reach people who don't normally use Wikipedia."

**Q: Which topics have the most vandalism?**

"Celebrities, scandals, gossips."

"Topics reported in the news (including news on the Internet, not just TV) or newspapers are often vandalized. Also, political topics and topics related to ideology (right-wing vs. liberal views, religious topics, human rights, and articles with radical feminists) seem to get vandalized as well."

Q: How does the community deal with vandalism?

"IP blocking, if possible. It's often difficult to pinpoint the IP address."

"For logged-in users, we post a warning on their talk page."

"If the vandalism is blatant, the system may be able to detect it."

"Administrators and benevolent users revert the vandalism, but this doesn't address the root cause."

"The first step is for the editor who notices it (regardless of registration status) to revert it. If the problem is persistent, it will be dealt with by an administrator or someone with authority. "

Q: What are the differences between Japanese Wikipedia and other Wikipedias, if you have experience editing both?

"The Japanese version is poor in both frequency of updates and content of basic entries that should be included in an encyclopedia."

"In comparison with the Japanese version, the foreign language version is superior in terms of the number of users, frequency of updates, and contents. In terms of templates and design, the French and Italian versions are more sophisticated, easier to use, and more attractive."

"Even if there are the latest research results by Japanese researchers, the English version contains articles based on old and erroneous research."

Q: What do you pay attention to when you patrol?

"Which articles are being changed, by whom, and how. In particular, I check whether there are users harassing others."

"Make sure there is no vandalism or similar behavior or unnecessary modifications by newbies."

Q: Why do you think Japanese Wikipedia is more tolerant of IP editing than other Wikipedias?

"Japanese people like helping anonymously. For example, people deliver lost property to the police without revealing their identities."

"Wikipedia is pretty low-level as an encyclopedia, so it's more tolerant regarding accuracy."

"No need to take credit for editing, especially for those who contribute on a whim."

"Japanese people like talking behind people's back."

"Anonymity has been valued in Internet culture for a long time, and many users are very wary of showing their real names or equivalent on the Internet, so they edit anonymously."

"It's the influence of 2Chan."

"People don't care if an IP editor does the editing."

**Q: Do you know of any individual IP editors who are committed to not logging in?**

"In village pump discussions, IP editors are often told to get an account, and some declare that they have no intention of getting one."

Q: How common is vandalism by IP editors in Japanese Wikipedia?

"It happens frequently. When I check the vandalism, the perpetrator is often an IP editor."

"Never seen it."

"I'll find one in every ten articles in the recently edited section."

**Q: Do you ever see the security risk of IP editing being discussed in the community?**

"Yes, there is. I don't remember if it was in the village pump or an announcement, but I remember that there was a discussion about making IP addresses of IP editors invisible."

"Yes, but they weren't concerned about the risk."

**Q: The Portuguese Wikipedia recently banned IP editing. Is this being discussed in Japanese as well?**

"Never heard of it."

**Q: Do you think banning IP editing makes sense on Japanese Wikipedia?**

"I think the number of editors will drop drastically. The beauty of Wikipedia is that anyone with knowledge can edit it. If an account were required, it would simply become an online dictionary."

"I think Japan should emulate Portugal. People think that they can write anything because they're unidentified."

"The number of vandalism will decrease, but so will the volume of contribution."

"If we ban IP editing and make accounts mandatory, the number of trolls should decrease. It would also reduce administrators. It would also reduce the burden of the administrators."

"Wiki is less reliable because anyone can edit it. But if an account is required to edit, the variety of the articles will decrease. Articles on timely topics may not be available, as only a few people can contribute."

"Yes, it makes sense. Of course, there is a downside to this, and the users who are currently using IP editing to edit probably won't go as far as getting an account to do so. However, there is no denying that the contributions made by IP editors are frankly not very valuable."

"I don't think that's likely to happen. Experienced editors know that it is a waste of effort to make suggestions at the village pump."