

Privacy in Japan

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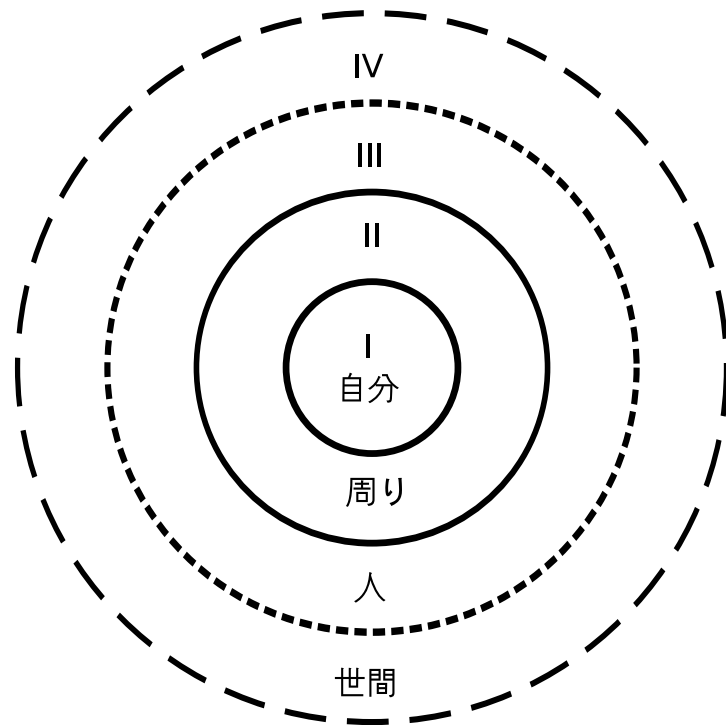
Royal Academy of Engineering

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Overview

- Kuwayama's Reference Other model
- Variant of the Uchi-Soto Model
- Insular Collective Society
- Insular Collective Communication
- Vertical Relationships
- "It's the Economy, Stupid!"
- The Japanese Sense of Privacy

Kuwayama's Reference Other model



I. 自分 jibun

self

II. 周り mawari

immediate reference others

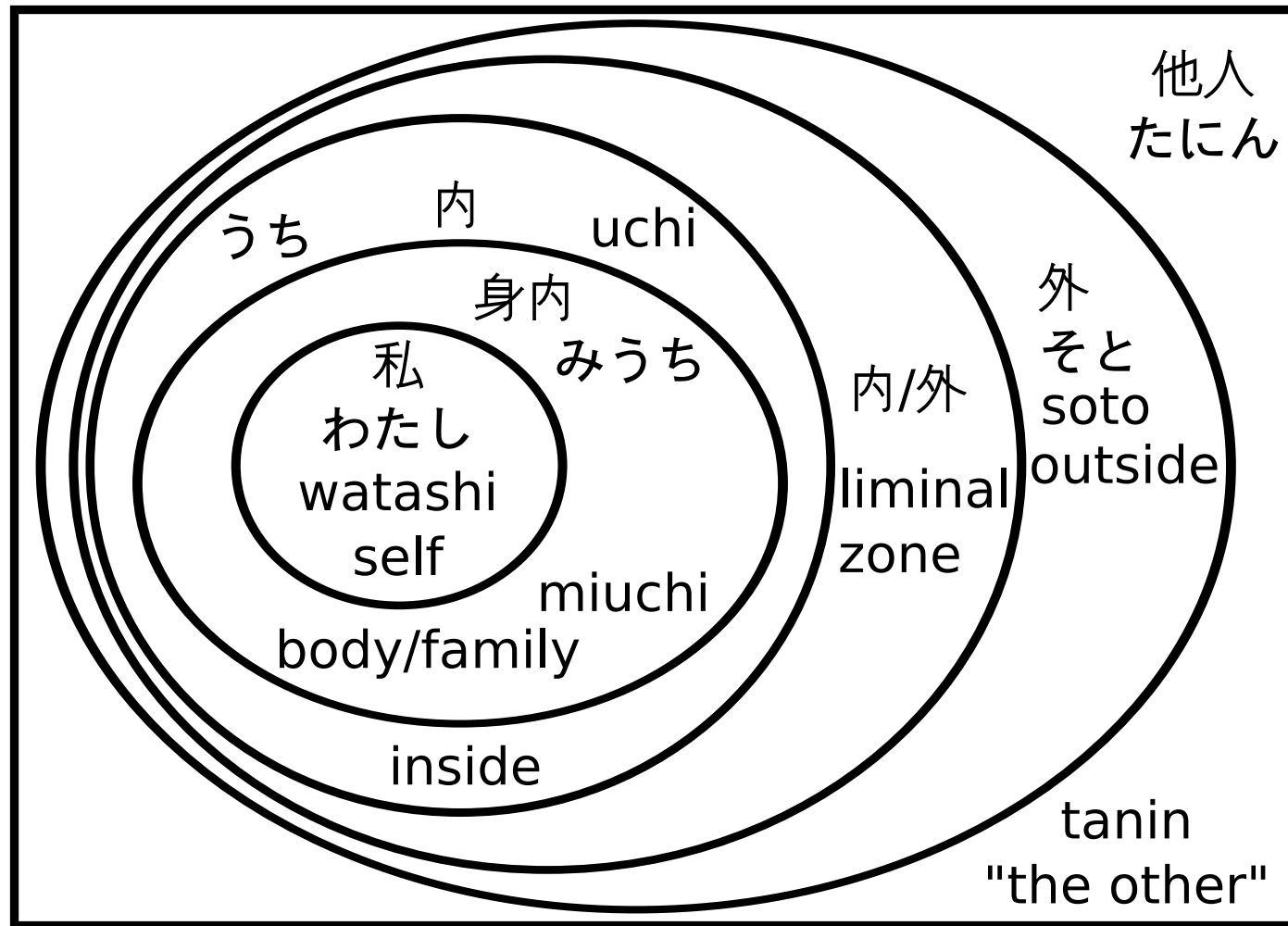
III. 人 hito

general reference others

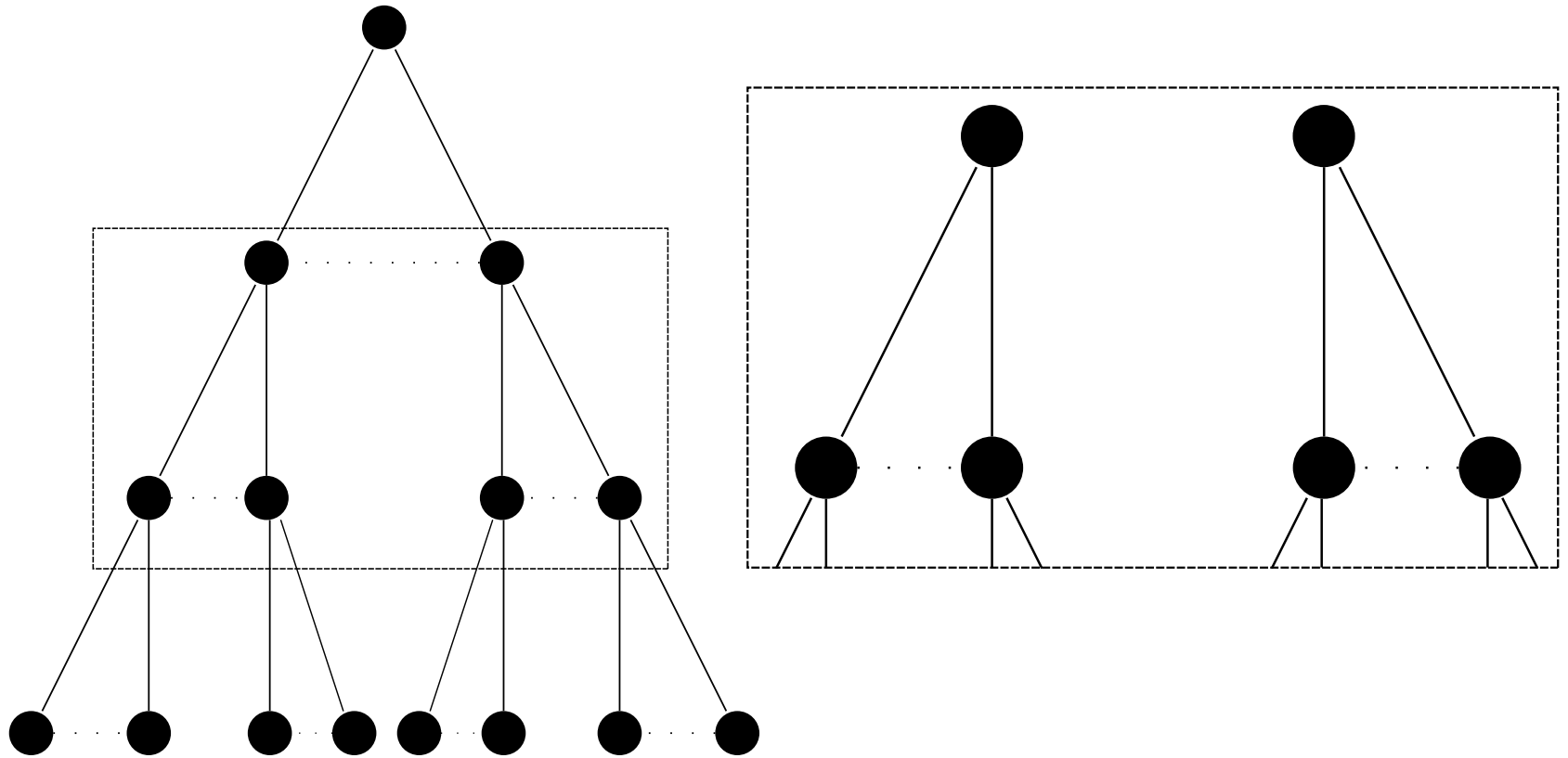
IV. 世間 seken

reference society

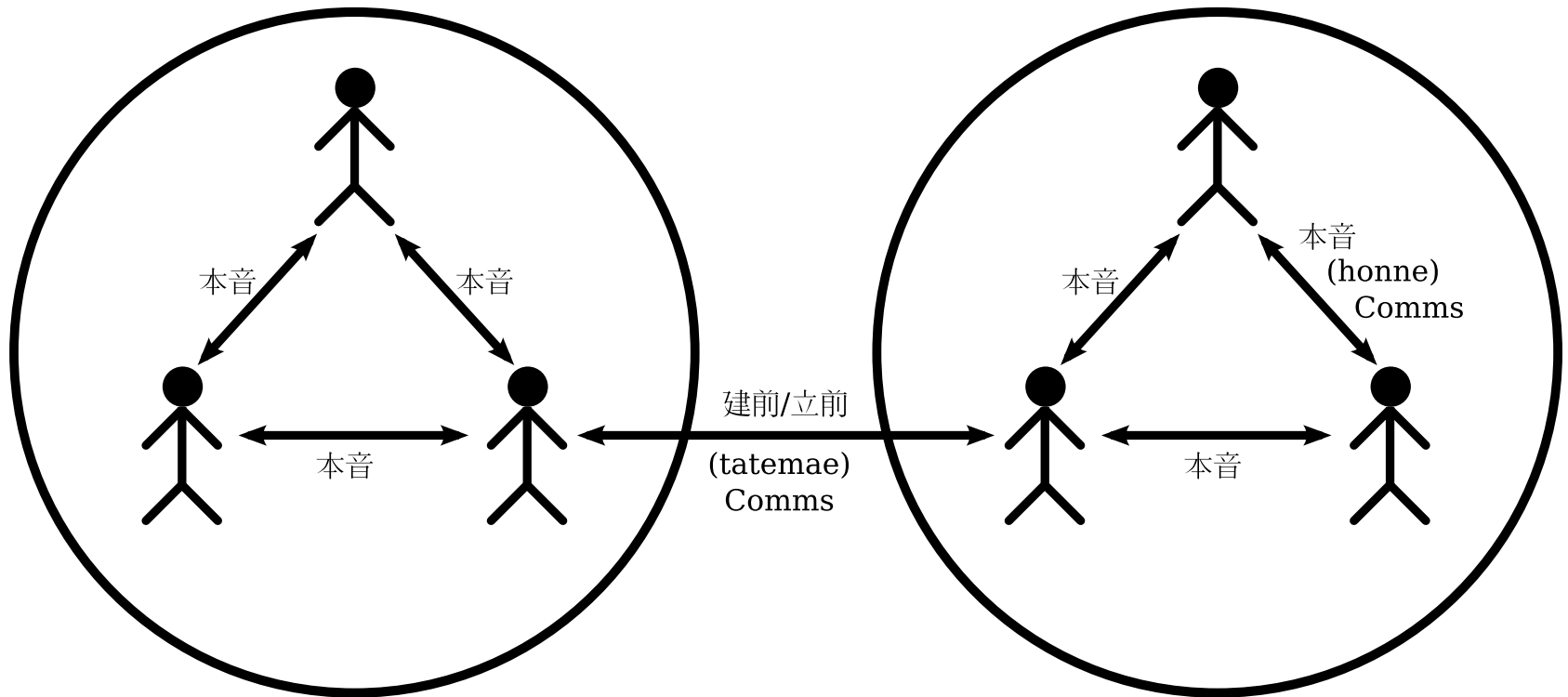
Variant of the Uchi-Soto Model



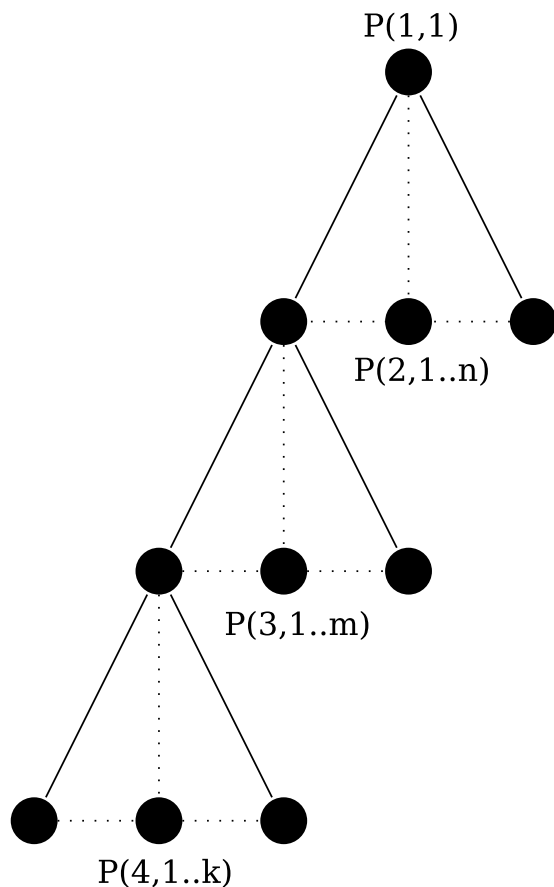
Insular Collective Society



Insular Collective Communication



Vertical Relationships



$$R(P(3, 1), P(2, 1), P(3, i))$$

$$\subset R(P(3, 1), P(3, 1), P(2, 1)) : i \neq 1$$

$$R(P(3, 1), P(3, i), P(2, 1))$$

$$\subseteq R(P(3, 1), P(2, 1), P(3, i)) : i \neq 1$$

$$R(P(h, j), P(h - 1, 1), P(h, i))$$

$$\subset R(P(h, j), P(h, j), P(h - 1, g)) : i \neq j$$

⋮

$$R(P(h - 1, 1), P(h, 1), P(h + 1, i)) \approx \emptyset$$

$$R(P(h + 1, i), P(h, 1), P(h, j)) \approx \emptyset : j \neq 1$$

$$R(P(h - 1, 1), P(h, 1), P(h + 1, i)) \approx \emptyset$$

$R(P(3, 1), P(2, 1), P(1, 1))$ is information *about* $P(3, 1)$ revealed *by* $P(2, 1)$ *to* $P(1, 1)$

Economic Issues

- Until 1990 Japan was successful, protectionist economy
- The property and banking crash of the early 90s undermined the “salaryman” myth and reality.
- The group harmony within Japanese society has been dented by fifteen years of stagflation.
- Japanese companies working multinationally have had to adopt more Western approaches.
- Electronic communication shrinks the world, introducing different competition.
- Cash v bits economy

Japanese Sense of Information Privacy

- Based on Confidence (in both meanings)
- 立前 speech historically provided privacy
- As-if tradition maintained privacy within 内 groups
- Introduction of networked computer processing of personal information (delayed by the “Kanji Problem”) defeated the social norms but not until the 90s.
- Social awareness following (accelerated) Western paths: financial, then medical, then general