

Translating God: A comparison of Bunun, Atayal and Paiwan Bible translations

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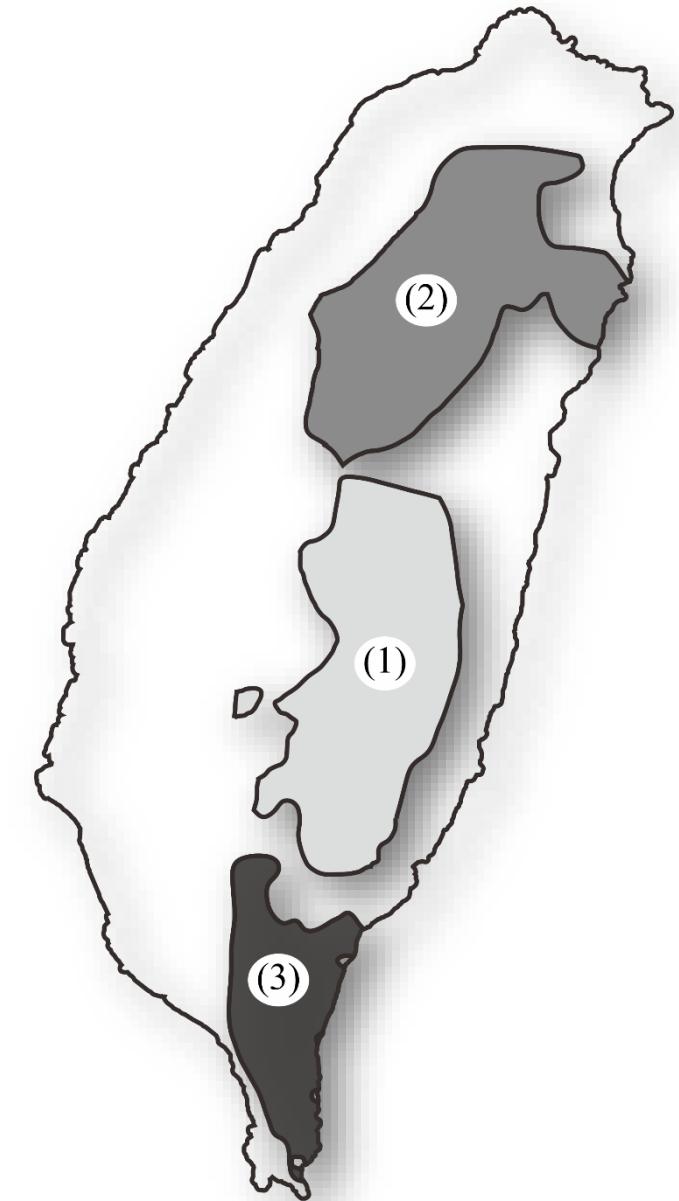
Today

- Indigenous Bible translations
- The translation of new concepts
- Linguistic mechanisms for introducing new concepts
- Case study: the concept of ‘God’



Indigenous people in Taiwan

- 16 recognized groups
- Austronesian languages
- Today
 - 1) Bunun
 - 2) Atayal
 - 3) Paiwan



Indigenous Bible translations

- Missionary access to indigenous areas: immediately after WWII
- Translation activities started immediately afterwards

Year	Language	Books
1949	Bunun	Story of Noah's Flood
1951	Bunun	Matthew
1955	Bunun	Luke
1957	Amis	James
1957	Truku	Acts
1958	Amis	Marc
1959	Bunun	Acts
1960	Truku	Corinthians 1

Indigenous Bible translations

- Translation of novel concepts into the Indigenous target language
 - Religious concepts
 - Concepts related to the structure of contemporary cultures and societies
 - Concepts related to the environment of the Biblical narrative
- Two questions:
 - How are these concepts introduced?
 - Where do they come from?



Mechanisms for introducing new concepts

- Lexical borrowing

Act 1:16	'David'	Eng. <i>David</i> [dæivɪd]	>	Devid [dævɪd]
Gen 13:1	'Egypt'	Jap. エジプト <i>Ejiputo</i>	>	Ichibutu

- Calquing

Mat 5:14	'light of the world'	Gr. φῶς τοῦ κόσμου	>	inastu chin tu singhal
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i-nastu-chin tu singhal
at-down-here of light.ray
'the light of the place here below
(i.e. the world as opposed to heaven)'

Mechanisms for introducing new concepts

- Periphrasis

Heb 8:2 'tabernacle' Gr. *σκηνή* > **masaningsing tu lumah**

ma-saningsing tu lumah
ADJ-pure of house
'the house of holiness / purification'

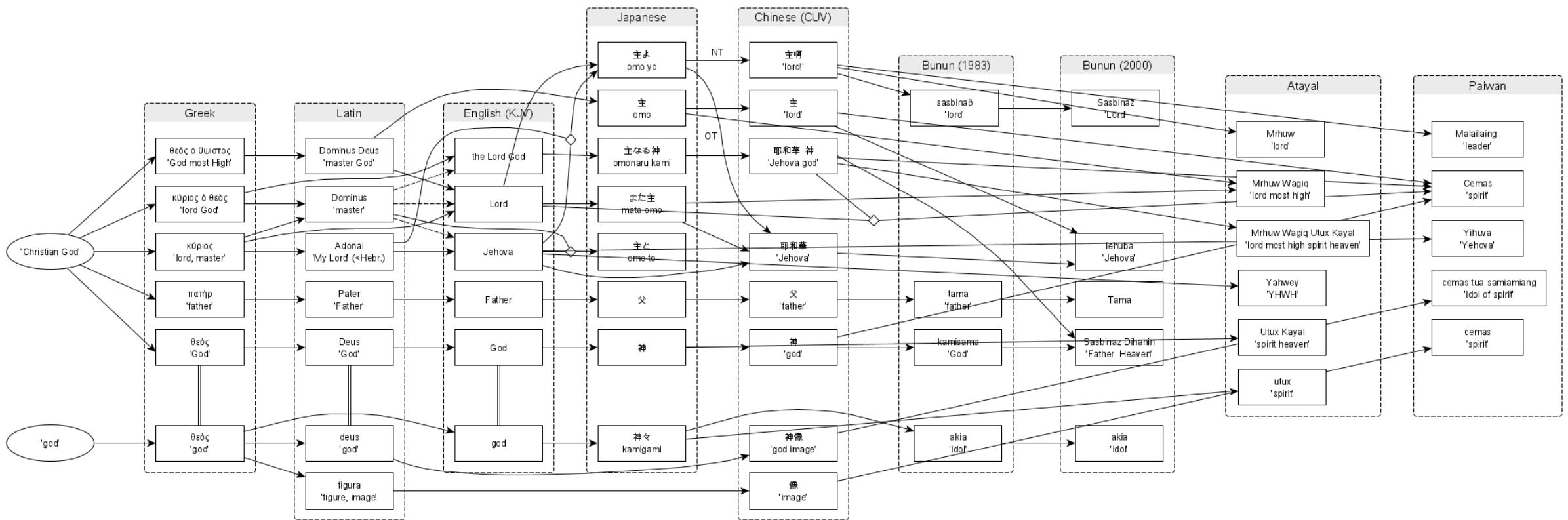
- Conceptual transfer

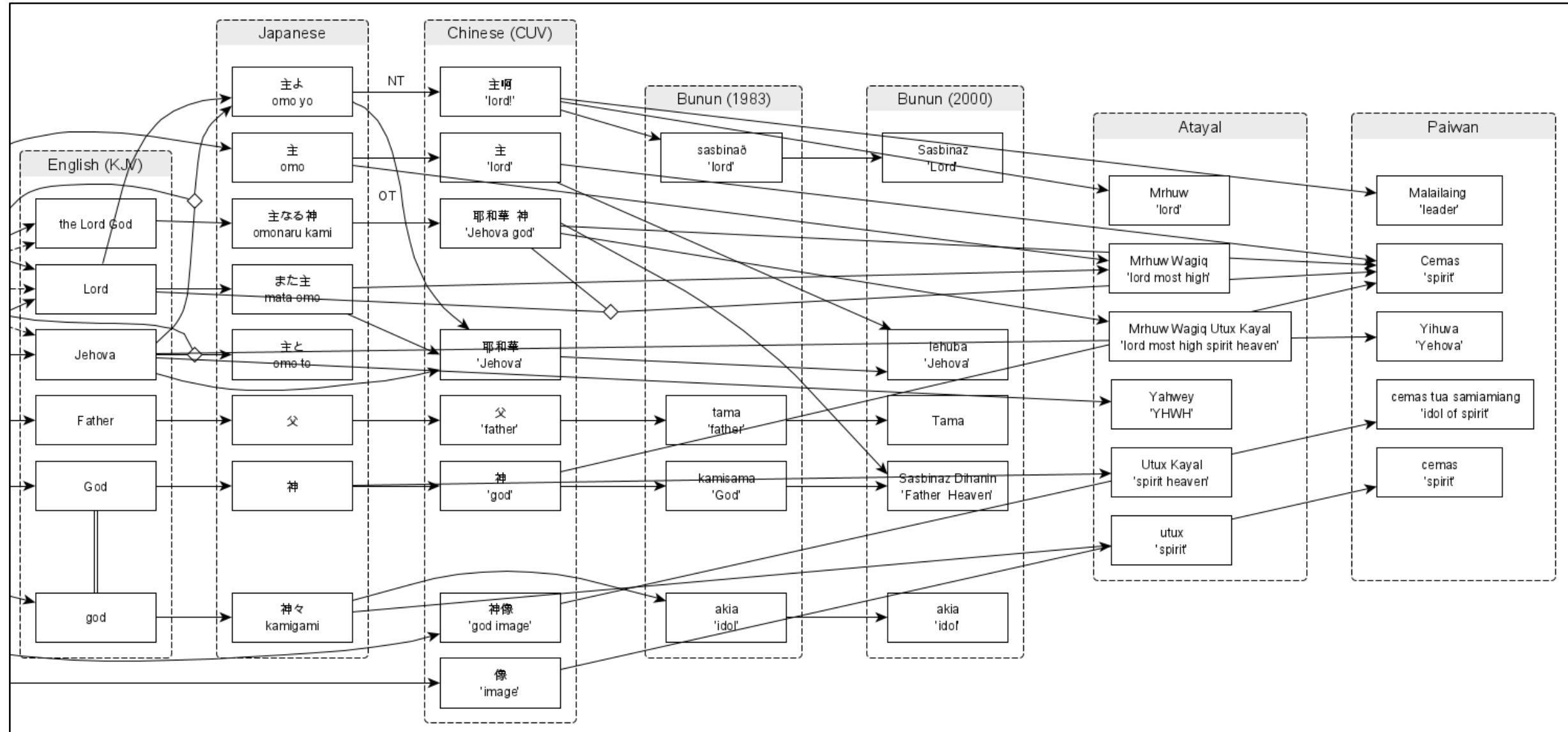
Gen 20:7 'pray' **masumsum** 'converse with the spirits' > 'pray'

Terms for God

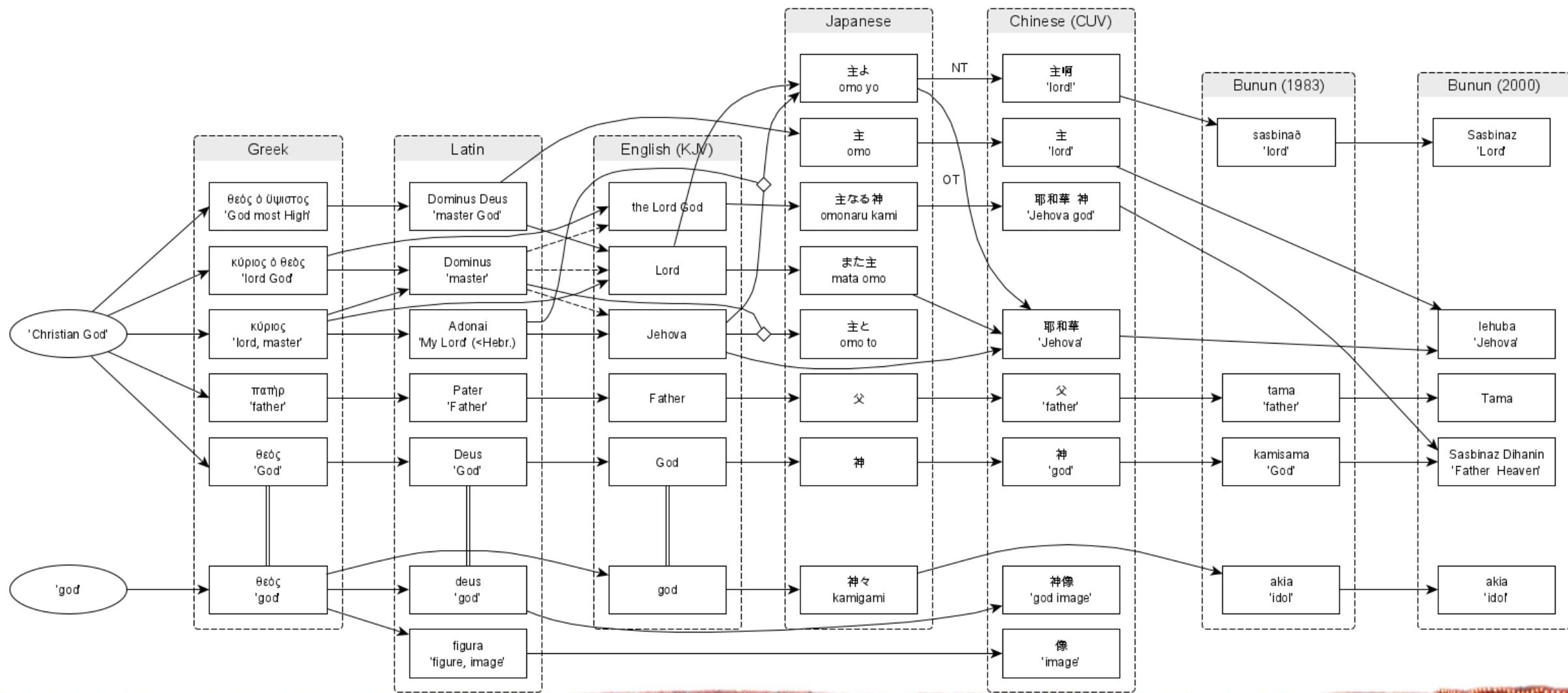
- By which terminology is the concept of the Christian God expressed in Indigenous translations?
- Where do these terms come from?
- Languages and translations
 - Bunun: 1983, 2000
 - Atayal: 2003
 - Paiwan: 1993

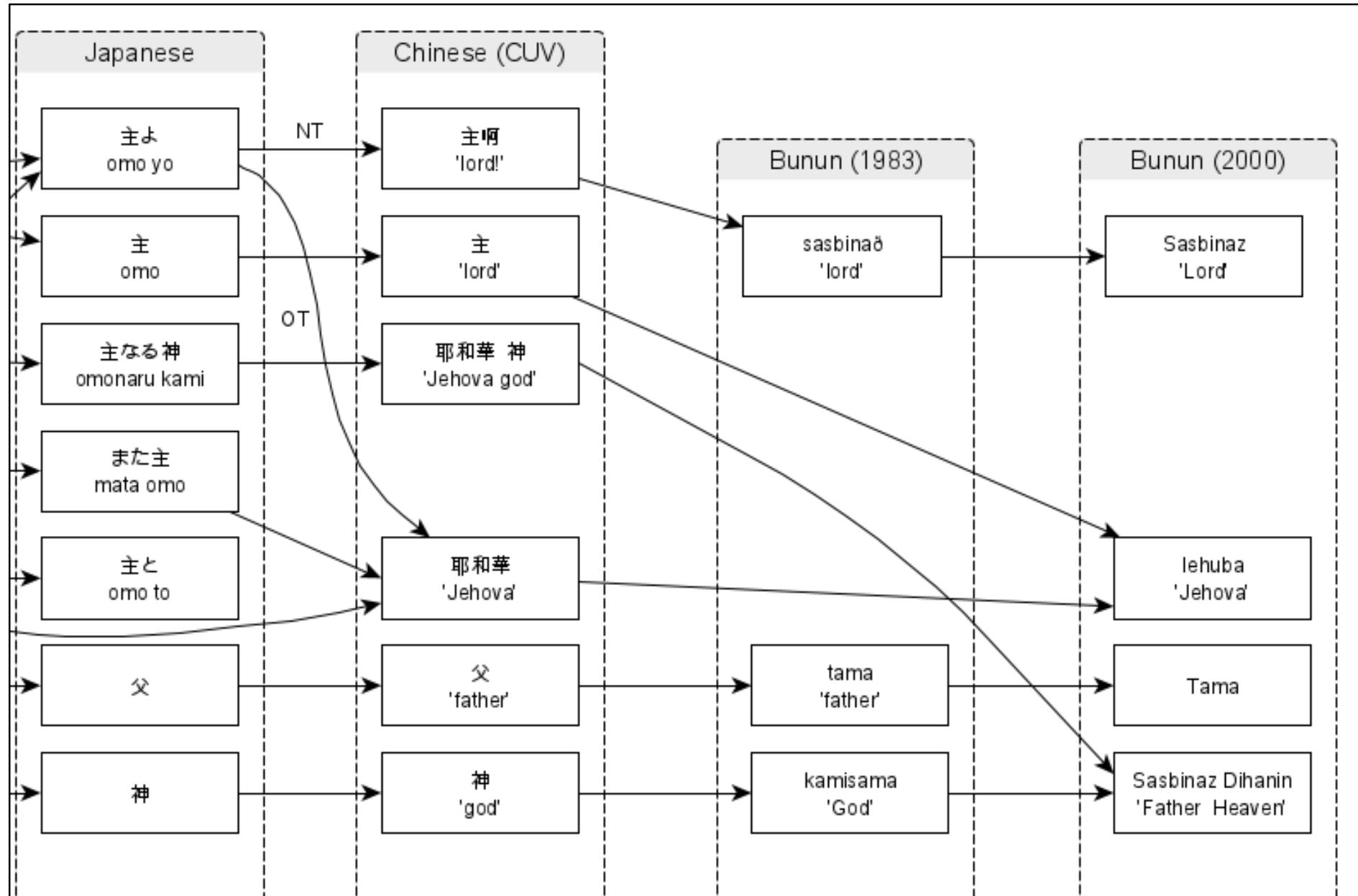
Terms for God (all)



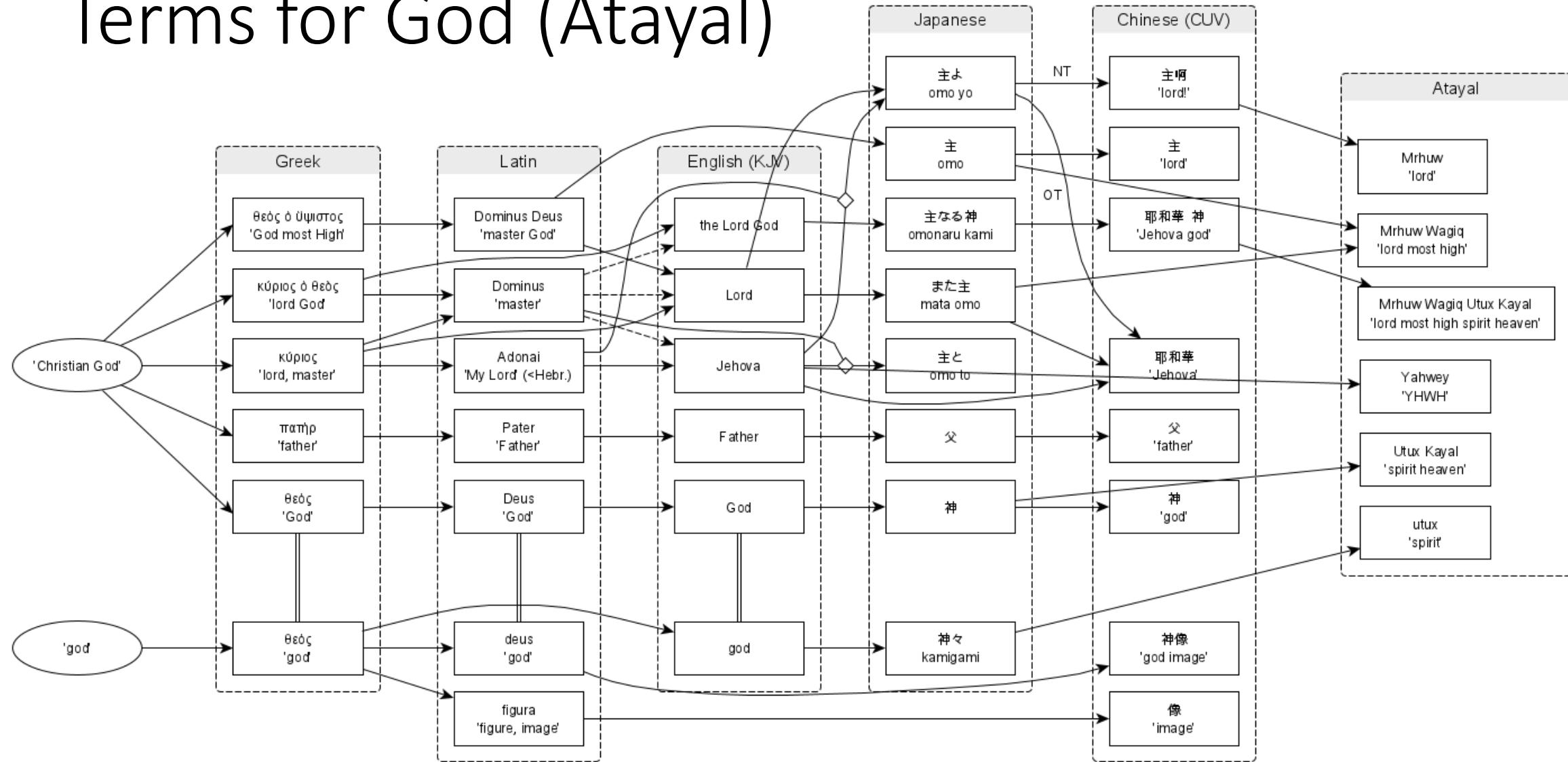


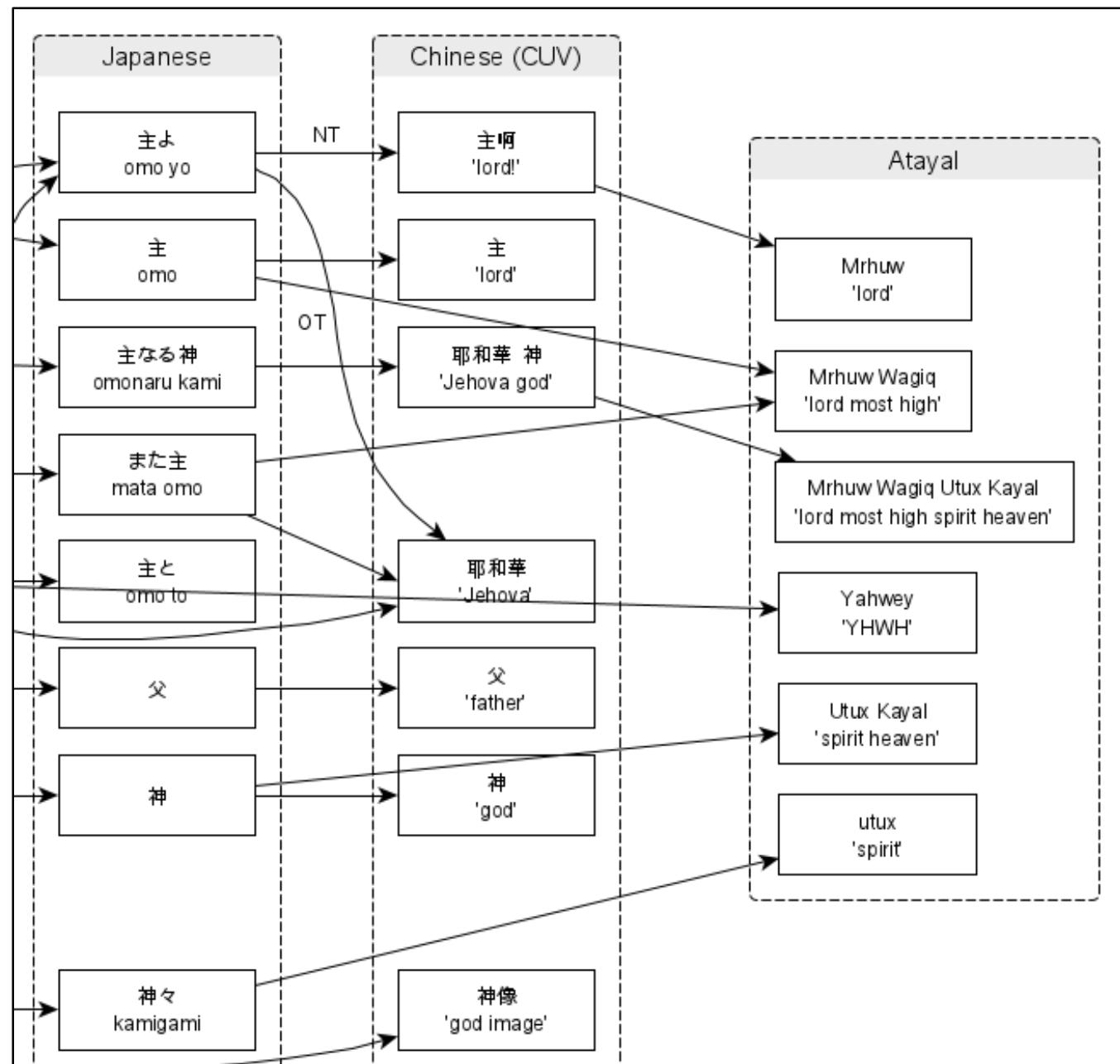
Terms for God (Bunun)



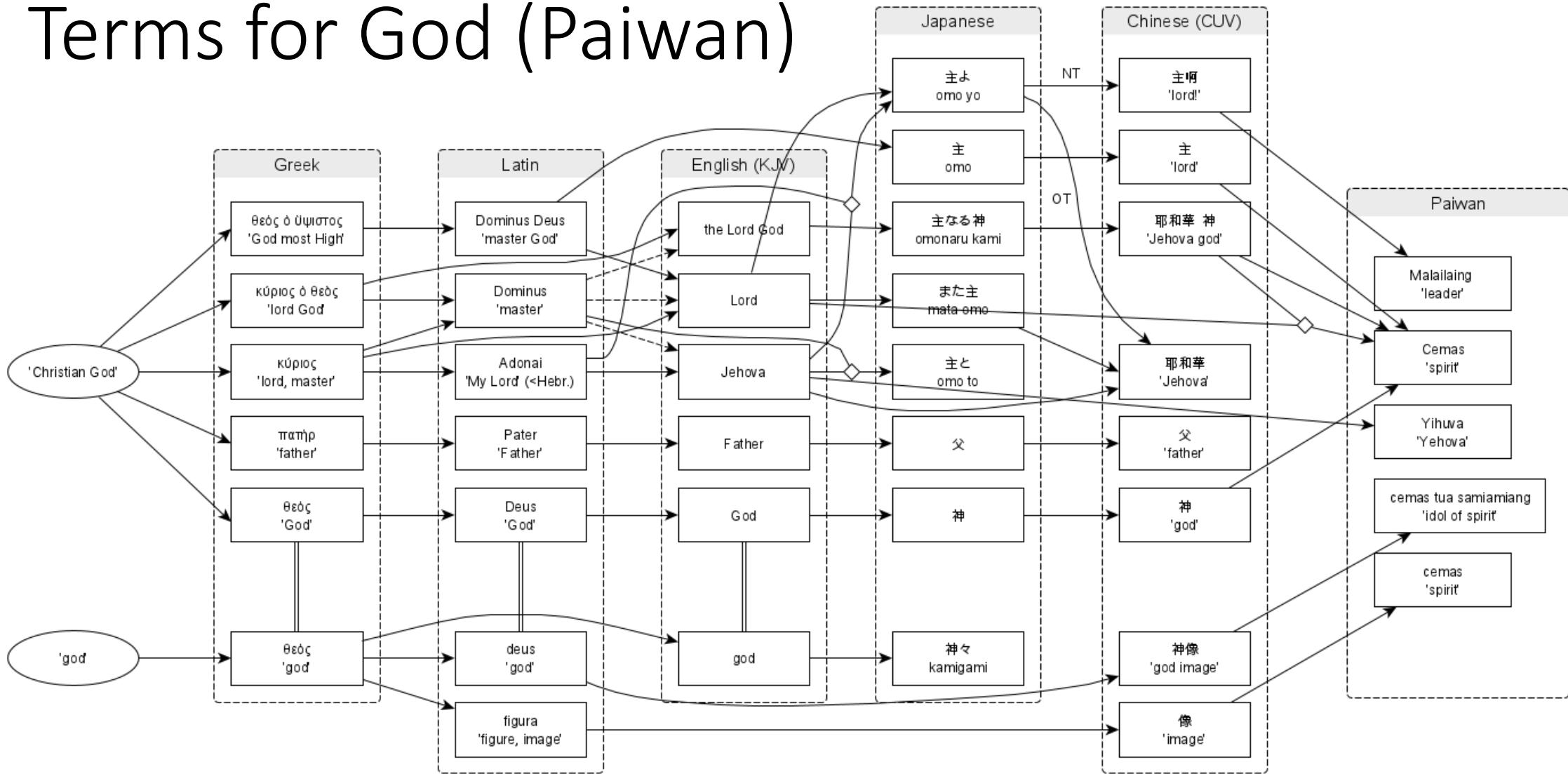


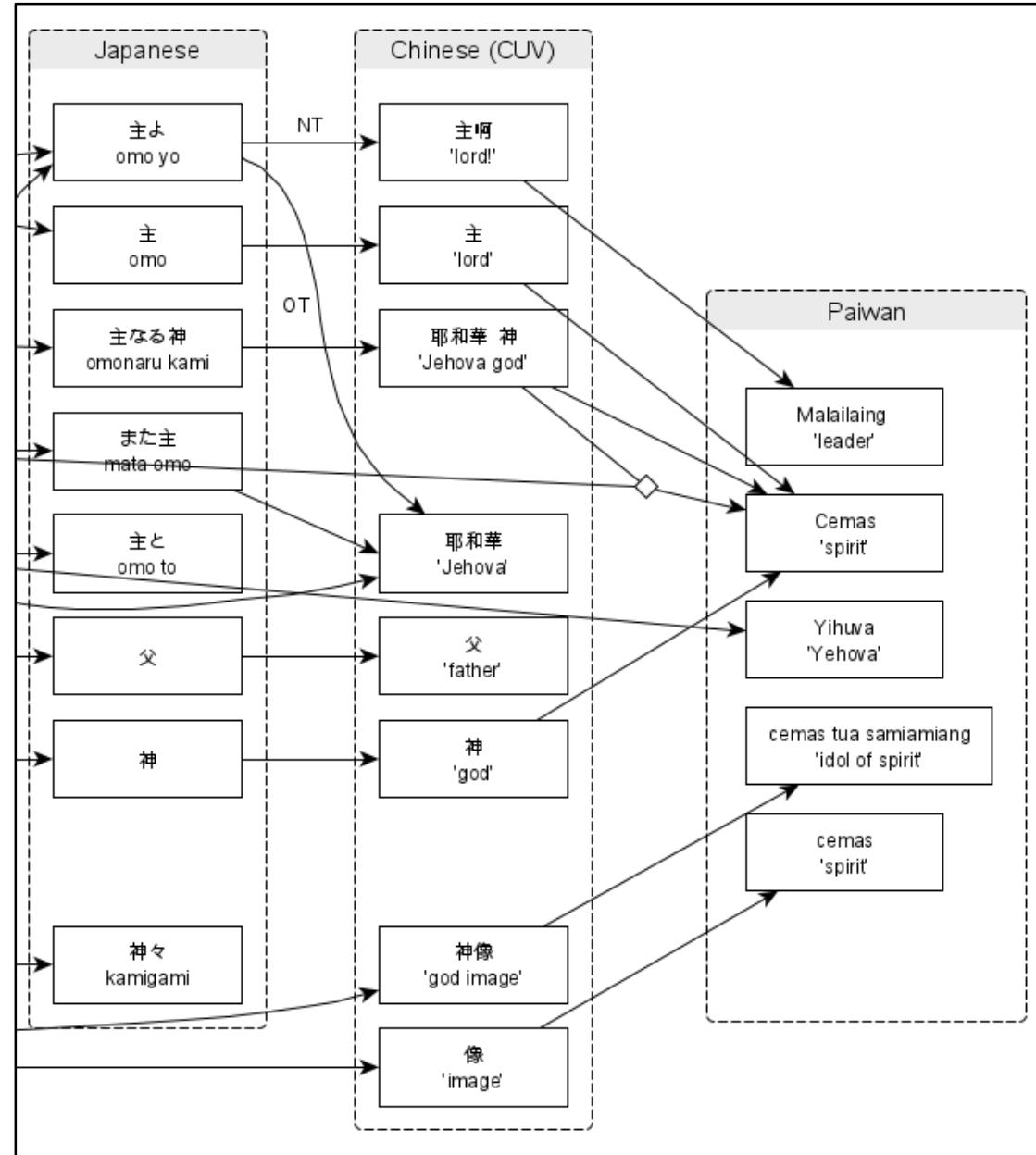
Terms for God (Atayal)





Terms for God (Paiwan)





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