Before, it was the Japanese.
Now blame yourself
and maybe your parents
who brought you here
and transfigured your name
into Peter, Sue, Jason—
Now Korean teacher calls you
and the name he uses to
name you
slips unfamiliar past your ears,
fails to catch and move your
self into recognition
You.

Startled, you remember your name
in the language you were born into
and respond haltingly, ill-fitting
the language you were born into,
wishing speech in this language
you must learn
would flow as smoothly as
the language you have grown into
the language which calls you
calls you
its own.

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