

## **What You Hear Is Not Always What You Say: An Investigation of Loanword Pitch Accent in Tokyo Japanese**

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Tokyo Japanese is notable for its pitch-accent patterns, where accented syllables are distinguished by changes in pitch rather than volume, as in stress-accent languages. This project looks at the perceptual and phonological factors involved in loanword pitch-accent placement in Tokyo Japanese, and it aims to answer the question, “To what extent does source language determine loanword accent in Tokyo Japanese?” Work by Shinohara (2000) emphasizes the importance of source language on loanword pitch-accent, by demonstrating that because French has no stress, French loanwords follow the default accent patterns found in Tokyo Japanese nouns, while English loanwords, coming from a stress-accent language, place pitch-accent in the same location as source-language stress. In contrast, a later analysis by Kubozono (2006), argues that loanwords follow the same pitch-accent patterns that determine default accent in Tokyo Japanese nouns. The data analyzed for this project comes from compiling a corpus of non-English and non-French loanwords from various dictionary sources, recording both source-language stress location and pitch-accent location in Tokyo Japanese, and coding each word for prosodic structure and the presence of word-final epenthetic vowels. The results of this analysis show that Kubozono’s rules for default accent are significantly more successful at predicting loanword pitch-accent location in Tokyo Japanese than source language stress. However, the results do show that Kubozono’s default accent rules are more or less successful in different languages, suggesting that there are other source-language dependent factors involved in determining loanword pitch-accent, which is a topic for further research.

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