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What is Pitch Accent? A fall from high pitch (H) to low pitch (L) within a word or phrase (only one per word in Tokyo Japanese)

Examples (はし):
[hæsi] ‘chopsticks’ Tone Shape: H L (Abrupt Pitch Fall)
[hasi] ‘edge’ Tone Shape: L H (No Abrupt Pitch Fall)
[hasi] ‘bridge’ Tone Shape: L H (No Visible Pitch Fall)
[hasi-wa] ‘bridge-TOPIC’ Tone Shape: L H L (Pitch Fall)

Kubozono’s rules are significantly more successful.

Conclusions
I. Loanword accent does not always correspond to source-language stress.
II. Patterns predicted based on Kubozono’s (2006) rules persist in loanwords from all languages; sometimes corresponds to original stress location
III. Loanwords that have stress in their original languages can be unaccented according to patterns found in native Japanese words.

Loanword pitch accent patterns in Japanese are a result of both perceptual and phonological factors.

Further Considerations
Ito (2010) analyses English, Japanese, and Mandarin loanwords in Yanbian Korean, and finds that loanwords do not follow native word accent patterns.

References

Acknowledgements
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Overview
Research Question: To what extent does source language determine loanword pitch accent in Japanese?

Study: Construction of a loanword corpus to investigate how pitch accent manifests in Tokyo Japanese relative to source word stress and proposed pitch accent rules.

Conclusion: Default accent rules are more successful than source-language stress at predicting loanword pitch accent placement.

Literature Review
Shinohara (2000)
- Accent locus is unpredictable except in certain parts of the lexicon, which follow the default accent rule
- English loanwords adopt accent loci that correspond to source-language stress.
  - Reason: Japanese speakers recognize stressed syllables in English as carriers of lexical accent.
- French loanwords adopt accent loci according to the Antepenultimate/Pre-antepenultimate Rule.
  - Reason: Japanese speakers do not recognize lexical stress in French words.

Antepenultimate/Pre-antepenultimate Rule: Place accent on the third mora from the end of a word if the word ends in light syllable and on the fourth mora from the end if the word ends in a heavy syllable

Kubozono (2006)
- Words in all lexical strata (native, SJ, and loanword) of Japanese follow accent rules.
- The Antepenultimate Rule is the most productive accent rule.
- English loanwords do not ALWAYS adopt an accent locus corresponding to original stress locus
- Loanwords can become unaccented when their phonological patterns are the same as unaccented native Japanese words

Antepenultimate Rule: Place accent on the third mora from the end of a word

What is Pitch Accent?

Methods

Data Sources: Wiktionary, Tofugu, Collins Bilingual Dictionaries, Cambridge Bilingual Dictionaries Dictionary, OJAD, WaDoku

Procedure:
1. Compile loanword corpus and code for prosodic features
2. Predict loanword accent assignment based on predominant antepenultimate accent pattern and unaccented pattern rules found in Kubozono (2006)
3. Record observed loanword accent pattern
4. Compare predicted and observed accent locations throughout the dataset and for each source-language subset

Results

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Source Stress: Match</th>
<th>K Rules: Match</th>
<th>K Rules: Mismatch</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>24</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Source Stress: Mismatch</td>
<td>18</td>
<td>17</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Purple: only K accent rules
Pink: only source language stress
Blue: neither predictor

Happy Chinese

Happy Chinese

German

Russian

Spanish

Greek

Italian

Kubozono’s rules are significantly more successful.

Dutch

Portuguese

References

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