

## Second language acquisition of Japanese compound accents by native English speakers

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This study tests applicability of the Prosodic Transfer Hypothesis (PTH) (Goad, White & Steele 2003) through investigating acquisition of Japanese compound noun accents by native English speakers. Both English and Japanese allow noun-noun compounds but have different accent formation. In English, each noun forms a foot individually, bearing the main and secondary prominence, respectively (e.g. *Énglish t acher*) (Lieberman & Prince 1977). By contrast, in Japanese, the whole compound forms one PwD with one pitch accent (e.g. *g gaku + ky oshi* → *gogaku-ky oshi* ‘language instructor’) (Shinohara 2002, Kubozono 2008). This difference between English and Japanese is problematic for English speakers of second language (L2) Japanese (ELJ) if they initially transfer L1 prosodic structures, as the PTH suggests. The PTH has been supported by studies investigating acquisition of morphologically-complex structures in functional categories (e.g. tense in Goad & White 2006). However, the applicability of the PTH to other morphologically complex structures has not been examined. This study compares 10 intermediate ELJ with native Japanese speakers as a control group in producing novel compound nouns. Interim results suggest that the ELJ produced significantly different tonal contours from the controls; the average pitch range of the ELJ was about 60% of that of the controls ( $t(38)=4.63$ ,  $p<.001$ ) and the ELJ used intensity and duration rather than pitch fall for accentuation. This suggests that the ELJ did not acquire correct compound accent positions and used L1 strategy for accentuation, supporting the PTH. The development of L2 prosodic structures and implications for the PTH will be discussed.

(250 words)

### References

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