

More about mora structure

Questions to consider:

- Do all mora types show the same phonological behavior?
- If not, how can we insightfully express generalizations about which mora types can occur where?

- (1) Can just *any* sequence of allowable moras create a legitimate word shape? (The symbol ‘*’ means that a form is *ungrammatical*: not accepted by the mental grammar of a native speaker.)

*[mbo]

*[ntai], *[ttai]

- Do these potential “words” consist of legal moras?

compare:

[tombo] ‘dragonfly’

[hantai] ‘opposite’

[ittai] ‘(what) in the world...?’

- Which of Tsujimura’s “mora types” (a)–(c) can start a word?

- (2) Consider the following Tokyo Japanese examples. The location of the pitch accent (the last high tone before the pitch fall) is marked with an acute accent, as in [á]. Can we explain why not all the logically possible accent patterns shown here are legitimate word shapes in Tokyo Japanese?

(a) [sánsee-wa] ‘third generation’

[sensée-wa] ‘teacher’

[sansee-wa] ‘agreement’

(b) *[sańsee-wa]

*[sanseeé-wa]

- Which of Tsujimura’s “mora types” (a)–(c) can be the location of a pitch accent in Tokyo Japanese?

- (3) “Geisha/bargirl client names” (data from Poser 1990)

- This is a specific kind of nickname-formation process, more restricted than the general one we saw earlier. What principles determine an allowable nickname?

Name

Nickname, option 1

Option 2

[honda]

[o-hoo-san]

[o-hon-san]

[kondo]

[o-koo-san]

[o-kon-san]

[saitoo]

[o-saa-san]

[o-sai-san]

[φudzimuura]

[o-φuu-san]

*[o-φudzi-san]

[tanaka]

[o-taa-san]

*[o-tana-san]

- Which of Tsujimura’s “mora types” (a)–(c) can be used here, in which positions?

(4) The morpheme /-si/ 市 ‘city’ has a predictable effect on the pitch accent when it attaches to a place name. We see a difference between (i) and (ii). What explains this difference? (data adapted from Vance 2008)

(i) [kʷɔré-çi] 吳市
[akitá-çi] 秋田市
[kʷumamotó-çi] 熊本市

(ii) [mʷɔrɔrán-çi] 室蘭市
[nikkóo-çi] 日光市
[sendái-çi] 仙台市

(5) Given your analysis for (i)-(ii) in (4), what can we say about the following examples?

(iii) [mʷumbái-çi] ‘Mumbai city’
[hanói-çi] ‘Hanoi city’
[kʷɔrakáʷ-çi] ‘Krakow city’ (Polish place name, but borrowed via English)
[bisáʷ-çi] ‘Bissau city’

(iv) [managuá-çi] ‘Managua city’

(v) [ɸʷukwái-çi] ~ [ɸʷukúʷi-çi] ‘Fukui city’ 福井市