

Homework assignment #3: Prosodic structure

Due Thursday, February 11

- (1) For each of the following words, draw its mora and syllable structure. Make sure that the structures you draw are in accordance with the algorithms introduced in class.
- (a) [kamaboko] ‘pressed fish paste’ (c) [ɕjootan] ‘gourd’
 (b) [tempura] ‘tempura’ (d) [geppei] ‘moon cake’
- (2) These two words do not have the same number of moras. Is our mora-assignment algorithm correctly able to assign different mora structures in these two cases? Explain why or why not, by showing step by step how the algorithm would apply to each of these words.
- (a) [ɕinitɕi] (male name) (b) [ɕinitɕi] ‘(calendar) date’
- (3) Here is a list of loanwords — words borrowed into Japanese from other languages. Column A shows the words in a form that is similar to their source language (but with the consonants and vowels adjusted for the Japanese segment inventory). Column B shows how these words actually appear in Japanese. Discuss, including **one** or **two** relevant examples to illustrate your discussion, how the analysis of mora structure we have developed helps us explain why the forms in column B are used in Japanese instead of the forms in column A.
- | <i>Column A</i> | <i>Column B</i> | |
|-----------------|----------------------|---|
| (a) [kɾaŋk] | [kuɾaŋku] | ‘crank’ |
| (b) [roost] | [roosu <u>t</u> o] | ‘roast’ |
| (d) [njuuws] | [njuuwsu] | ‘news’ (don’t worry about why this has [s] and not [z]) |
| (e) [stair] | [su <u>t</u> airu] | ‘style’ |
| (f) [krab] | [ku <u>r</u> abu] | ‘club’ |
| (g) [teep] | [tee <u>p</u> u] | ‘tape’ |
| (h) [trakk] | [to <u>r</u> akku] | ‘truck’ (don’t worry about why the [k] is long) |
- (4) (*Warning: This question is a review question about **segmental** phonology, not a question about mora structure.*) The inserted vowel in the Column B forms in the loanword data set in (3) is usually [u], but in two instances in this data set (underlined), it is [o]. These are not isolated exceptions — the use of [o] in loanword examples like (b) and (h) is systematic.
- Based on what you know about Japanese segmental phonology, why do you think [o] is used instead of [u] in items (b) and (h) in the data set?

(5) For the following words:

- Look them up using OJAD “Word Search” to see whether they have a pitch accent, and if so, where (note: you can copy/paste the hiragana given below into the search box)
- Apply the pitch-accent assignment algorithm introduced in class to show where H and L tones would be assigned by the grammar to derive the surface pitch contour

(a) [mezamaɕidokei] めざましどけい ‘alarm clock’, lit., ‘eye-opening clock’

(b) [katsuobuɕi] かつおぶし ‘dried shaved bonito (fish) flakes’