The Syllable Structure of the Antoh Dialect (Fukui Prefecture) Revealed through its "Three-pattern" Accent System

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1. The Antoh dialect

The small fishing village of Antoh in Fukui Prefecture is located about 150km to the north of Kyoto. The dialect spoken in Antoh is known for its unique characteristics. For instance, Nitta (2016) describes a series of geminate consonants as seen in *maffa* 'pillow' (SJ *makura*) and *ssoi* 'white' (SJ *siroi*), which are very rare in Mainland Japanese dialects. As for the word accent, too, this dialect shows characteristics relatively rare in Central Mainland. First, this dialect has what is called "three-pattern system" in Uwano's (2012) classification, which has only three accent patterns regardless of the length of the word. Second, the Antoh dialect is a syllable-counting dialect with respect to accent or tone assignment. Apart from this dialect, no apparent syllable-counting dialect has been found in the regions near Kyoto.

2. Pitch patterns

In (1) I will give examples of one- to four-syllable words to show the pitch patterns of the three distinctive accent patterns. The three patterns are called Type A, Type B and Type C in this abstract.

(1)	1σ	2σ	3σ	4σ	gloss			
Type A	KA	niWA	SAka*NA*	niWAto*RI*	(mosquito	garden	fish	chicken)
Type B	HA	YA*MA*	koKO*RO*	asaGA*O*	(leaf	mountain	heart	morning glory)
Type C	ME	MAdo	haTAke	muRASAki	(bud	window	field	purple)

(High-pitched syllables are shown by capital letters, and middle-pitched ones by capital letters in italics.)

The domain of accent or tone assignment is *bunsetsu* in the traditional Japanese term, which refers to a noun or a noun followed by one or more particles, i.e. a clitic group. Therefore, while the tonal distinctions in monosyllabic words are neutralized in isolation as in (1), the distinctions appear when a particle is attached and the domain *bunsetsu* becomes two syllables long as in ka-GA, HA-*GA*, and ME-ga (*ga*: a nominative marker).

3. Syllable structure

In this presentation, I aim to reveal the syllable structures of this dialect by observing its tonal patterns. The inventory of heavy syllables in (2) summarizes my conclusion; that is, what kind of structures are permitted in this dialect. In principle, a syllable with a three-mora rhyme such as (C)VVN is avoided, as will be shown in section 3.2.

(2) syllable structure   example & gloss

 (C)VV, (C)VN, (C)VC *koo* 'buy', *kai* 'shell', *nan* 'what', <u>*abba*</u> 'oil'

 CCV   *ffa* 'storehouse', *kke* 'give (imperative)'

 CCVV, CCVN   *ssoi* 'white', *ssan* 'louse'

N stands for a phoneme /N/, or what is called a 'moraic nasal', realized as various allophones. The word-final coda, if any, is a moraic nasal. There is no non-nasal coda consonant that occurs in the word-final position.

3.1 Syllabification of (C)VV

Long vowels (aa, ee, oo, ii, uu) and vowel sequences ending in /i/ (ai, oi, ui) constitute one syllable. Sequences ending in vowels other than /i/ (au, ao, ae, oe, and so on) are split into two syllables.

(3) 2 syllables (hiatus)   1 syllable (diphthong or long vowel)

 /au/ Type A ka.U 'buy', KA.u-*WA* 'buy-DP' /ai/ Type A HAI 'ash', hai-GA 'ash-NOM'

 /ao/ Type A ka.O 'face', KA.o-*GA* 'face-NOM' /oo/ Type A KOO 'buy', koo-WA 'buy-DP'

Syllable boundaries are denoted by periods. The verb *kau* or *koo* 'buy' changes its pitch pattern as well as its syllable structure depending on whether the two vowels /au/ undergo vowel coalescence or not.

3.2 Syllabification of (C)VVN

When VV is a long vowel, VVN is syllabified as VV.N. Otherwise, VVN is syllabified as V.VN.

(4) VV.N   V.VN

 /ooN/ Type C ROO.n 'loan'   /aiN/ Type C de.ZA.in 'design' *DE.zain *de.ZAI.n

 /uuN/ Type C ba.RUU.n 'balloon' *BA.ruun /auN/ Type A KA.u-n-*KA* 'buy-NM-QP'

While a syllable with a three-mora rhyme is not permitted, a long vowel is never divided into two syllables. As a result, a nasal segment /N/ ends up constituting an exceptional syllable on its own.

Abbreviations

DP: Discourse particle NM: Nominalizing suffix NOM: Nominative particle QP: Question particle

References

Nitta, T. (2016) On the Geminate Consonants of the Antoh Dialect in Fukui Prefecture. *Journal of the Phonetic Society of Japan* 20 (1): 36-46.

Uwano, Z. (2012) Enukei akusento towa nani ka [what is an N-pattern Accent?]. *Journal of the Phonetic Society of Japan* 16 (1): 44-62.