

Lexical stress assignment in English trisyllabic verbs ending with *-ate* and *-ute*
by Japanese and Seoul Korean speakers

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Sugahara (2016) reported that Japanese speakers were more likely to place lexical stress on the stem-final syllable of trisyllabic verbs ending with *-at(e)* followed by the present participle/gerundive suffix *-ing*, e.g. *domináting* (c.f. *dóminating* as the correct one) than Seoul Korean speakers whose native language lacks lexical accent/stress. One of the possible interpretation of the result is that Japanese speakers are influenced by the pronunciation of Japanese loanword counterparts of the bare forms of those words, e.g. *do.mi.ne`e.to*, and apply the same accent pattern to the corresponding English verb stems. Another possible interpretation is that they tend to overapply the Latin accent rule to English suffixed verbs, which is influential in Japanese loanword phonology, too (Kubozono, 2006). The Latin accent rule states that the penultimate syllable is accented when it is heavy whereas the antepenultimate is accented otherwise, which is also known as English noun stress rule.

In order to verify those possibilities, we carried out a questionnaire experiment asking 57 Japanese and 19 Seoul Korean speakers to judge the location of stress in written English words. The words we tested were (a) 25 trisyllabic verbs ending with *-ate* or *-ute* without being followed by any suffixes, e.g., *dominate*, *prosecute*, and (b) 25 words in which verb stems are followed by *-ing*, e.g., *dominating*, *prosecuting*. If J speakers are influenced by the accent pattern of the Japanese loanword counterparts of the bare verb forms of those words, then they are predicted to prefer more stem-final stress not only in the suffixed forms but also in the bare verb forms than SK speakers. If J speakers overapply the Latin accent rule to suffixed words, then they will prefer more stem-final stress in the *-ing* forms than in the bare verbs.

The results are the following. As for the bare verbs in (a), both J and SK predominantly preferred initial stress. Nonetheless, J preferred more final stress than SK though final stress responses were minority for both the J and the SK speakers. The difference between J and SK in their response patterns was significant according to a chi-square analysis, and the analysis of adjusted standardized residuals showed that J significantly preferred more final stress than SK. This means that there is some language-specific factor that accounts for the difference between J and SK, and one possibility is that the J speakers are influenced by the accent pattern of Japanese loanword counterparts of those verbs. As for the comparison between the proportion of final-stress responses to bare verbs in (a) and that of stem-final responses to suffixed forms in (b), both language groups showed a rise from (a) to (b), which means that there is some factor operating in both language groups that induces such a rise. Nonetheless, the amount of the rise of the J speakers was greater than that of the SK speakers. Furthermore, J's proportion of stem-final stress responses to suffixed words in (b) whose bare verb counterparts in (a) received initial stress responses was greater than K's proportion of the same responses, and a chi-square test and adjusted standardized residuals showed that the difference was significant. This means that the factor that induces stem-final responses to (b) is more strongly operating in J speakers than in SK speakers, and we consider it to be the Latin accent rule (English noun stress rule) because it is also influential in Japanese loanword phonology. It would not be surprising if J speakers overapplied the familiar rule to English suffixed verbs. In conclusion, stress location judgment in a second language is influenced by native languages' lexical prosody grammar.

Kubozono, H. (2006). Where does Japanese loanword phonology come from? A case study of Japanese loanword accent. *Lingua*, 116, 1140-1170.

Sugahara, M. (2016). The influence of L1 lexical prominence systems on the judgement of stress locations in written English words: comparison between Japanese and Seoul Korean speakers. Poster presented at the 24th Japanese/Korean Linguistics Conference, NINJAL.