

## Prosody and morphosyntax in Basque and Japanese

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It has been pointed out that Basque and Japanese have some prosodic and morphosyntactic properties in common. Prosodically, Northern Bizkaian Basque and Tokyo Japanese are similar (Selkirk & Elordieta 2010): (i) both languages have a distinction between lexically accented and unaccented words; (ii) lexically accented words show a single culminative pitch accent in the surface representation:  $\omega(\dots H^*L\dots)\omega$ ; (iii) the distribution of a word-initial LH rise diagnoses the presence of the left edge of a phonological phrase ( $\varphi$ ):  $\varphi(LH-\dots)\varphi$ . Also it should be noted that Basque and Japanese have a wide dialectal variation in the accent/stress system.

Basque and Japanese also have some morphosyntactic properties in common (Saltarelli 1988; Hualde & de Urbina 2003): (i) head-final word orders (e.g. OV, postposition, genitive-noun, final adverbial subordinator, cf. noun-adjective in Basque), (ii) productive/recursive compounding, and (iii) agglutinativity.

These prosodic and morphosyntactic similarities in Basque and Japanese seem to suggest a possibility that we can derive these properties from the setting of a phonological parameter, which works as a parameter at the Externalization of morphosyntactic structure (cf. Chomsky et al. 2019). I argue that in addition to pitch accent, Basque and Japanese have some kind of strength at the word/phrase-initial position, which sets the word order as head-final at Externalization. The head-final order gives compounds and words strong juncture between their constituents, which results in productive/recursive compounding and agglutinativity.

As Basque and Japanese have a wide variety of accent systems, this proposal must be verified with careful investigations into their dialects, origins and historical changes. However, this study of similarities between Basque and Japanese sheds light on an interesting aspect of the prosody-morphosyntax interface.

### References

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