

On the voiced obstruent geminates in the Owase dialect (Mie Prefecture, Japan)

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In this presentation, I argue that, interestingly, voiced obstruent geminates (有声促音, *yusei-sokuon*) are found in the Owase dialect. Owase City is located in the southern part of Mie Prefecture, Japan, a part of the Tokai Region near Nagoya City.

As Ito and Mester (1995) and Kawahara (2015) indicate, the native phonology of Standard Japanese does not allow for voiced obstruent geminates. Kawagoe (2015) indicates that examples of voiced obstruent geminates are found in loanwords as in *beddo* ‘bed’ in Standard Japanese; however, patterns where the voiced obstruent geminates undergo devoicing are also found as in *beddo~betto* ‘bed’.

As mentioned above, Standard Japanese avoids voiced obstruent geminates. However, interestingly, voiced obstruent geminates are found in the Owase dialect. Voiced obstruent geminates appear in the *-yuru* forms of the consonant-stem verbs. The *-yuru* forms mean the progressive aspect. Table 1 indicates the examples of voiced obstruent geminates.

Table 1: *-yuru* forms with voiced obstruent geminates

Infinitive form	Gloss	<i>-yuru</i> form
<i>kog-u</i>	‘to row’	<i>koggyoru</i>
<i>oyog-u</i>	‘to swim’	<i>oyoggyoru</i>
<i>yob-u</i>	‘to call’	<i>yobbyoru</i>
<i>hakob-u</i>	‘to carry’	<i>hakobbyoru</i>

Takayama (2012) listed the Japanese dialects that allow for voiced obstruent geminates; however, the list did not include the Owase dialect. Therefore, this presentation refers to a novel discovery.

References:

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