

Where Lexical Distribution Meets Phonetic Realization

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Closure Voicing of Voiced Obstruent Geminates in Two Amakusa Japanese dialects

Summary

Following Kawahara's description on acoustic-phonetic realization of voiced geminates, we report on phonological distribution and phonetic realization of voiced geminates in Amakusa Japanese, a dialect spoken in south-west part of Japan. We demonstrate that the dialect has voiced geminates in Yamato and SJ items and (almost all) closure intervals of voiced geminates in Amakusa Japanese are fully-voiced. Our results will support claims by Kawahara.

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① Avoidance of Voiced Geminates

Voiced Geminates [VG] in Japanese Lexicon

- ▣ Yamato: [-VG]? (emphatic form: sugoi → suggoi)
- ▣ Sino-Japanese: [-VG]
- ▣ Foreign: [+VG] but devoiced

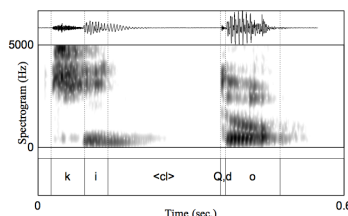
Phonological Devoicing

- ▣ baggu ~ bakku `bag'
- ▣ beddo ~ betto `bed'

② Half-Devoicing in VG

Half-Devoicing in VG (Kawahara 2006)

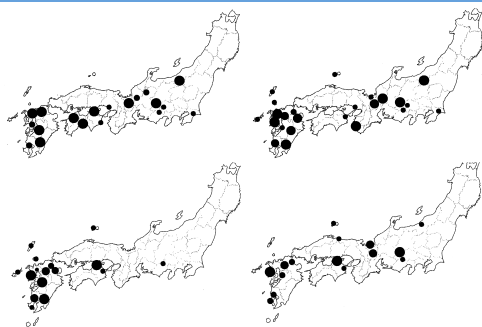
- ▣ Voiced geminates are half-devoiced in JP.
- ▣ Acoustic half-devoicing affects perception.



③ Voiced Geminates in Dialects

Geographical distribution of VG (Takayama 2012)

●=[+VG]



④ The issue

Amakusa Japanese

- ▣ A dialect spoken in South-west Kyushu
- ▣ reported to have VGs both in Yamato and Sino-Japanese lexicon.
- ▣ No reports of acoustic-phonetic description

Question

- ▣ Are VGs in [+VG] dialects (Amakusa) also phonetically half-devoiced?

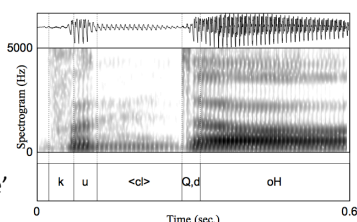
⑤ Major Findings

Lexical distribution

- ▣ Hondo: both Yamato and SJ have VG
- ▣ Ushibuka: only SJ has VG

Phonetic realization

- ▣ Almost all VGs are fully-voiced in both dialects.
e.g. kuddoo `will come'



⑥ Discussion

Lexical dist. correlates with phonetics

- ▣ Tokyo: Lexicon [-VG] : Phonetics [devoiced]
- ▣ Amakusa: Lexicon [+VG] : Phonetics [voiced]
- ▣ Supports Kawahara's claim

Prediction

- ▣ Amakusa Japanese does NOT have phonological devoicing.
- ▣ Speakers of AJ has different perception on VG (sensitive to voicing in closure?).