

## Prosody of the Sentences with Indeterminate Words in Nagasaki Japanese

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This study is a first look at the prosody of the sentences with indeterminate words (or “indeterminate pronouns (Kuroda 1965)”) in Nagasaki Japanese, such as *dai* ‘who,’ *doi* ‘which,’ *doko* ‘where,’ *itsu* ‘when,’ *nan* ‘what,’ and *dogan* ‘how.’ Firstly, we look at the tonal pattern of these indeterminate words. We then discuss how it interacts with the interpretation of these words.

Nagasaki dialect has two contrastive tonal patterns: Type A, which has pitch fall, and Type B, which does not have the fall (Hirayama 1951, Matsuura 2014). In this dialect, every word is assigned either Type A or Type B obligatorily. In most cases, it is determined lexically or through some phonological rules. The tonal pattern of the indeterminate words is, however, considered to vary with respect to their interpretation, or how it works in the sentence. For example, the indeterminate word *dai* must be accompanied by the suffix-*ka* (i.e., *dai-ka*) obligatorily when it occurs in the yes/no-questions, and then is interpreted as an existential quantifier. The indeterminates with the suffix-*ka* do not involve the fall in the polar questions, which means they are assigned Type B. On the other hand, the same *dai* occurs with the suffix *-mo* (i.e., *dai-mo*) to be licensed as an NPI in the negative sentences. The indeterminates with *-mo* show the pitch fall in the negative sentences so that the tonal pattern of them is considered as Type A. When it serves as a wh-phrase in the wh-questions, it is in the bare form, or can be accompanied by the case particle *-ga/-o* ‘nominative/accusative’ (i.e., *dai(-ga/-o)* ‘who’). The indeterminates (with *-ga/o*) also show the pitch fall in the wh-questions so that the tonal pattern of them is considered as Type A, too.

The next issue concerns how the interpretation of the indeterminate words interacts with the prosody of the sentences containing them. It is shown that in the wh-questions, the pitch peaks of the each words following the wh-phrase (i.e., indeterminate word (+ case particle)) are all compressed, and the distinction of Type A and Type B among them becomes vague. In the yes/no-questions and negative sentences containing the indeterminates, such a compression is not observed, and the distinction of Type A and Type B among them remains clear. It can be concluded that the interpretative differences among indeterminates affect the prosody of the words following them, interacting with the interpretation of the sentences.

### Selected References:

- Hirayama, Teruo (1951) *Kyuusyuu hougen ontyou no kenkyuu* [Studies in Kyushu dialect tone]. Tokyo: Gakkai no shishinsha.
- Matsuura, Toshio (2014) *Nagasaki hougen kara mita goontyoo no kouzou*. [Word prosodic structure from the perspective of Nagasaki Japanese]. Tokyo: Hitsuji shoboo.