

## **Tonal structure and stress patterns of English loanwords in Cantonese and in Japanese**

### Abstract:

This paper studies the tonal structures of English loanwords in Cantonese and the stress patterns of English loanwords in Japanese. Cantonese and Japanese are two languages receptive to loanwords from English. There are thousands of borrowings which are well-established and in everyday use. In the process of nativization, Cantonese and Japanese adopt different orthographical, phonological, morphological and syntactic modifications to borrowed words in order to aid their assimilation into the language. Some interesting phonological phenomena occurred in the process of nativization of lexical borrowings in the two languages. This is the first comparative study between English loanwords of the two languages.

In the literature, Yip (1993) studies English loanwords in Cantonese and argues that English language source forms and their Cantonese equivalents can be understood as the result of subjecting non-native inputs to the constraints that define well-formed Cantonese words. Cantonese speakers' perception of English source words is different from the perception of English speakers and the perceived input is checked by a group of ranked constraints and minimal adjustments are made to produce an output that is optimal with respect to those constraints. Koo & Homma (1989) have done studies in Japanese and suggest that borrowed words are reshaped to conform to the phonological constraints of the borrowing language. There are some related phonological phenomena discussed in the literature, such as truncation (Luke & Lau 2008), deletion and epenthesis (Yip 1993) in Cantonese; as well as Consonant Gemination (Koo & Homma 1989) and phonological changes of English loanwords in Japanese (Kay 1995). This paper tries to study the tonal structure and stress patterns of English loanwords in Cantonese and that in Japanese.

### References:

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