

Analysis of Tone and Function on conjunctions using the Corpus of Spontaneous Japanese

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In spontaneous speech, we use various kinds of intonation in order to convey a specific meaning and function. We focus on tone variation on the prosodic boundary, and examined the relationship between tone and discourse function of conjunction in this paper. In Tokyo Japanese, some conjunctions like /ga/, /ba/, /kara/ and /node/ are said that they don't basically have a lexical accent. It means that they show a falling tone followed by preceding words. However, they often convey a variety of tones at the end of prosodic boundary like a rising tone, a rising-falling tone or a falling-rising tone, which are more common in spontaneous speech. We would expect tones at the end of prosodic boundary have strong relation to specific functions, which is like a sentence-final particle. Tagashira-taniguchi and Maruyama (2010) suggested, based on a corpus analysis of /kara/ and /node/, that a rising and a rising-falling tone could show the end of scope of a focus phrase. On the other hand, Tagashira-taniguchi (2011) reported that a conjunction /ga/ uses three tones such as falling, rising and rising-falling, regardless of discourse functions. We verify these results that shows opposite ones at a glance, by examining prosodic factors. To put it concretely, the rate of F0 change, duration and timing of rising were measured. We analyzed a part of the *Corpus of Spontaneous Japanese* (Maekawa, 2003). We selected the 177 monologs in the *Core* data, which is about 39 hours. Detailed analyses on part of these data show that each conjunction divided into two groups each regarding the rate of F0 change, and that the difference concerned with the rate of F0 change could be associated with discourse functions.

References

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