Masahiko Masuda

Graduate School of Humanities, Kyushu University

Tone Sandhi in Suzhou Chinese

It is well known that Wu Chinese has tone sandhi which deletes tones from non-initial syllables and spreads the remaining tones to the whole word (Chen 2000, etc.). Some Wu dialects have another type of tone sandhi, named pattern substitution, which alternates underlying tonal patterns of initial syllables with other tonal patterns (Chan and Ren 1989, Chen 2000). This study investigates the psychological reality of pattern substitution rules in Suzhou dialects, one of Wu Chinese. Methodologically, this study examined whether pattern substitution is observed in novel loanwords that were created by the author. The result is that pattern substitution is certainly observed in these loanwords. This means that pattern substitution in Suzhou Chinese is caused by rules which are psychologically real.

References

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