

An Acoustic-Phonetic Investigation of Word Tone in Nagasaki Japanese

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The present study reports acoustic-phonetic characteristics of word tone in Nagasaki Japanese. Nagasaki Japanese has two contrastive word tones, that is falling type (Type A tone) and non-falling type (Type B tone) (Hirayama 1951, Sakaguchi 2001). According to previous studies, Type A tone is high-pitched on the second mora of a word, except in the case of two-mora words, where only the first mora has a high pitch. In contrast, Type B tone is high-pitched on the final mora of a word. However, these reports are based on auditory impression by researchers and no reports on acoustic realization of the dialect. I will report and discuss topics below based on results of acoustic experiments.

- (1) Does abrupt pitch fall occur only between second and third mora in Type A tone?
- (2) Does Type B tone high-pitched only in the final mora?
- (3) Are the peak F0 and valley F0 of Type A tone different from Type B tone?
- (4) Does Nagasaki Japanese have downstep?
- (5) Is pitch realization of Nagasaki Japanese sensitive to branching structure?