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Stress in Japanese Loanwords in English: Faithfulness or Adaptation?

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CONTEXT AND AIMS

- Hundreds of Japanese loanwords in everyday English with a borrowing process particularly significant in the 20th century.
- Background: Analysis within the morphophonological framework initiated by Lionel Guierre in the 70's, which aims at uncovering rules for stress placement for unaccounted parts of the English vocabulary.
- Aim: Survey of word stress patterns of Japanese loanwords in contemporary English, especially primary stress (/1/).
- Issues: Does English borrow from both the lexicon and the phonological structure of the source language? Does the location of the stressed syllable of the English item correspond to that of the accented syllable in the original Japanese word? (see similar studies based on Italian loanwords in 2012).

CORPUS BUILDING AND WORD STRESS PATTERNS IN ENGLISH

- Dictionary-based corpus extracted from the etymological data of the *Oxford English Dictionary* (OED).
- First extraction: 643 words.
- Data cleaning:
 - indirect loanwords with intermediate languages: 78 items (ex: *bonze* French/Portuguese/Japanese; *mondo* Latin/Japanese).
 - obsolete loanwords in contemporary English: 2 items (*mokum* and *wacadash*).
 - translations: 20 items (ex: *black belt*, *martial art*, *pillow book*).
 - complex words with Japanese bases and English suffixes: 27 items (ex: *ikunolite*, *kainic*, *Mikadoism*, *okadaic*).
 - hybrid loanwords: 4 items (ex: *happi-coat*, *Mikimoto pearl*).
 - alterations: 4 items (ex: *Godzilla/Gojira*, *moose/musume*).

⇒ Final corpus: **508 items (28 monosyllables)**.

→ Survey of /1/ stress location (British English) in three sources: *Oxford English Dictionary* (OED), *Longman Pronunciation Dictionary* (LPD) and *Cambridge English Pronouncing Dictionary* (EPD).

/01/	/10/	/01/-/10/	total
9	187	8	204
4,4%	91,7%	3,9%	100%
gobang sensei tycoon	bonsai haiku kana manga	banzai - banzai gaijin - gaijin Nikkei - Nikkei nisei - nisei	

Word stress patterns in disyllabic English words.

/-1/	/-10/	/(-)100/	/(-)1000/	variation	special cases	total
4	169	46	3	23	15	260
1,5%	65%	17,7%	1,2%	8,8%	5,8%	100%
jigotai shuriken	adzuki hara-kiri kakemono mikado	anime netsuke samisen samurai	Kamakura sewamono	aikido – aikido sashimi – sashimi Sudoku – Sudoku bushido - bushido	hanami (/ooo)/ hatamoto (/oooo)/ mokume gane shime-waza	

Word stress patterns in trisyllabic (and more) English words.

JAPANESE ACCENT PATTERNS VS ENGLISH STRESS PATTERNS: FAITHFULNESS OR ADAPTATION?

- The phonological systems of these two languages radically differ for Japanese is a pitch-accent language, which means that the pitch falls after the accented syllable, whereas English is a stress-accent language, whose stressed syllable is mainly characterized by a phenomenon of intensity (the aspiration of specific onset consonants being an excellent indicator).
- But the “prominence” of one specific syllable in both systems makes it possible to compare word stress patterns.
- The placement of the accented syllables of Japanese items is based on the transcriptions extracted from the romanized version of *Kenkyusha's New Japanese-English Dictionary* (1974) whose items are listed by alphabetical order.
- **Words excluded:** *jinriki-sha* → *jinrickshaw*; *musume* → *mousmé*; *mogusa* → *moxa*; *raku-yaki* → *raku*; *tenpo-sen* → *tempo...*
- **Limits:** problems related to the syllable structures of both languages which do not necessarily correspond (ex: *ryo* → *ryo*; *dairi* → *dairi*).
- 326 Japanese items identified.

- **Results:** the tendency favours a non-correspondence between the accented syllable of the Japanese item and the stressed syllable of the English one (especially in words of three syllables and more).
- **Conclusions:** the conservation of the location of Japanese accented syllables is not the determining factor of stress assignment of Japanese loanwords in British English.
- **Other factors:** - Syllable weight?
- A stress pattern common to all foreign words in English (i.e. /-10/)?

		no accent / stress Jp / Eng	correspondence Jp / Eng	partial correspondence Jp / Eng	no correspondence Jp / Eng
disyllables (Eng)	figures	70	48 (58%)	4 (5%)	31 (37%)
	%	46%	54%		
	examples	bonsai / bonsai zazen / zazen kanji / kanji	budo / budo ippon / ippon judo / judo	mikan / mikan (+/01/) nisei / nisei (+/01/)	bento / bento furo / furo kata / kata
trisyllables (and more) (Eng)	figures	104	15 (22%)	5 (7%)	49 (71%)
	%	60%	40%		
	examples	karaoke / karaoke kimono / kimono samurai / samurai shuriken / shuriken	gagaku / gagaku hiragana / hiragana kagura / kagura marumage / marumage	aikido / aikido (+/100)/ wasabi / wasabi (+/010/)	hijiki / hijiki ikebana / ikebana katana / katana uchiwa / uchiwa

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