VV- vs. V-final truncation of loanword compounds in Japanese

Ai Taniguchi (taniguc7@msu.edu)
Michigan State University

Loanword compounds in Japanese

- Long words in Japanese often undergo truncation
- Loanword compounds:

  (1) *pote*to-*sara*da 'potato salad' → *potesara*

- Least marked form is **2μ + 2μ**   (Ito 1990)
- Bimoraic template

New trimoraic truncation

- New pattern emerging in modern Japanese (Nishihara et al. 2001)

  (2) *mario-**kaa**to* 'Mario Kart' → *mari-**ka***   (**2μ + 1μ**)

- Trimoraic truncation = Fairly marked   (Ito 1990)
- Ban on final long vowel?

  mari-kaa✖

The phenomenon

(3) a. *denimu-ʃoo*tsu   'denim shorts'   → *deniʃoo*

b. *mobairu-**gee**mu*   'smartphone game'   → *moba**gee***

c. *bikutoriazu-**ʃii**kuretto*   'Victoria's Secret'   → *bikuʃii*

???

de

Variability: *deniʃoo or deniʃo?*

VV

V

Questions

1. What is the reality of the variability between VV- vs. V-final truncation for loanword compounds in Japanese?

2. What are the linguistic factors for the variability?

3. What are the sociolinguistic factors for the variability?

Method

- 16 native Japanese speakers
- Rated the acceptability of truncated forms of novel loanword compounds

Method

banana-sooda

A. *banana*   (back truncation)

B. *sooda*   (front truncation)

C. *banasoo*   (VV-final)

D. *banaso*   (V-final)

E. Other: _____

Japanese Loanword Truncation

21. バナナソーダ

バナナ
○ 不適切
○ 適切だが、自分ならそう略さない
○ 適切（自分ならそう略す）

ソーダ
○ 不適切
○ 適切だが、自分ならそう略さない
○ 適切（自分ならそう略す）

バナソー
○ 不適切
○ 適切だが、自分ならそう略さない
○ 適切（自分ならそう略す）

バナソ
○ 不適切
○ 適切だが、自分ならそう略さない
○ 適切（自分ならそう略す）

その他（最も適切な略語が上記にない場合・他にある場合）
[ ]

« 戻る   続行 »

Method

- Four truncated forms, plus option to provide own answer
- Ratings:
  - 0 = I cannot truncate it that way
  - 1 = I can truncate it that way, but it's not preferred
  - 2 = I can truncate it that way, and it's preferred

Selected examples

- *karaa **ʃoo**tsu*   'color shorts'
- *sherufu **suu**pu*   'shelf soup'
- *pureeto **vaa**jinia*   'plate Virginia'
- *toropikaru **pii**chi*   'tropical peach'
- *mobiritii **ree**daa*   'mobility radar'
- *hapinesu sapurimento*   'happiness supplement'
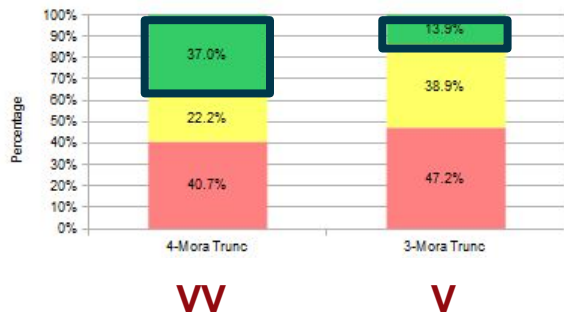- *poteto jaketto*   'potato jacket'
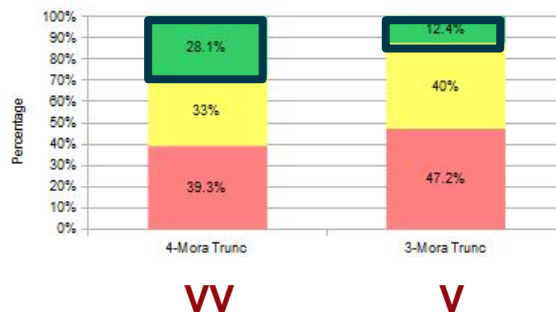
(n = 120)

Results

- **Linguistic variable**: C2 initial consonant

- **Sociolinguistic variable**: Speaker age

Results: Sonorant-initial

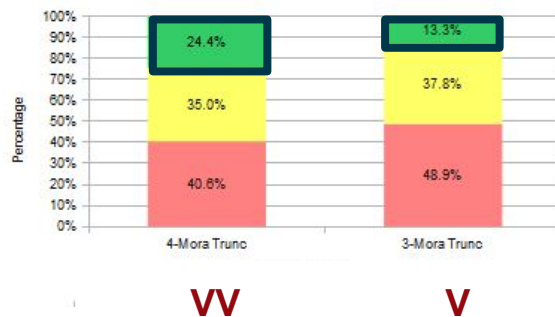**Students (18-24)**

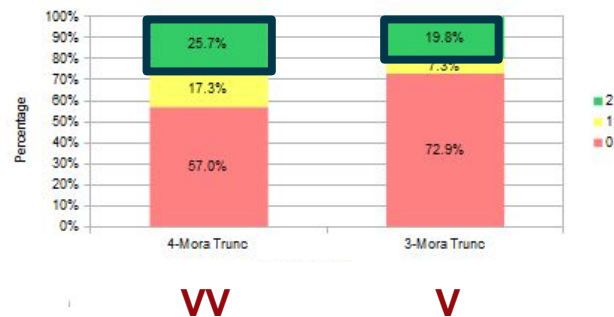**Younger adults (25-40)**

Older adults (41+)

Results: Fricative-initial

Students (18-24)

Younger adults (25-40)

Older adults (41+)

Results: Stop-initial

Students (18-24)

Younger adults (25-40)

Older adults (41+)

Results: Summary

- Overall, students and younger adults have a preference for VV-final truncation (about twice as much)
- However, this preference diminishes for compounds with stop onsets
- Older adults are overall neutral with respect to truncation form

Analysis: V- vs. VV-

- V-final truncation:

  *VV# ("Don't sound foreign") (Based on observation by Nishihara et al. 2001)

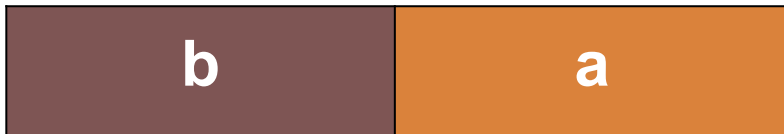- VV-final truncation:

  MINSTEM ("Minimal stem is bimoraic") (Based on MINWORD in Nishihara et al. 2001)

Analysis: The quirk of stops

- Oral stops:
  - Longest duration of following vowels

(Crystal and House 1988, VanSanten 1992)
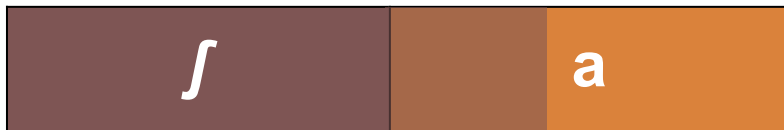
Constraint proposal

- Stop:

    V-PRES(ERVATION)   (Preserve vowel duration)

- Non-stops before V receive violation mark

Modeling the variation

- Partially ranked grammar (Kiparsky 1993, Anttila 1997, Anttila and Cho 1998)
- Some constraints are crucially unranked
- Different combinations of rankings are possible, with different winners
- Calculates probability of each winner

Partially Ranked Grammar

A >> C

B >> C

1. A >> B >> C
2. B >> A >> C

	A	B	C
Cand₁	*!		
→ Cand₂		*	*

	B	A	C
→ Cand₁		*	
Cand₂	*!		*

Proposal

- Older adults:
  - MINSTEM >> V-PRES
  - *VV# >> V-PRES

- Students and and young adults:
  - MINSTEM
  - *VV#
  - V-PRES   (Unranked)

Older adults: **Non-stop**-initial

denimu-ʃootsu	**MINSTEM**	***VV#**	**V-PRES**
→ deni-**ʃoo**		*	
deni-ʃo	*!		*

denimu-ʃootsu	***VV#**	**MINSTEM**	**V-PRES**
deni-ʃoo	*!		
→ deni-**ʃo**		*	*

Older adults: **Stop**-initial

mario-kaato	MINSTEM	*VV#	V-PRES
→mari-**kaa**		*	
mari-ka	*		

mario-kaato	*VV#	MINSTEM	V-PRES
mari-kaa	*		
→ mari-**ka**		*	

Students/ younger adults: **Non-stop-initial**

denimu-ʃootsu	**MINSTEM**	***VV#**	**V-PRES**
→ deni-**ʃoo**		*	
deni-ʃo	*!		*

denimu-ʃootsu	**MINSTEM**	**V-PRES**	***VV#**
→ deni-**ʃoo**			*
deni-ʃo	*	*	

denimu-ʃootsu	***VV#**	**MINSTEM**	**V-PRES**
deni-ʃoo	*!		
→ deni-**ʃo**		*	*

denimu-ʃootsu	***VV#**	**V-PRES**	**MINSTEM**
deni-ʃoo	*!		
→ deni-**ʃo**		*	*

denimu-ʃootsu	**V-PRES**	**MINSTEM**	***VV#**
→ deni-**ʃoo**			*
deni-ʃo	*!	*	

denimu-ʃootsu	**V-PRES**	***VV#**	**MINSTEM**
→ deni-**ʃoo**		*	
deni-ʃo	*!		*

Students/ younger adults: Stop-initial

mario-kaato	MINSTEM	*VV#	V-PRES
→mari-**kaa**		*	
mari-ka	*!		

mario-kaato	MINSTEM	V-PRES	*VV#
→mari-**kaa**			*
mari-ka	*!		

mario-kaato	*VV#	MINSTEM	V-PRES
mari-kaa	*!		
→ mari-**ka**		*	

mario-kaato	*VV#	V-PRES	MINSTEM
mari-kaa	*!		
→ mari-**ka**			*

mario-kaato	V-PRES	MINSTEM	*VV#
→mari-**kaa**			*
mari-ka		*!	

mario-kaato	V-PRES	*VV#	MINSTEM
mari-kaa		*!	
→ mari-**ka**			*

Conclusion

- Both VV-final and V-final truncation of loanword compounds are permitted in Japanese
  - Linguistic factor: Onset consonant
  - Sociolinguistic factor: Speaker age
- A complex picture of variability in truncation forms
- Tug-of-war of constraints

Future direction

- Nature of 50/50 variability
- Interaction with preferences for other truncation forms
- Vowel effects
- Other sociolinguistic variables
- Production study
- Relevance to other vowel-shortening phenomena

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Thank you!!

taniguc7@msu.edu

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