〔研究論文〕

Influences of Phonological Similarity and Word Frequency on a Translation Task by Vietnamese Students Learning Japanese

HOANG, Thi Lan Phuong (Graduate School, Nagoya University)

TAMAOKA, Katsuo (Nagoya University)

Summary

Although the Latin alphabet is used in modern Vietnamese, many kanji compound words were borrowed from Chinese, resulting in great phonological similarities with Japanese kanji words. A translation task from Japanese to Vietnamese of visually presented two kanji-compound words was conducted on 38 Vietnamese learners of Japanese. Although phonological similarity of the first kanji of two-kanji words decreased the rate of correct translation, higher word frequencies in Vietnamese and Japanese resulted in a higher rate of correct translation. The learners' richness of vocabulary also contributed to the rate of correct translation. Regarding reaction times, phonological similarity of the first kanji of two-kanji words delayed the processing time. However, whole word phonological similarity and word frequency in Vietnamese accelerated the processing. Multiple factors affecting processing time were observed including phonological similarity of the first kanji, vocabulary, phonological similarity of the whole word, and Japanese word frequency. Although the meanings of Japanese kanji-compound words are basically understood in Vietnamese, high word frequency in Japanese and high phonological similarity of words facilitate semantic access between both languages, resulting in quicker translation.

Key words : Vietnamese students learning Japanese, translation task, phonological similarity, word frequency, linear mixed-effects model