

The Usage Process of “Ko” “So” by Korean Learners of Japanese

INOMATA, Yukimi (Graduate School, Reitaku University)

Summary

This study aims to examine how native Korean learners of the Japanese language use the lexical forms “ko” and “so”, which are employed sequentially as a demonstrative and interjection, respectively. To this end, the International Corpus of Japanese as a Second Language (I-JAS) was examined, and the following results were obtained. Initially, the learners use “ko” when describing objects before them, shapes, or actions, while using “so” as an affirmative response. As their level increases, learners begin using both lexical forms in a wider variety of ways. In both cases, learners initially use the lexical forms expressively in immediate reference to the scene for which the forms are being used. Eventually, the usage expands, as learners begin utilizing them for their conversational functions. These results suggest that as the learners progress, they start contextualizing each instance of “ko” and “so” as appropriate. This leads to a more expansive range of usage and, ultimately, culminates in respective systems developing for each lexical form.

Key words : I-JAS(International Corpus of Japanese as a Second Language, Korean learners of Japanese, “ko”, “so”