Influencing Factors for the Understanding of Derivatives with Human Suffixes by Native Chinese Speakers Learning Japanese

YAMATO, Yuko (Osaka University)

TAMAOKA, Katsuo (Nagoya University)

CHU, Xiang Juan (Tianjin Foreign Studies University)

Summary

The present study investigated the influencing factors of the understanding for Japanese derivatives with suffixes related to humans by 200 native Chinese speakers learning Japanese. Four factors were set for predicting correct/incorrect answers by decision tress analysis: (1) Japanese and Chinese homographs or non-homographs, (2) four different suffixes related to humans, *–nin/zin/hito* (人), *–sya /mono* (者), *–in* (員), and *–ka* (家), (3) difficulty of base words, and (4) upper/middle/lower levels of reading comprehension. The result indicated that the factor of homographs or non-homographs between Japanese and Chinese was the main factor for predicting the understanding of derivatives. The difficulty of base words was the highest factor for homograph derivatives whereas a type of human suffixes was the highest factor for non-homographs. The level of reading comprehension was limited only to predict the understanding of derivatives within the specific suffix *–sya/mono*.

Key words : suffixes, derivatives, Japanese and Chinese homographs, native Chinese speakers learning Japanese, decision tree analysis