〔研究論文〕

Perception and Production of Japanese Pitch Accent and Their Prediction of Listening Comprehension:

A Case Study of Native Chinese Speakers Learning Japanese

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Summary

The present study investigated relations between perception and production of the four pitch patterns of Japanese, and their prediction of listing comprehension. Using 44 native Chinese speakers learning Japanese, three tests were conducted: (1) accent perception test for the pitch of 'noun + particle' aurally presented in phrases of 'noun + particle + verb', (2) production test of the same phrases, and (3) listening comprehension test. Participants showed a high accuracy in perception of correctly-accented items across all four pitch patterns, but they did poorly in perception of incorrectly-accented *odaka* pitch pattern. The same trend was observed in production of the same 'noun + particle' items. As in mastering tone accents in Chinese words, Chinese students also learn Japanese words with pitch accents as a lexical unit. Applying this lexical strategy, they must encounter many mistakes in the *odaka* pattern which requires the change in the particle after the target noun from high (H) to low pitch (L), as in *otooto-ga*, 'brother' + nominative particle produced as LHHH+L. There were no correlation and causal relations between perception and production of Japanese pitch accents. Perception of incorrectly-accented words, however, significantly influenced listening comprehension; sensitivity to incorrect accents contributes to the performance of listening comprehension.

Key words: pitch accent, accent types, perception, production, listening comprehension