

[研究論文]

The Understanding of Noun-Verb Compound Words by Native Chinese Speakers Learning Japanese

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Summary

Previous studies have broadly focused on the Japanese lexical and grammatical knowledge of native Mandarin Chinese speakers learning Japanese. However, only few studies have investigated the relationship of lexical and grammatical understating with the comprehension of Japanese noun-verb compound words. As such, the present study aims to address this issue by administering a Japanese lexical knowledge test (e.g., noun, verb, adjective, and function words), grammatical knowledge test (e.g., morphological inflections, local independency, complex structure), and a comprehension test for noun-verb compound words which are consisted of four types (i.e., subject-verb, object-verb, complement-verb, and no relationship between syntax and semantics). These tests were administered to 143 native Chinese speakers learning Japanese. The overall results of the study revealed that Japanese lexical knowledge was the chief predictor for the comprehension of noun-verb compound words, and that grammatical knowledge had no effect. Further analysis revealed that after dividing the participants into three groups (low, middle, and high) from the lexical knowledge test, two learning patterns emerged. While (i) the understanding of subject-verb and no relationship compound words improved with lexical knowledge (i.e., low<middle<high), (ii) the comprehension of object-verb and complement-verb compound words was only obtainable by learners with high lexical knowledge. Consequently, depending on the type of noun-verb compound word, low and middle level learners may not show improvement in comprehension until they have a high lexical understanding of Japanese. In conclusion, the present study illustrates that the influence of lexical knowledge onto the comprehension of Japanese noun-verb compound words by native Chinese speakers.

Key words : noun-verb compound words, Japanese lexical knowledge, Japanese grammatical knowledge, native Chinese speakers learning Japanese