

## Factors Affecting the Acquisition of Collocations by Native Chinese Speakers Learning Japanese

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### Summary

This study investigated the factors influencing the acquisition of the collocations for Chinese-Japanese hanzi/kanji homographs used as the objects of Japanese-originated (i.e., *wago*) verbs. Some collocations of *wago*-verbs with cognate objects are closely shared between languages. For example, the object-verb collocation of 誤解を招く [<sub>VP</sub> NP-ACC (*gokai-o* ‘misunderstanding’) V (*maneku* ‘lead to’)] in Japanese shares the same character (招) in the verb and the object (orthographically-similar cognate: 誤解 in Japanese 误解 in Chinese) in the objects as 招致误解 [<sub>VP</sub> V (*zhao1 zhi4* ‘lead to’) NP-object (*wu4 jie3* ‘misunderstanding’)] in Chinese. In contrast, while the collocation 注目を集める [<sub>VP</sub> NP-ACC (*tyuumoku-o* ‘attention’) V (*atumeru* ‘collect’)] in Japanese does not share the same character in the verb (Japanese: 集; Chinese: 引 and 起), the object (orthographically-identical cognate: 注目) expressed as 引起注目 [<sub>VP</sub> V (*yin3 qi3* ‘collect’) NP-object (*zhu4 mu4* ‘attention’)] is identical in Chinese. Fourteen collocations for each condition were created (28 in total), and their understandings were tested to 82 native Chinese speakers learning Japanese. A decision tree analysis was conducted to predict participants’ accuracies for six independent variables: (1) shared/nonshared verb characters, (2) collocational frequencies in Japanese (3) frequencies of *wago*-verbs in Japanese (4) frequencies of cognate objects in Chinese (5) frequencies of cognate objects in Japanese, and (6) high/medium/low Japanese proficiency level groups. The results indicated that Japanese proficiency level was the strongest factor predicting the acquisition of collocations. Furthermore, for the high proficiency group, collocational frequencies in Japanese influenced acquisition. For the middle and low groups, however, shared/nonshared-kanji was the second strongest predictor, and collocational frequency was the third strongest factor for shared characters. Consequently, homograph status only initially facilitates the acquisition of Japanese in *wago*-verbs.

Key words : native Chinese speakers learning Japanese, orthographically-shared hanzi/kanji characters between Chinese and Japanese, collocations, decision tree analysis