

2022-2023 COLLOQUIUM SERIES

Research Center for Language, Brain and Cognition
Graduate School of International Cultural Studies, Tohoku University

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November 29 (Tue), 2022, 16:30 - 18:00 JST
Room M204, Multimedia Education and
Research Complex, Kawauchi Kita Campus



Factorial typology of Japanese lexical and postlexical accents

A factorial typology in OT (Optimality Theory, Prince and Smolensky 1993) is the set of all grammars and languages predicted by a given set of constraints. If there are n constraints, there will be $n! = 1 \times 2 \times \dots \times n$ ("n factorial") different grammars (producing usually less than $n!$ different languages, since several rankings of the constraints often converge on the same language). Building on the descriptive work of Kubozono 2012, this talk will develop a factorial typology of the lexical and postlexical tone system of Japanese, focusing on the tonal microvariation in the Kagoshima dialects (Ito and Mester 2018). In the process, various prosodic issues of general import will arise, such as the prosodic hierarchy, syllables vs. moras as counting units and accent carriers, and the interplay of lexical and postlexical processes in a stratal organization of grammar (Kiparsky 2015).

Selected papers:

- Ito, Junko, and Armin Mester. 2019. Pitch accent and tonal alignment in Kagoshima Japanese. *The Linguistic Review* 36, 1-24.
- Ito, Junko, and Armin Mester. 2016. Unaccentedness in Japanese. *Linguistic Inquiry* 47, 471-526.
- Ito, Junko, and Armin Mester. 2009. Lexical classes in phonology. In S. Miyagawa and M. Saito, eds. *Handbook of Japanese Linguistics*. Oxford University Press. 84-106.
- Ito, Junko, and Armin Mester. 2003. *Japanese Morphophonemics: Markedness and Word Structure*. MIT Press.
- Ito, Junko, Armin Mester, and Jaye Padgett. 1995. Licensing and redundancy: underspecification in Optimality Theory. *Linguistic Inquiry* 26, 571-614.
- Ito, Junko. 1989. A Prosodic Theory of Epenthesis. *Natural Language and Linguistic Theory* 7, 217-260.
- Ito, Junko, and Armin Mester. 1989. Feature predictability and feature specification. *Language* 65, 258-293.

Bio: Dr. Junko Ito is a linguist with a research focus in phonological theory (study of speech sounds), as it relates to prosodic structure, lexical accent, and more recently, the syntax-prosody interface. Since her dissertation, which developed a prosodic theory of the syllable (onset/coda restrictions, and prosodic licensing), her work has been concerned with constraint-based phonological theory, specifically with an optimality-theoretic model of phonology. One empirical focus of her research has been the morphophonemics and prosody of Japanese, as it pertains to word structure and its phonological form. A secondary line of investigation concerns the structure of the phonological lexicon and its implications for the theory of grammar. Besides Japanese, languages analyzed in her work include Ancient Greek, Ainu, Danish, English, and German.

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