
Coercion in loanword adaptation

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Loan words are often adapted to fit the phonotactics of the borrowing language. Such adaptation is a phonological instantiation of coercion. We will present the results of a production experiment and a nonce word learning experiment with Japanese speakers.

Japanese has a very restrictive syllable phonotactics. Codas can only be nasals or geminates that are homorganic with the following onset. *Sphinx*, for example, is borrowed as [sɯfɪŋkɯsɯ] (Dupoux et al. 1999). The clusters are broken up by vowels. *Zeitgeist* is borrowed as [t̚s̚aitogaisɯt̚o]. The epenthetic vowel after t is [o]–not [ɯ]–for phonotactic reasons (Kubozono 2015). Perceptually the vowels are real (Dupoux et al. 1999). Kwon (2017) found that more proficient speakers of the host language adapt loans less.

We investigated the properties of the epenthetic vowels in production and whether they are used to store words in memory; both as a function of language experience. We will conduct two experiments, both in Germany and in Japan. In the first one, we will present Japanese participants with audio recordings of German bisyllabic nonce words with intervocalic consonant clusters that are illegal in Japanese (e.g. *okto*). The participants are asked to produce each nonce in a carrier sentence. The clusters are then phonetically analyzed to investigate whether there is a vowel and its quality. In the word learn experiment, we will associate the nonce words with fantasy animals. We will then investigate whether the nonce *okto* is stored as [okto] or as [okɯto]. We expect that the Japanese speakers in Germany are less likely to need coerced vowels than the ones in Japan.

References: • Dupoux, E., K. Kakehi, Y. Hirose, C. Pallier and J. Mehler (1999): Epenthetic vowels in Japanese: A perceptual illusion? In: *Journal of Experimental Psychology: Human Perception and Performance* 25(6), 1568–1578. • Kubozono, H. (2015): Loanword phonology. In: *Handbook of Japanese Phonetics and Phonology*, H. Kubozono (Ed.), Mouton de Gruyter. • Kwon, H. (2017): Language experience, speech perception and loanword adaptation: Variable adaptation of English word-final plosives into Korean. In: *Journal of Phonetics* 60, 1–19.

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