

Study of the internationalization of loanword's phonemes: Based on the results of recorded sound research Nationwide

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Foreign words in Japan are divided into *kango*, words of Chinese origin and words that were introduced after the arrival of missionaries. Japanese words from ancient times are called *wago*. The words that were introduced after the arrival of missionaries are called *gairaigo*, or loanwords which are words of European origin. 84% of *gairaigo* in Japan are borrowed from English (Kubozono: 2007).

Our study aims to view the changes of the loanwords' pronunciation based on the results of a recorded sound research nationwide and we analyzed the differences of the loanwords' pronunciation according to age and region. The Study on "Regional and Generational Gaps in the Sound of Dialects from All Japanese Islands" (Grant-in-Aid for Scientific Research (KAKENHI)), headed by Shinsuke Kishie started recording sounds from all over Japan from 2011 to 2013 and myself, Akemi Yamashita, the presenter, was involved in the study as a member of this group.

Over viewing the result of the changes of loanwords' phonemes by multivariate analysis, the young and the middle aged living in the western part of Japan leads in the introduction of foreign words with the original pronunciations. On the other hand, the seniors in the eastern part of Japan maintained the older typed pronunciation. The type of pronunciation in Kanto district including the capital Tokyo is in the middle between the eastern and western part of Japan.

Seeing more in details, for example, "two [tú:] ", "C [sí:] ", and "-tic [-tik] " "fi [fí] " show the approach to the original phoneme. In "bed [béd] " and "handbag [bæg] ", [betto] and [bakk(w)] still have a strong influence all over Japan. In the case of "whi [hwí] " and "wed [wéd] ", more than 60% of the respondents pronounced [wi] and [we] with the older typed pronunciation.

The study focuses on the differences between eastern and western Japan and among age groups in accepting *gairaigo* based on the analysis on current status of *gairaigo* pronunciation nationwide.