

The productivity of a root-initial accenting suffix, [-zu]: judgement studies

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Abstract In many languages affixes can assign accents on roots to which they attach. Some previous studies have claimed that accents assigned by affixes universally fall on syllables next to the affixes (Kurusu 2001; Revithiadou 2008). Kawahara and Wolf (2010) document a newly-coined suffix which counterexemplifies this generalization: the new Japanese suffix [-zu] assigns an accent on root-initial syllables. This paper reports five experiments that test the productivity of non-local accentuation of this suffix. The first three experiments show that given four-mora roots, Japanese speakers prefer initial accents in *zu*-words to those in monomorphemic words. However, when *zu*-words are derived from four-mora long roots, speakers prefer default antepenultimate accentuation to initial accentuation. The last two experiments using shorter roots show that speakers assign initial accents to *zu*-words more often when derived from shorter roots. Overall, the experiments support the initial accenting behavior of [-zu], contributing to the typology of affix-controlled accentuation.

Keywords Japanese · Accents · Preaccentuation · Locality · Experimental phonology

1 Introduction

1.1 (Non-)locality of affix controlled accentuation

Many languages have affixes that assign accents/stress onto the root. In most cases, an accent assigned to roots by affixes is local; i.e. prefixes assign a root-initial ac-

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