

Comments on Four Papers:

Hirose & Kitagawa

Jennifer Smith

Igarashi & Kitagawa

Norvin Richards

Haruo Kubozono

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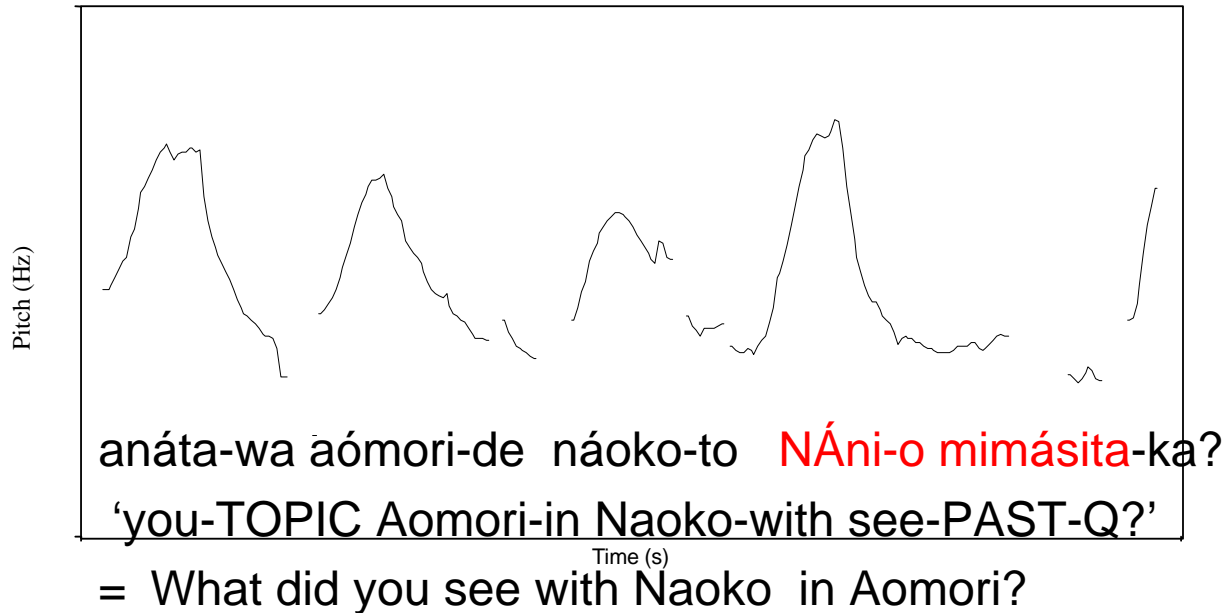
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Wh Prosody and Syntax

- Tradition: Production in Tokyo Japanese
- Perception/comprehension in Tokyo Japanese (Hirose & Kitagawa)
 - speaker-listener asymmetry, F0 & duration
- Other Japanese dialects (Igarashi & Kitagawa; Smith)
 - generalization of ‘post-focal restraint’
- Beyond Japanese (Richards)
 - cross-linguistic generalization as to a condition on Wh prosody.

Wh focus and Post-focal compression of pitch



Question 1 accent deletion or phonetic reduction?

- If it is a phonological accent **deletion**, lexically unaccented words/phrases in the post-focal position should not be affected; sentences with lexically accented and unaccented words in this position should be intonationally neutralized.
- If it is a phonetic **reduction** in pitch (range), lexically unaccented words should be equally affected; they should not be neutralized with lexically accented words.
- Compare ‘Wh+unaccented words’ with ‘Wh+accented words’ as well as ‘non-Wh+unaccented words’.
- Cf. nónde míru ‘drink-see=attempt to drink’
nónde iru ‘drink-be’=‘is drinking’



Question 1' Osaka Japanese

- Tokyo

NAni-o nomimasu-ka?

‘what (do you) drink?’

NAni-ka nomimasu-ka?

‘(Do you) drink anything?’

- Osaka

nani-O nomimasu-ka?

naNI nomu?

naNI-ka nomimasu-ka?

naNIka nomu?

Sugito (200?): intonationally indistinguishable.

- No post-focal reduction in Osaka Japanese?



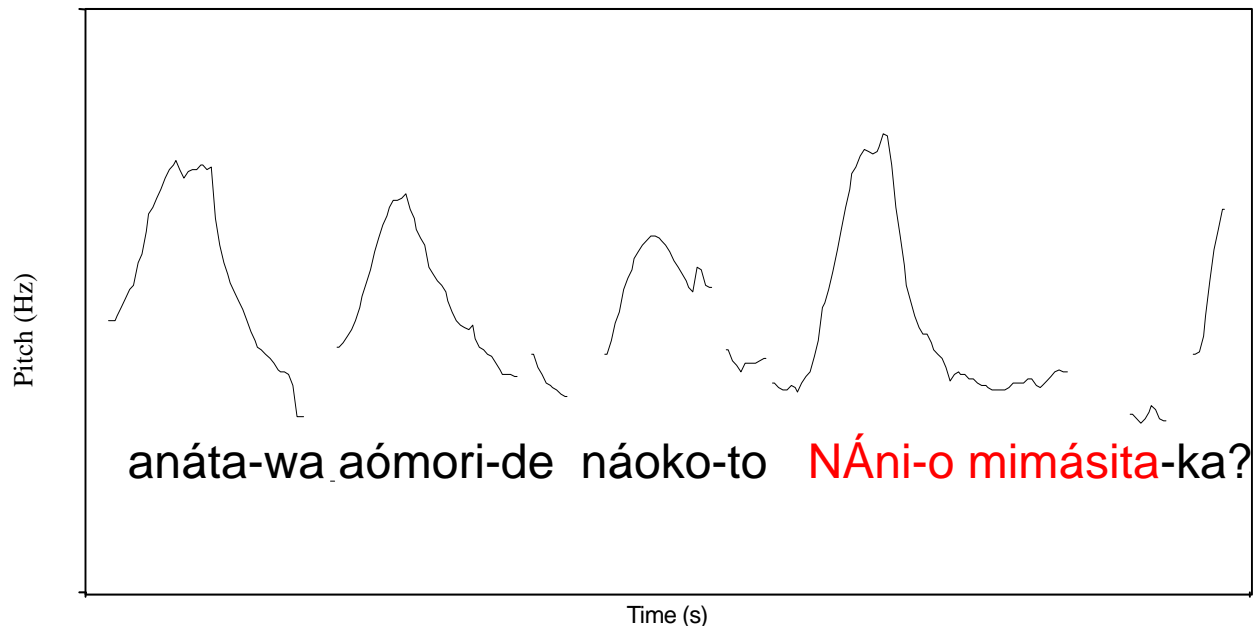
Question 2: prosodic phrase

- Popular interpretation: syntactic Wh domain coincides with a prosodic domain.
- What is this prosodic domain?
- Wh domain=Major Phrase (=intermediate phrase)?
- Pierrehumbert & Beckman (1988), Selkirk, etc.
- vs. Kubozono (2005), Kubozono, Kitagawa & Yoshida (morning session)

If post-focal pitch compression=accent deletion

- Wh domain may be Minor Phrase

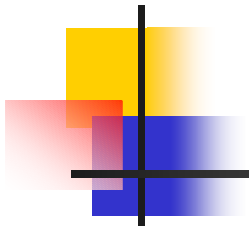
(MiP=domain of **initial rise**, domain where at most one **lexical accent** can be realized)





Question 3: Phrasing?

- Does ‘phrasing’ correctly capture the Wh domain?
- Is phrasing the only (right) way of explaining Wh prosody?
- Cf. Kubozono, Kitagawa & Yoshida
- Focus prosody may be independent of intonational phrasing (cf. Ishihara 2005).



Thank You