

Japanese names truncation

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Abstract

In this thesis, I will study Japanese name truncations. I will mainly focus on given names' truncation and family names' truncation with diminutive. Firstly, as a comparison, I will refer to truncation in English according to Plag (2003). Secondly, I will study Japanese female name truncations. I will classify this truncation into two groups: one is the truncation with diminutive 'chan' and another is the truncation with diminutive suffixes. In chapter III, I will study family names. As well as names' truncation, I will classify this truncation two by diminutives. In chapter IV, I will compare these truncations. At first, I will compare two given names truncation and next, compare two family names truncation. Finally, I will compare given names and family names truncation. In this thesis, I will refer to Japanese truncation from the morphological structure and phonological points like the relation of vowels and consonant or a glottal stop and long vowels. In the last chapter, I will compare Japanese truncation with English truncation to make clearer the characteristic of Japanese truncation.

Suffixes of Place Names in Asia

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Abstract

English has many suffixes that attach to place names to derive nouns denoting the people of that place. I have wondered how English speakers choose a certain suffix for a certain place name from the many suffixes that have the same function. I researched five major suffixes *-(i)an*, *-ite*, *-ese*, *-er*, and *-i* and tried to find conditions and restrictions. In my research I focused on city names in Asia because I expected it might be possible to know the productivity of each suffix although the languages used in Asian countries are very different from English, and the geography and culture are also very different from those of English spoken countries. I used the Internet to find out the productivity of each suffix and compared them with the results of American cities researched by Oishi (1995) and considered if there are any difference between suffixes used for Asian city names and American city names. As a result, I found the two most important factors to choose a suffix for certain place names to refer to the people of that place: the phoneme of the end of the place name and the geography and culture of that place to choose a suffix.

A Study of the Prefix *mis-*

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Abstract

In this thesis, I will examine the attachment of the prefix *mis-*. First, we will examine the general property of the prefixes. Although the prefixes do not change the bases' syntactic categories, they seem to decrease the bases' syntactic categories. Secondly, we will examine the prefix *mis-* in detail from five points of view: historical, phonological, morphological, syntactic and semantic aspects. We will find out that the prefix *mis-* should be researched more deeply from semantic and syntactic points of view. Moreover, we need more detailed research about the order of the semantic and syntactic restriction.

Historically we will find that the origin of the prefix *mis-* is both Germanic and Latinate. The prefix is more productive than foreign prefixes because it is prefixed to native as well as foreign stems. Moreover, there is no phonological restriction on the initial vowels and onset consonants for *mis-* prefixing although there are some gaps. In addition, there is no restriction on the number of syllables that a base may have. Although the prefix *mis-* basically adds the meaning 'wrongly', 'badly', 'unfavorably', some of it add the negative meaning to the base. Moreover, the prefix seems not to negate something bad or undesirable. The attachment of the prefix *mis-* also decreases the bases' syntactic categories and bases' usage in a sentence.

Japanese blends rules

-ゴジラ or クリラ?-

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Abstract

In my thesis, I will discuss “blends” in Japanese, which are new words created by combining two or more words with truncations of phonetic and morphological material. When creating blends, affixations of meanings and phonological and morphological truncations happen. For example, “brunch”, in which “breakfast” and “lunch” are combined. I would like to find out rules and restrictions of Japanese blends. As a same point of Japanese blends and English ones, there is “AD rule”: first part of first element and the last part of second element are combined, other parts are null. By the way as a Japanese popular blend, there is “ゴジラ”. “ゴジラ” is a mixture of “ゴリラ” and “クジラ”. But, why must “ゴリラ” be first? To solve the problem “how are bases ordered?” Japanese abbreviated compounds are also mentioned. Using the law of stress, I imagine the new blends rules are “stress rules”. The stressed part of the base might be kept in blends? However, there is another restriction. It is about meaning. The second new blending rule is “meaning rule”. Which is the strongest rule “AD rule”, “stress rule” or “meaning rule”?

“Ordering Paradox”

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Abstract

I have researched the “Ordering Paradox” of word-formation in morphology. When we form a derived word from a base-word, we attach affixes to the base-word. According to Siegel (1974), such affixes are classified into two classes: Class 1 and Class 2. A “Level Ordering Hypothesis” was proposed in which Class 1 affixes attach to the base-words before Class 2 affixes. Siegel’s Ordering Hypothesis made derivation clearer, and blocked some lexically incorrect words as ill-formed words. For example, by the Ordering Hypothesis, we can regard *courageousness* as correct and regard **couragenessous* as incorrect because the latter does not follow the Level Ordering: Class 2 suffix *-ness* should be outside of Class 1 suffix *-ous*. However, there are several counterexamples which do not follow the Ordering Hypothesis even though they are lexically acceptable words. Such counterexamples are called the “Ordering Paradox”. In several types of the Ordering Paradox, I have researched the “Class 1 prefix– X –Class 2 suffix” type like *reconsideration*, and the “X –Class 2 suffix –Class 1 suffix” type like *civilization*. Both types are famous counterexamples, and many scholars have tried to resolve these Paradoxes. In order to solve the former type, some scholar state “familiarity” between a base-word and an affix. However, this is a very ambiguous theory. So, I have tried to solve them by using the ‘Google ngram viewer’. On the other hand, to solve the latter type, I have used the “Back Suffixation” which is proposed by Iwanaga (1984). Though it is difficult to solve whole Ordering Paradox, these two have shown a possible solution to the Ordering Paradox.

SUFFIXES EXPRESSING MUSICAL INSTRUMENT PLAYERS

“-ist” AND “-er”

Tomohiro Morioka

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Abstract

As a suffix, we choose either “-ist” or “-er” when we mean a word expressing musical instrument player in English. What is the condition of choosing that? For example, why don’t we say “*drummist” when we mean “drum player”? First, I defined the suffixes and considered the functions of them from some morphological view points, phonological, semantic and syntactic structures. Next I researched a lot of words expressing musical instruments by *Oxford Thesaurus of English Second edition* and I analyzed them for the issue. I thought that the condition was based on base’s category of a derivative; the bases of “-ist” derivatives were nouns and “-er” derivatives were verbs, and verbs expressing musical instruments were formed by conversion. But, it was unnatural from a standpoint of historical facts in word-formation in OED. The order of word-formation was noun, derivative and verb in many cases of “-er” though it should be noun, verb, and derivative in my hypothesis. Then, I concluded that it was spontaneous that verb forms came from back-formation because of word-formation ordering. As a result of my research, I found that verb form of musical instruments was made by back-formation from derivatives although I could not find the condition except for the way of historical difference that was already mentioned by scholars.

Breakpoints of Portmanteau Words

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Abstract

I will discuss the breakpoints in the different types of blend words. In short, I will discuss the division between A and B, and C and D. Plag states that A is the onset of the first word, B is a rime of the first word, C is the onset of the second word and D is the rime of the second word. It's the rule, $AB + CD \rightarrow AD$. The most type blend is truncated between the onset and the peak. However, there is blend truncated between the onset and the peak and the coda, and blend without a subtraction process in a word, i.e. they have no B or C. Additionally, and there are some different types. The portmanteau word has the structure AC instead of AD. Moreover, English words are composed of onsets, nucleus, codas and rimes. And each part is the minimum constituent forming words. However, some blends involve dividing consonant cluster or vowel and they are composed of a part of onset or a part of peak.

I will examine the structure of each blend, how they are derived and discuss what sort of restrictions, either phonological, morphological, or semantic, may apply.

Argument Structure and Inheritance:

The suffix “-er” and its derivation

Shizu Tomoharu

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Abstract

Predicates (verbs, adjectives) decide how many arguments (subjects, objects) a sentence has and also decide functions of the arguments taking the role for predicates. The functions of arguments linking to predicates are called “theta-roles”, for example, Agent, Theme, Location, Goal and Source. According to Randall (1988), whether the suffix can inherit the argument structure of verb base or not is decided by the characteristics of the suffix. For example, the suffixes that change category of base can inherit only some parts of argument structure. Of these suffixes, this thesis considers the suffix “-er” and will look into argument structure and the inheritance.

The suffix “-er” is divided two parts: the case of expressing Agent and Instrument. The suffix inherits argument structure in the case of Agent but does not inherit argument structure in the case of Instrument. This thesis will attempt to find out why the difference of argument structure arise between “-er” nouns that means Agent and Instrument. In order to do so, this thesis will discuss the characteristics of the suffix and compare the inheritance. And finally, taking Shimamura’s idea, the difference between Agent and Instrument is discussed.

Truncations of Japanese names

- How Truncated Names are Composed

TERAKURA Rie

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Abstract

In this thesis, I will discuss truncations of Japanese names. In my class, I have studied word formation and I am interested in truncations in English, especially truncated names and diminutives. When we call names among our families and friends, we use truncated names or diminutives to express familiarity. Syllables and stress relate to truncation system. There are some restrictions and rules to make truncated names in English. Does Japanese have the same kinds of truncation rules? In Japanese there are many words to show familiarity, for example, “chan” and “kun”, which are attached as suffixes. Furthermore, in Japanese family names are also truncated. In Japanese, the “mora” is the basic unit of word structure. English and Japanese have similar and different points. Both have the stage that is truncation only, addition only and truncation and addition. In English –y diminutives and in Japanese additional words have the same functions. To make truncated names, the rules and restrictions in Japanese are considered. For the future I expect more additional words and truncations rules are increased.

How English Loanwords are Adapted in Japanese

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Abstract

This thesis examines how English loanwords are adapted in Japanese from four different aspects, phonologically, morphologically, semantically and syntactically. Loanwords are seldom used in their exact pronunciations, forms, meanings or functions, but instead they morph accordingly in order to adapt to the native linguistic and cultural context. The first chapter observes the phonological change that occurs when loanwords are transcribed in *katakana*. While *katakana* enables any foreign word to be transcribed in Japanese, pronunciation discrepancies are unavoidable due to the different sound systems between English and Japanese. The second chapter describes the morphological changes of loanwords. Loanwords are often abbreviated for the purpose of shortening a word, or combined in order to create new terms. These changes are influenced by the abbreviation and compound patterns of Japanese words. The third chapter demonstrates the semantic changes and creation of coined terms. Several loanwords have altered their meanings or granted new and unique meanings that are affected by the Japanese point of view. The final chapter shows how loanwords are actually innovated in Japanese sentences. Loanwords are simply adapted by attaching Japanese affixes. The adoption of loanwords is crucial and indispensable to the enrichment of contemporary Japanese vocabulary and will continue to prevail and evolve.