

Compound loanword accentuation by English-speaking learners of Japanese:

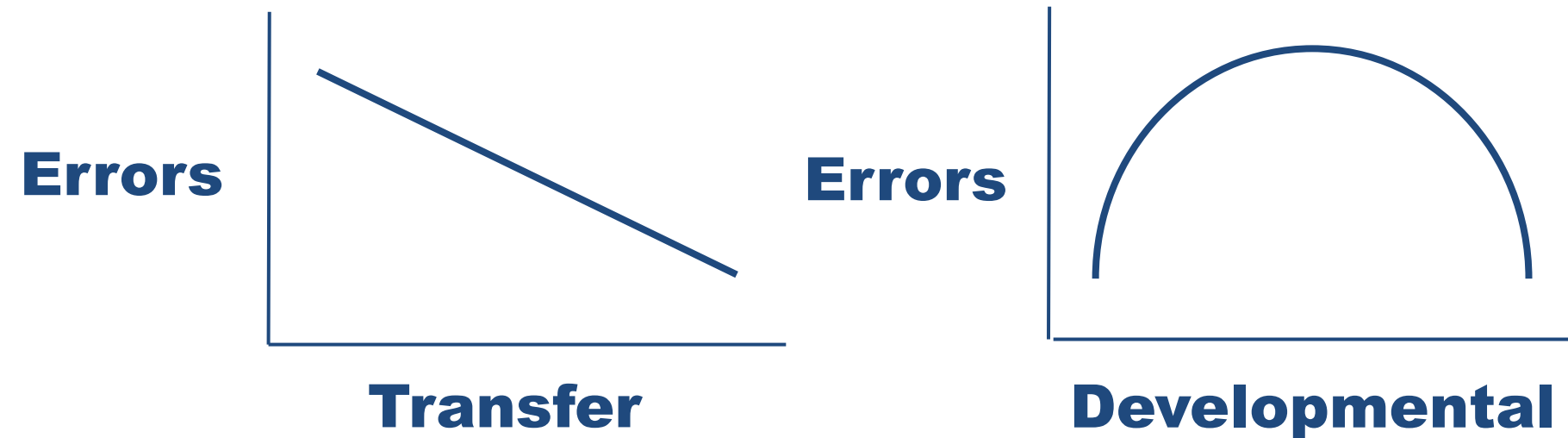
How do learners form their interlanguage prosody?

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INTRODUCTION

There are two types of error in interlanguage phonology (Major's Ontogeny Model, 1987):



AIM

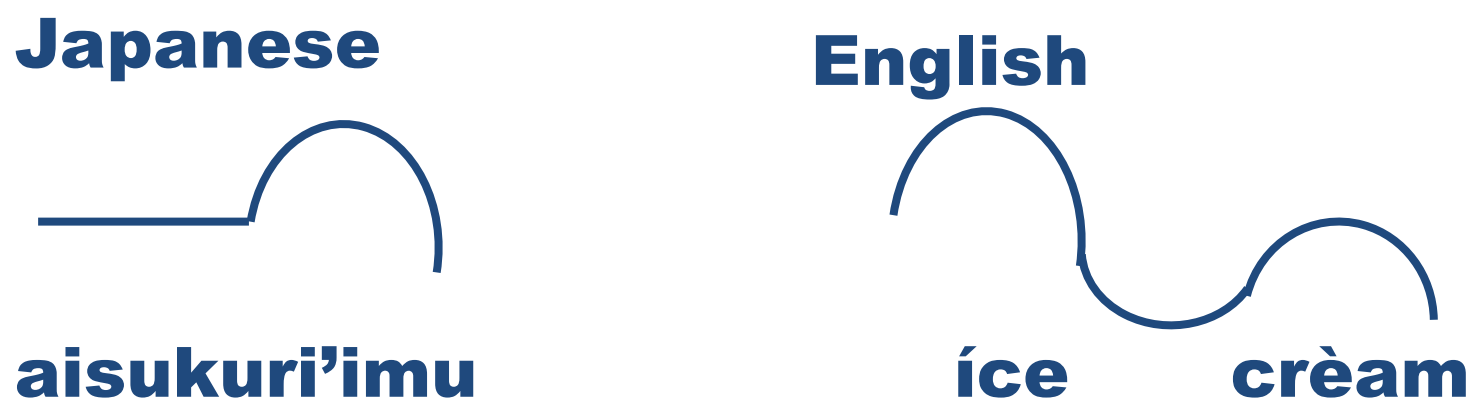
To examine how learners manipulate pitch to realise Japanese accent on compound loanwords in ①perception and ②production

BACKGROUND

Loanword accent

About 30% of English loanwords in Japanese differ in accent locus from the corresponding original English words (Shibata, 1994; Kubozono, 2006).

Pitch contours of compound nouns



REFERENCES

Kubozono, H. (2006). Where does loanword prosody come from? A case study of Japanese loanword accent. *Lingua* 116, 1140-1170.
Major, R. (1987). Foreign Accent: Recent Research and Theory. *International Review of Applied Linguistics* 15, 185-202.
Shibata, T. (1994). On the location of accent in loanwords. In Sato, K. (Ed.). *Studies on Modern Dialects*. Meiji Shoin: Tokyo.

① PERCEPTION

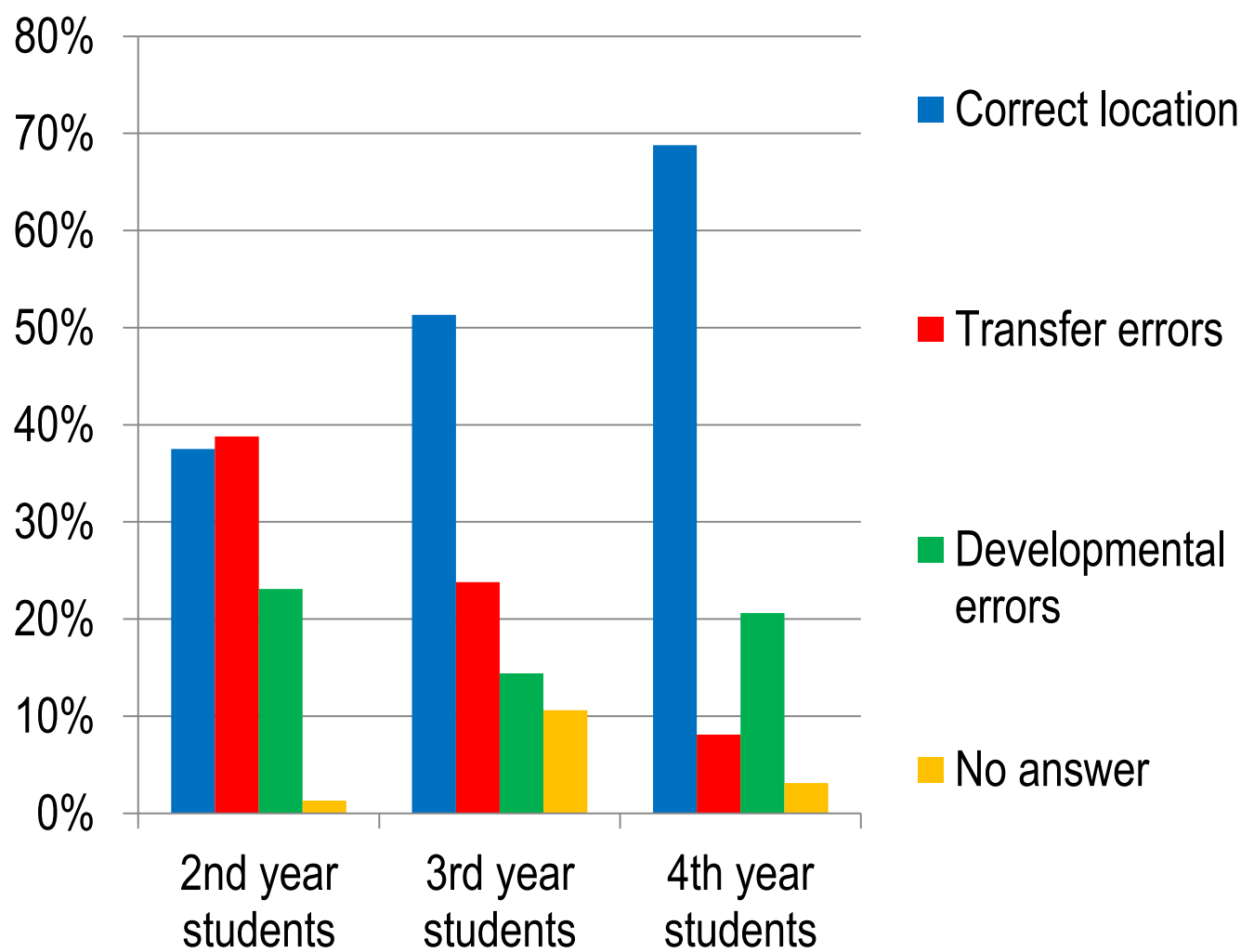
Identification task

16 L1 English learners of Japanese looked at 16 pictures and heard three stimuli corresponding to each picture. The stimuli were compound loanwords whose accent was assigned to different positions of each word. The learners were asked to indicate which of three was the most appropriate as a Japanese accent.



Results

The stimuli which have an accent on the first element of compounds attracted 2nd year students.



The longer the learners study, the fewer transfer errors they make.

② PRODUCTION

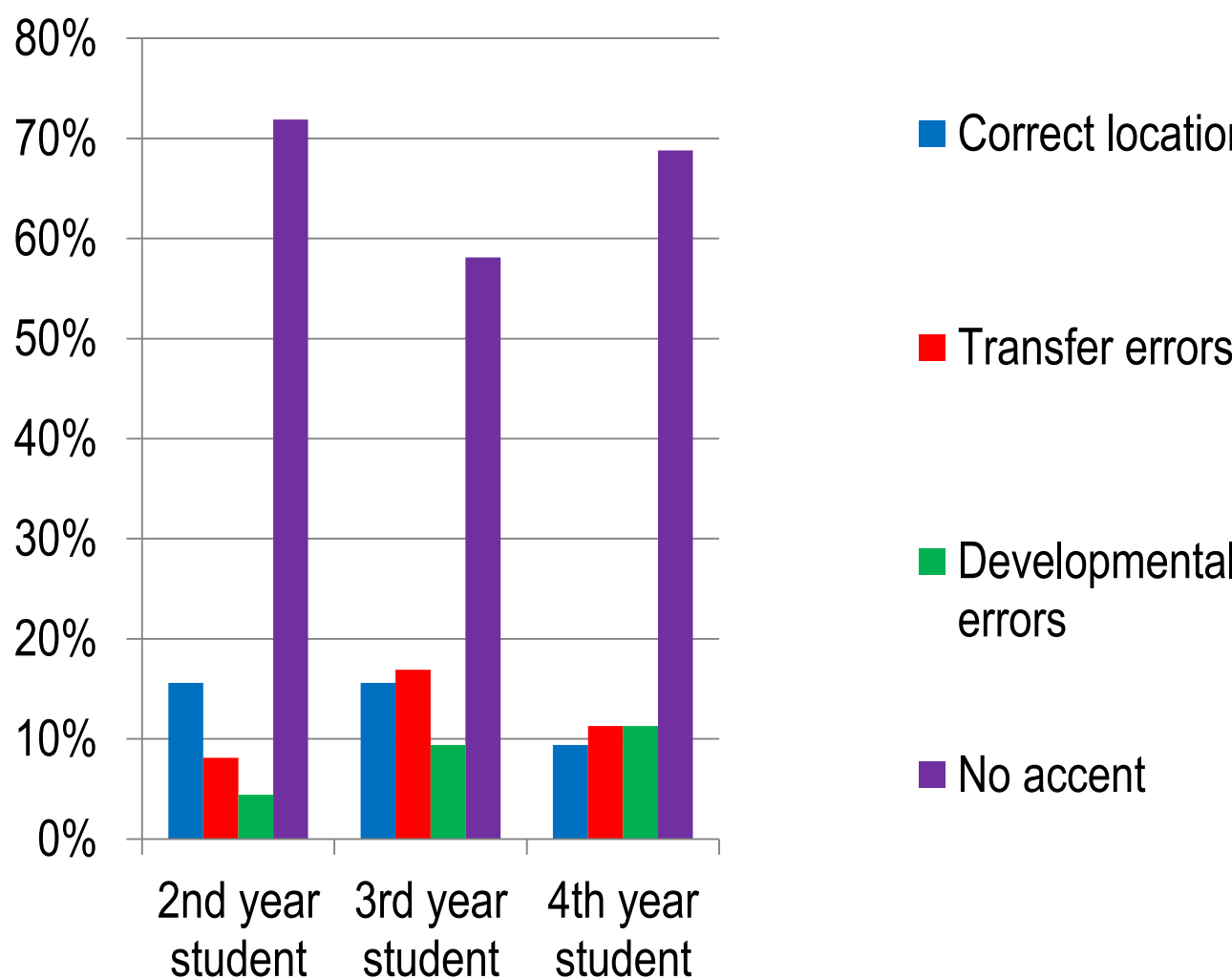
Picture naming task

The learners looked at the same pictures as were used in the identification task and named each picture.



Results

The learners seemed to pronounce each syllable carefully, but their pronunciation sounded monotone.



Regardless of the length of study, L1 transfer can hardly be observed in production.

DISCUSSION

- ① The learners who have more exposure to L2 become able to perceive pitch accent more accurately.
- ② Many learners tend to produce compound loanwords without a pitch accent.



Although they become aware of the differences between loanwords and the original English words, it appears difficult for the learners to produce the loanwords with accurate accent.