

言語理論と第二言語習得：日本人英語学習者のwh移動の習得

Linguistic Theory and Second Language Acquisition: The Acquisition of Wh-movement by Native Speakers of Japanese

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Within the Minimalist Program (Chomsky, 1995, 1998), overt movement is only allowed when it is motivated by the presence of a formal feature. In wh-question formation

and relativisation, it is assumed that English and Japanese vary in the feature specification of functional category C determining how their properties are realised. In English, wh-questions have the features [+wh, +Q] and relative clauses the feature [+R] in C. In Japanese, there is no feature-driven movement due to the lack of such features (Takeda, 1999).

Given these differences, a question in (adult) second language acquisition (SLA) research is whether or not Japanese speakers can acquire different feature specifications of functional category C in English on the basis of the evidence they receive from the input. Previous studies have suggested

that speakers of Japanese or Chinese may acquire them because some are sensitive to subjacency violations on wh-movement, but the results are mixed.

This study examines the extent to which Japanese speakers are sensitive to subjacency violations to see if they can acquire feature-driven movement, considering the nature of the operator (wh-Q or relative) and the island from which it has been extracted (complex NP, adjunct etc). Participants, as well as native English controls, performed a grammaticality judgement task. To test the potential effect of the experimental subjects' L1, another grammaticality judgement task with equivalent sentences in Japanese was given to a different group of native speakers of Japanese.

The results showed that advanced Japanese learners acquired wh-movement in English because they could correctly interpret the morphological properties of questions and relative clauses and were sensitive to local violations on wh-movement in the same way as native English speakers.