

## **The structure of diversified language usage in metropolitan Tokyo: Analyses using large-scale data base for word accent**

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Some analyses utilising a large-scale database are shown in view of diversified language usage.

Present day urban residents use a language which is rich in variation in many aspects including word accent. In Tokyo, residents from outside retain their native dialect's word accent. On the other hand people born and bred in Tokyo don't always agree in word accent. (eg. "kuma"(a bear) is pronounced both in low-high tone and in high-low tone)

The accent system as a whole is stable but speakers tend to pronounce individual words in different accents. According to a survey preceding "Dictionary of tone accent in Tokyo dialect"(DTWTD), 17 thousand words out of 80 thousand words contained in a small dictionary found disagreement in word accent between two Tokyoite speakers.

Our ultimate goal is to clarify why the diversity of Tokyo word accent exists, what kind of words are pronounced in multiple word accents and what kind of speakers have unique word accents. We have attained it partly.

DTWTD is a database which recorded the diversity of Tokyo word accent. It contains 19 speaker's complete responses of 13 thousand words which have several accent patterns. They were native in Tokyo and chosen so as to be balanced in area (uptown/downtown), age and sex. DWTWD is unprecedented in its scale (13 thousand words) as a source of useful information on linguistic diversity in Tokyo. It appeared in printed format in 1985 and had been so for 28 years, but was digitized into excel format in 2013. Consequently handling the whole data with a computer was made easy.

Using DWTWD, we describe types of fluctuation in word accent according to character of words (verb, noun, number of syllables etc.). The speakers are broken down into subgroups according to response patterns. The subgroups' characteristics and their favorite accent patterns show the direction of linguistic change.