Tone Patterns of the Loanword Compounds in South Kyungsang Korean

There has not been a full investigation on the tone patterns of loanword compounds in South Kyungsang Korean (SK) so far. In SK, there are many compounds consisting of two words that each word has different language origin e.g. [English Word+Sino-Korean Word (SKW)] [EW+Native Korean Word (NKW)], [EW+Japanese Word (JW)], [SKW+EW], [SKW+NKW], [SKW+JW], [NKW+SKW], [NKW+EW], [NKW+JW], [JW+EW], [JW+NKW], [JW+ SNK], … etc. In this research, we will investigate how the tone pattern of a word interacts with that of the other in these compound construction processes. Some SK loanwords may not have underlying (UR) tone patterns due to the prosodic structure of their base languages e.g. English, thus, we posit the SK tone patterns imposed on these loanwords when these loanwords are adapted into SK pitch accent system as their UR tones in these compound construction processes.

(1) SK Compounds and Their Tone Patterns (sample data, Boldfaced H indicates the accent clash)

a. ol [EW] H + d3anse [SKW] HL → [old3anse] LHL ‘100% deposit only rent’
b. p3ok4h4an [SKW] HH + seil [EW] LH → [p3ok4h4anseil] HHLL ‘huge sale’
c. tepak [NKW] LH + pokkin [SKW] HH → [tepakpokkin] LHHH ‘big abdominal muscles'

In (1a), an English word all [ol] H combines with a Sino-Korean word 傳 賰 [d3anse] ‘100% deposit only rent’ HL. All English loanwords have a pitch accent due to the SK constraint that a prosodic domain must have a H tone (Lee & Davis 2009). The following disyllabic SKW [d3anse] HL has an initial accent and this causes the accent clash (Kim 1988) with the accent of the previous EW all [ol] H. The previous accent of the EW deaccents into L tone, thus, this compound results in LHL tone pattern. In (1b), a SKW 爆 弹 [p3ok4h4an] ‘bomb’ HH combines with an EW sale [seil] LH. This combination has HHLL tone pattern because SK cannot have two accents in a prosodic domain like *HHLH (Lee & Davis 2009, Lee 2011). In (1c), a NKW [tebak] ‘great’ LH combines with a SKW 腹筋 [pokkin] ‘abdominal muscles’ HH, and the combination results in LHHH. In (1d), a Japanese word [tok’jo] ‘Tokyo’ HH combines with an EW dome [tom] H (accented) and this results in HHL because SK prohibits monotone patterns like *HHH (as well as two accent *HLH) in a prosodic domain. The compound tone patterns of (1b, d) implies that SK pitch accent has the structure of H*+L (Lee & Davis 2009, Kubozono 2007) and this L falling spreads rightward. All tonal interaction results of (1) are compatible with our previous research (Lee & Davis 2009, Lee 2011) so far. In this study, we further investigate all possible SK loanword compounds having different tonal and syllabic structures as well as different language origins.

References (brief list)


Kubozono, Haruo. 2007. Loanword accent in South Kyungsang Korean: a moraic account, ICPhS XVI.
