

REMARKS ON THE GLOTTALIZATION IN JAPANESE

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This paper reports the findings of an acoustic study of the glottalization of the Tonyu dialect in Central Japan, where the isogloss between the Eastern and the Western dialects runs from the north to the south. This dialect still preserves some archaisms (both phonological and morphological). The glottal stop, though used by some speakers, has no phonemic status in most dialects (exception: the Ryukyu dialects). It occurs, however, as a regular phoneme in the utterances for the phonological forms /-qb-, -qd-, -qzj-/ (in phonetic transcription [-ʔb-, -ʔd-, -ʔdʒ-]) in the Tonyu dialect.

Method and Materials

The glottalized sounds were studied by means of an electroglottograph and a fundamental frequency meter. Glottis vibrations, pitch contours and duplex-oscillograms were recorded in the form of oscillographic photos. Frequency spectra of consonants and vowels, amplitude, and duration were recorded by a sound spectrograph, and the speech signal was simultaneously recorded on magnetic tape. The speech materials used for the investigation were taken from the basic vocabulary of 200 items, and two female native speakers of the Tonyu dialect supplied the materials.

Results

It appears that the glottalization is characterized by a long closure and an abrupt rise of the fundamental frequency. In general, the results accord well with predictions made from the auditory impression.

Table 1. Closure duration in msec

Dialect	Tonyu	Tokyo	Owari
Informant	MT, HY	SU	SM
Word			
/he ¹ bi/	-	70	100
/he ¹ mbi/	-	-	170
/he ¹ qbi/	200	-	-

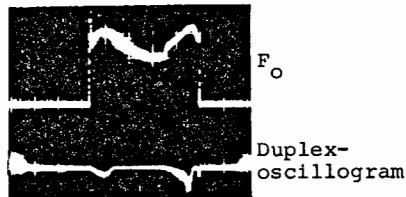


Fig. 1. The pitch contour of /he¹qbi/ spoken by TM.

References

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