The Emergence of Default Accent in Kyungsang Korean

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Kenstowicz & Sohn (2001) document the assignment of a trochaic-foot-like accent at the right edge of the word in the adaptation of English loanwords into North-Kyungsang Korean, which often overrides the accent of the English word: 'lemon > remón, 'domino > tomíno. This accent pattern was subsequently demonstrated to also hold for loanwords in the South Kyungsang dialect by Jun (2006) and independently by Lee (2006, 2009). Since Kyungsang Korean has a contrastive lexical accent system comparable to Japanese (cf. káci ‘kind’ vs. kací ‘eggplant’), there is a puzzle as to why the English accentual locus is not preserved. Even more mysterious is from where the default trochaic accent originates. Kenstowicz and Sohn (2001) hypothesized that it reflects a UG default and thus fell under the rubric of Emergence of the Unmarked (McCarthy & Prince 1994). Subsequent research by Kim (2013) for North Kyungsang has argued that the default accent reflects statistical biases in the distribution of the contrastive accent in the NK lexicon. Kubozono (2006) presents a parallel argument for the emergence of the default Latin stress rule operating in Western loanwords into Japanese (Kubozono 2006). In this presentation (based on joint research with Young Ah Do and Chiyuki Ito), we describe several novel-word experiments that attempt to address the question from where the default accent emerges: statistics of the native lexicon, UG default, and/or English source language.

References

