

Transcription conventions

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Intonation Units in Japanese Conversation: Syntactic, informational and functional structures

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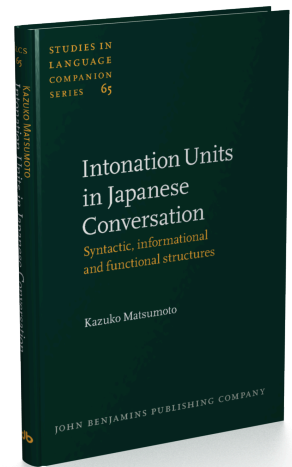
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Transcription conventions

Segmentation of Discourse into Intonation Units (IUs)

A carriage return is used to indicate the end of an IU. This means that each IU appears on a separate line.

- > The two symbols come in pairs to indicate that the IU continues
- > across two lines; the hyphen plus greater-than symbol (->) marks the beginning of the first line, and a double hyphen plus greater-than sign (-->) signals the beginning of the second line.

Characteristics of Speech Delivery

- wor- A hyphen after a word or part of a word signals a cut-off or self-interruption; it signals a truncated or uncompleted word.
- WOrd Upper case indicates loud talk raised in pitch or volume; the louder, the more upper case.
- wo::d Colons mark the prolongation of the preceding sound; the more colons, the greater the sound stretching.
- ° ° The degree signs indicate that the talk between them was markedly softer or quieter than the surrounding talk.
- < The less-than sign marks that the immediately following talk started with a rush.
- > < The combination of more-than and less-than symbols indicates that the talk between them is compressed or rushed.
- < > The use of less-than and more-than symbols in the reverse order indicates that the talk between them is markedly slowed or drawn out.

Sequential Relationships

- = Equal signs come in pairs and mark latching; the talk connected by equal signs is continuous with no discernible pause between them; used only for an inter-speaker (not intra-speaker) transition.
- [] Brackets mark overlapping or simultaneous talk; left brackets indicate the point of onset; right brackets indicate the point of resolution.

Pauses

- + very short micropause which is barely noticeable (0.1–0.2 seconds of silence)
- ++ medium-length pause which is noticeable (0.3–0.6 seconds of silence)
- +++ long pause (0.7–0.9 seconds of silence)
- (2.0) Numbers in parentheses indicate elapsed extra-long silence in tenths of a second (silence of longer than 1.0 second).

Intonation Contours

- . falling
- , continuing
- ? rising
- ^ rise-fall
- ~ rise-fall-rise

Listener Backchannels

- @ listener backchannels which show affirmative response to the speaker's utterance
- \$ listener backchannels which show wonder, awareness, or surprise
- # laughter as listener backchannels; the more symbols, the more laughs.

Other Symbols

- (word) Parentheses surrounding a word or words indicate uncertainty about the transcription; empty parentheses mark that no hearing could be achieved.
- (()) Double parentheses mark the transcriber's descriptions of events or comments.