

Japanese Phonetics (3 credits)

Instructor: Hi-Gyung BYUN

Office: A3-6

Office hours: Tue/Wed 1:30p.m.-3:00p.m.

Email: byun@aiu.ac.jp

Phone: 886-5973

Semester: Fall 2009

Classroom:

DESCRIPTION

This course is an introductory course of Japanese phonetics. Students will first learn how to write Japanese consonants and vowels in International Phonetic Alphabet (IPA) and then learn the acoustic characteristics of Japanese sounds as well as prosody such as accent and sentence intonation. The last half of the course will be devoted to learning how to analyze speech sounds by computer. Students will record their utterances and analyze them, examining length of vowels and consonants, vowel devoicing and pitch patterns. No prior knowledge on acoustic analysis is required. Through this course students will be able to improve their standard Japanese pronunciation including perception skills of Tokyo accent.

This course is one of the required courses for the minor in Japanese language teaching.

OBJECTIVES

At the end of the course, the successful students will be able to

1. understand a difference between phonetics and phonology.
2. understand how the sounds can be represented using the IPA and apply it to Japanese.
3. understand how features such as voicing, aspiration, vowel devoicing, place and manner of articulation affect the acoustic pattern of a sound.
4. become familiar with computer-based speech analysis.
5. improve standard Japanese pronunciation and pitch perception ability.

STUDY MATERIALS

Textbook

Ikeda Yuko. *Yasashii Nihongo Shido 5 On'in/Onsei* Tokyo: Kokusai Nihongo Kensyu Kyokai, 2000, 1200yen (+tax) ISBN 4-89358-468-5. Students can buy a textbook from the instructor in the classroom. Not available in the bookstore due to out-of print.

Sources of IPA and speech analysis

- IPA learning aid:

<http://www.arts.gla.ac.uk/IPA/index.html>

<http://www.coelang.tufs.ac.jp/ipa/index.htm> (TUFS Language Module)

<http://www.sil.org/computing/speechtools/ipahelp.htm>

<http://www.uiowa.edu/~acadtech/phonetics/> (American English, Spanish and German)

- Free acoustic analysis software

SpeechAnalyser <http://www.sil.org/computing/speechtools/download.htm>(131M)

WaveSurfer <http://www.speech.kth.se/wavesurfer/> (1.6M)

ASSESSMENT: 100 points

Class participation	29 points (1point×29classes)
Quiz	16 points (4points×4quizzes)
Iwashi perception test	5 points (1points×5tests)
Midterm exam	25 points
Final exam	25 points

ACADEMIC PREPARATION

Since one of the main aims of this course is to recognize our Japanese pronunciation, we will always use Japanese in the classroom. It will help us to be aware how our pronunciations are different each other. If you are a non-native Japanese speaker, you should have ability of Japanese over at least high intermediate level.

COURSE FORMAT AND ACTIVITIES

(1) The first half of the course will focus on articulatory phonetics-we will learn the IPA. During the last part of the course, we will turn to acoustic phonetics-we will analyze the sounds we have learned in the first half of the course by computer and perceptual phonetics-we will have 8 Tokyo Accent tests, Iwashi. The last 5 tests will be counted as points.

(2) The readings are not lengthy, but they contain a lot of new information and a good amount of technical terminology. Keep a running list of the new technical vocabulary you encounter. With the exception of the first class, all readings are to be done before the relevant class.

(3) It takes time to get used to acoustic analyses. I hope you allow time for it. You might need long practice to be able to read spectrogram accurately for getting good scores in the quiz and final examination.

(4) There will be 4 quizzes and 2 exams, a midterm and a final examination.

Quizzes will cover recently-discussed material. The midterm covers the material for the first half of the course, and the final is comprehensive. Perception tests, Iwashii, will be given during the first 10-15 minutes of class, so if you are late, you will miss your only opportunity to take the tests.

POLICIES

(1) Attendance is an essential part in this course. If a student is absent 5 times and more without any written proof of inevitable circumstances or any prior notice, his/her grade will be drop one full letter grade (A→B). Late arrival after starting class shall be considered tardy. Three instances of tardy will be counted as one instance of absence.

(2) At the discretion of the instructor, make up quizzes and exam will be given in cases of documented illnesses and/or emergencies. No make-up Iwashii tests are allowed.

(3) There will be no curve applied in the final grade evaluation. You are going to be evaluated by the scale of achievement points.

SCHEDULE

The following schedule can be changed to meet our needs and students' understanding.

<Week 1>

#Introduction

Reading: Textbook 5-1, 5-2.

#Phonetics vs. Phonology, Minimal pair, Allophone,

<Week 2>

Reading: Textbook 5-3.

#Phonation, Articulation, Organs of speech (articulatory anatomy),

#IPA, Consonants

<Week 3>

Reading: Textbook chapter 7.

#Japanese consonants 1

<Week 4> **Quiz 1**

Reading: Textbook chapter 7, 5-4, 6-1

#Japanese consonants 2

Reading: Textbook 5-4, 6-1

#vowels, Japanese vowels

<Week 5>

Reading: Textbook6-2

#Vowel devoicing

Reading: Textbook4-1, 4-2

#Syllable, Mora,

<Week 6>

Reading: Textbook chapter8

#Japanese special morae1

#Japanese special morae2

<Week 7> **Quiz2**

Reading: Textbook4-3, 4-4, 4-5, 4-6, 4-7, 4-8

#Japanese standard accent

Reading: Textbook 4-9.

#Intonation, prominence, rhythm

<Week 8>

Evaluating someone's Japanese (Recording)

Review, how to evaluate learner's Japanese

<Week 9> **Mid-term exam**

Review, phonetics & phonology

Mid-term examination

<Week 10>

Iwashii1, Introduction to acoustic analysis by computer

<Week 11>

Iwashii2, Analyzing Japanese consonants1

Iwashii3, Analyzing Japanese consonants2

<Week 12> **Quiz3**

Iwashii4, Analyzing Japanese vowels

Iwashii5, Analyzing Japanese special morae

<Week 13>

Iwashii6, Analyzing word accent and sentence-final intonation

<Week 14> **Quiz4**

Iwashii7, Review1

Iwashii8, Review2

<Week 15> **Final examination**

Final examination

Analyzing the result of Iwashii tests (description & explanation)