

## On the status of the ‘p-initial emphatic verbs’ in Shizuoka Japanese

### I. Emphatic verbs in Shizuoka Japanese

This study attempts to offer a unified explanation for an interesting distribution of what is usually referred to as a group of ‘emphatic forms’ of verbs in the Shizuoka dialect of Japanese. In Shizuoka Japanese, verbs whose initial segment is [h] have a derived emphatic form which has [p] word-initially instead of [h]. Alternatively, the verbs are emphasized with a prefix [çi+μ]. ([μ] indicates an abstract mora which, in this case, assimilates to the following verb-initial [h], surfacing as [p]; Japanese exhibits a morphophonemic alternation between [h] and [p].) Thus, Shizuoka Japanese has two emphatic verb forms as in (1).

- (1) hagasu ‘peel off’ ~ pagasu ‘peel off strongly’ ~ çippagasu ‘peel off strongly’  
hakaru ‘measure’ ~ pakaru ‘measure earnestly’ ~ çippakaru ‘measure earnestly’  
hineru ‘twist’ ~ pineru ‘twist hard’ ~ çippineru ‘twist hard’

Previous studies agree that the p-initial form has diachronically developed with the [çip] dropping from the base (Mase 1961, Nakajo 1982, etc.). However, synchronic analysis of the two emphatic forms (and their distribution) has seldom, if ever, been presented thus far.

### II. Morphophonological analysis of ‘p-initial’ verbs

In this study, I postulate that the derivation of the p-initial form has been triggered by the devoicing and deletion of the vowel [i] in [çi], based on certain phonetic factors which are widely observed in the dialect. As a result, the prefix-initial [ç], unable to stand alone without the syllable nucleus, is also dropped. Given that the initial [p] of the p-form phonetically surfaces as a preglottalized [p] or a geminate [p], the underlying representation of the p-form ‘pagasu’ is posited here as in (2), which still retains the coda of the original prefix.

- (2) /p+pagasu/

This case is very interesting because it violates a constraint highly ranked in Japanese which prohibits geminates in syllable onset position.

### III. Sociolinguistic motivation

The above hypothesis is supported by sociolinguistic evidence; the p-form is always used in a casual style of speech, while the prefixed form is used in a formal style, both within and across speakers. It is well-known that in a casual style of speech, phonological processes including assimilation and deletion tend to take place more easily and frequently. In conclusion, the 'p-initial emphatic verbs' in Shizuoka Japanese are not merely a residue of a diachronic change, but they exhibit a synchronic morphological process working in a productive fashion. Their distribution reflects sociolinguistic motivations among the speakers of the dialect.

### References

- Mase, Y. (1961) Hachijojima hogen no oninbunseki (Phonological analysis of hachijo dialect). *Kokugogaku*, 43, 43-56.
- Nakajo, O. (1982) *Shizuokahogen no Kenkyu (A Study on Shizuoka Dialect)*. Yoshimi Publishers.