
A COMPARATIVE ANALYSIS OF EXTRA SYLLABIFICATION IN YORUBA AND JAPANESE ENGLISH USAGE

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ABSTRACT: *This research takes a look at a common phonological error among Japanese and Yoruba language users of English. This error has to do with the addition of extra syllables in English loanwords used by speakers of both languages, even when speaking English. The research reveals that despite difference in language type—with Japanese being a pitch accent and Yoruba a tonal language, both languages share certain traits and this turns out to be the reason for both languages having this error. It is however realised that the error is more pronounced among Japanese users of English than their Yoruba counterparts and the reason is because of their little exposure to and use of English language. The research discusses the effect of this error on the spoken English of both users, proffers solutions to this problem and suggested ideas for further research.*

KEYWORDS: extra syllabification, loanwords, Yoruba, Japanese, phonology

Introduction

One major desire of many non-native speakers of English is to, at least, attain a near native level. Left to some others, they would like to speak like natives. While many see accent as a major distinguishing feature between native and non-native English users, others see word pronunciation, grammar, choice of vocabulary etc. as clear difference between them. A broad knowledge of the English language would however go a long way to help non-native speakers speak better. It is observed that the first language of many non-native speakers has a strong influence on their English language proficiency, depending on how conscious they are when using both languages. When learning a second language, a learner's first language can either assist or inhibit learning (Daulton 2008). For example, the ability to recognise loanwords from English to their native language goes a long way to help speakers focus on how such words are rightly pronounced in Standard English, rather than allow their native tongue influence the pronunciation of such words. An average Japanese would pronounce the word as *chokoreto* in Japanese, but whether such understood that it is pronounced 'chocolate' when speaking English depends on their knowledge of the origin of such Japanese word and the right English pronunciation. The same goes for the Yoruba English speaker who places the stress in 'classroom' 'Facebook' or 'post office' on the second syllable rather than the first. It takes a better knowledge of English to fix such errors of mispronunciation.

One mispronunciation error noticed among Japanese and Yoruba English users is the addition of extra syllables to English words. It is observed that such mispronunciation originates from English loan words in Yoruba and Japanese respectively. This research is therefore a comparative study of both languages as it pertains to extra-syllabification. The research aims to look at the following:

- i. The effect of such errors on sound pronunciation when speaking English
- ii. How to help speakers' consciousness when they shift from their native language to English.

The research also aims to see if this error indicates a relatedness in the origin or features of both languages. Finally, it checks to see if there are similarities and difference in the extra syllables in both languages. In doing this, the researcher interacts with few Japanese English speakers and few Yoruba English speakers and also includes his background knowledge of Yoruba and Japanese languages respectively. Also, materials relating to the research were perused and analysed. This helps the researcher understand the opinion of others concerning the issue, especially from the Japanese view point. In all, the research targets speakers' consciousness of language usage. Many research works have been carried out by scholars on the reason for syllabic addition on English loanwords into Yoruba and Japanese respectively. Also, scholarly works have been carried out on language comparison and this is with respect to structure (see Naoki, 1988 and Takashi 2017), kinship words (see Qasim and Hashim 2018) etc. However, a look at two distinct and distant languages such as Yoruba and Japanese is borne out of the need for further research.

Background

Errors are analysed in languages at every level, including phonological. The concern here is with speech production and perception. Many reasons have been given for incorrect pronunciation of words in English, especially by non-native users of the language. It is observed that most of such bad pronunciations are tied to interference from mother tongue or native language, worst still when such words are loanwords in speakers' native language. There is usually cases of transliteration and this affects the way such words are pronounced (see Case 2010).

Concerns are however raised when two languages from two distant geographical regions, background share similar traits in phonological errors. It leaves questions as to whether there are linguistic history or features both languages share that allow for them to have such errors. It is on this basis that this research is carried out, to see if Yoruba and Japanese extra syllabification as a phonological error has anything to do with a relatedness in both languages. This, the researcher intends to achieve by taking a look at both languages to see the similarities and differences in this particular error, possible causes and suggested ways out of it. For convenience, Japanese words would be written in Romaji as against Katakana, Hiragana or Kanji writing system. Yoruba words would be written with superscripts only in some cases. Also, Yoruba speakers in Nigeria would be the focus of this research because of their English language background. On whether the Yoruba language spoken in Benin Republic and Togo (with French background) Brazil (with Portuguese background) or Cuba (with Spanish background) have the same error is a subject for another research.

Loanwords and language development

Loanwords are found in virtually every languages of the world. These are words borrowed into such languages and which aid in its development. Some came as a result of trade contact and others as a result of colonisation. In all, as the world comes together for so many reasons,

there are lots of interchange, and these include words. Despite its domain in global languages, English language is not exempted from this, as a lot of words in English have their origin in German, French, Portuguese, Japanese and only recently, Yoruba languages.

Borrowing is a very important source of developing the vocabulary and terminology of a language. As earlier stated, there exist a relationships between languages and this has existed for centuries. The word ‘rendezvous’ for example was borrowed from the French language into English. Today, such loanwords circulate in English as if it was never borrowed. The same thing goes for many languages of the world. As earlier stated, these linguistic borrowings can be attributed to immigration, commerce, and trade as people were exposed to a wide range of ethnolinguistic environments. Through these interactions, people were exposed to various linguistic contexts, and words and phrases were borrowed to accommodate these encounters. This research takes a look at loanwords from English to Yoruba and Japanese respectively. However, it would be interesting to know that words like tycoon, Sudoku, Rickshaw, origami and now famous Emoji have Japanese origin, but are freely used in English. Also, recently, several other Nigerian English words, some with Yoruba origin, were added to the Oxford English Dictionary. Examples of such include Tokunbo, Danfo, Buka, Okada etc.

A brief review of related works

A lot of scholarly works have been carried out on comparative studies and analysis. Scholarly works have also been done on errors in Yoruba and Japanese English words pronunciations respectively. Questions have been asked on different fora like Quora Digest, Reddit and other space, on why Japanese pronounce English words in a particular way and same goes to Yoruba speakers of English. To these questions, it is realised that there are similar answers and sometimes disagreements from some quarters as to the accuracy of such answers. Here, we would take a brief look at related scholarly works.

Fukui, N. (1988) takes a look at clausal analysis of English and Japanese language structures and admits to the possibility of deriving many of the differences between both language structures by looking at a single fundamental difference. The scholar carries out his research using many of the theories propounded in Noam Chomsky’s Transformational Generative Grammar.

Rebuck, M. (2002) states the functions of loanwords in Japanese and lists the following:

1. Filling of a lexical gap. According to him, the most basic use of loanwords is to name things or ideas when no equivalent native word exists.
2. Substitution for special effect. This, he says, is due to the sophisticated nature of loanword and the cosmopolitan appeal it has on Japanese language users and listeners.
3. Euphemistic function: There are occasions when loanwords are used because the native equivalent sounds too direct or when the implied meaning of a word can have negative evaluations.

Igboanusi, H. (2006) carries out a comparative study of the pronunciation features of Igbo English and Yoruba English speakers of Nigeria. Here, the scholar concludes that education,

exposure to English language and other social factors are narrowing distinctiveness in the pronunciation of the educated Igbo English speakers and the Yoruba English speakers. The scholar admits however that some sounds like /ɛ/ in words like outskirts, shirt and learn are still realised as /a/ even by these educated Yoruba English speakers while a great number of Igbo English speakers realise the sound as /ɛ/.

Case, A. (2010) gives an overview of so many areas Japanese erroneously pronounce English words and the reasons for it. The scholar's work is so explicit that it touches on virtually every aspect of Japanese English phonological errors. For the purpose of this study however, the focus would be on added syllables. According to Case, the differences between how the Japanese pronounce words that are derived from English in their own language and how British or American people pronounce those words can be divided into several major categories. Perhaps the most noticeable category is how almost all words have more syllables in Japanese. He asserts that problems with English consonant clusters are by no means limited to Japanese speakers, but is still one of their greatest challenges in both speaking and listening, especially when the word also exists with Japanese pronunciation in their own language.

Irwin, M. (2011) captures extra syllabification in Japanese as the scholar explains that Japanese has a ton of words that are borrowed from English, called loanwords. According to him, there is no magic formula that makes it possible to recognize those words instantaneously, but that the changes that Japanese make to English words do have some patterns that make sense. He posits that Japanese syllable structure is more restricted than English in two important ways:

1. There are only limited cases where two consonants can stand next to each other in Japanese. In English, many sequences of two or three consonants are common that are impossible in Japanese.

2. In English, pretty much any consonant can end a word, but in Japanese, only the nasal consonant 'n' can end a word.

Adelabu, B. (2014) contrasts adjectives in English and Yoruba languages with a view to identifying the areas of similarities and differences and the problems such differences pose to Yoruba learners of English. The scholar sought to know which aspect of English adjectives poses problem to learners of English as a second language by conducting a test of 100 items of various types and uses of adjectives, using 200 Junior High School students. The result reveals a high level of errors and therefore confirms that Yoruba learners of English have problems with the use of English adjectives.

Ogundepo, A. (2015) examines the differences and similarities in the morphological systems of English and Yoruba languages and establishes the predominance of English language in Nigeria's linguistic space. The scholar affirms that most errors observed in the English usage of bilinguals are traceable to their native language and suggests that teachers should undertake contrastive study of the mother tongue of learners and the target language as a way to understand how the difference in the morphological systems predisposes learners of English to committing errors in English language.

As stated earlier, these researches had been carried out on either Yoruba or Japanese languages or each of these languages with English or any other language. This current research therefore takes a look at a common error associated with the pronunciation of English words by both Yoruba and Japanese English speakers. The similarities in the error is part of what raised questions in the author's mind.

Japanese language and English usage

Shira, a Japanese High School English teacher, looks at the failings in Japanese English word pronunciation from a pedagogic and social perspective and takes to twitter to explain her findings:

If you've ever taught English at a Japanese school before, you've probably noticed something that students across different classes and years have in common: they use "katakana pronunciation" to speak English. Katakana pronunciation refers to the pronunciation of English words as they would be written in katakana, the syllabary used for loanwords from overseas. This means the word "sit" becomes "shitto", "light" becomes "raito", and "thing" becomes "shingu". While there's nothing wrong with using katakana English as a preliminary tool to get the phonetics of a new word right, it's a little different when you have to use it all the time because you don't want to be the nail that sticks out in the classroom.

Twitter/@shirassh via Hachima Kiko

Extra syllabification in Japanese English loanwords

Case and Irwin are specific on the reason for extra syllabification on Japanese English loanwords. Like Irwin, Case also asserts that the reason is that Japanese is a syllabic language, meaning all consonants apart from a final 'n' must be followed by a vowel. He agrees that this also is the reason there's no consonant clusters in Japanese, using the monosyllabic word 'strike' as an example. Like Irwin, he too writes it as sutoraiki or sutoraiku. According to Case, the sounds added at when an English syllable ends in a consonant is fairly consistent and logical, making it possible to guess the Japanese pronunciation of an English word even when you have never heard it in that language. The most important generalisations (with common exceptions) are:

Syllables being added in Japanese, e.g. at the ends of words and in consonant clusters

final c/ k and g usually change to ku and gu

toranku ruumu – trunk room	but	dekki – deck (of a ship)
buraku horu—black hole		jakki- jack (for changing tyres)
paningu--panning		

final ch becomes chi

biichi – beach

final f, p and b (considered variations on the same sound in Japanese) usually change to

fu, pu and bu

shoppu – shop

skaafu – (head) scarf

nobbu – door knob/ door handle

final j usually becomes ji

peiji – page

final l usually changes to ru

fainuru- final

final m usually changes to mu

puroguramu – programme

final n doesn't change, as it is the only consonant sound that Japanese syllables can end with

fan – fan

final ng sometimes changes to ngu, and sometimes to n

suuimingu- swimming

chuuin gamu – chewing gum

final r is usually silent (as in British English) but sometimes ru

faa – fur

biiru – beer

final s and z usually change to su and zu, but often the change in pronunciation is minimal

fainansu – finance

final sh usually becomes shu

finisshu – finish

fuesshu – fresh

final t and d usually change to to and do

jetto – jet

beddo – bed

but

fruitsu – fruit/ fruits (sounds more like the latter)

supootsu – sport

final x becomes kusu

bokkusu – box

The scholar also gives a list of other consonant sounds that come at the end of English syllables that have no Japanese equivalent.

Initial consonant clusters

bl and br, fl and fr , and pl and pr change to bur/ fur/ pur plus vowel

burendo koohii – blend coffee

bureiki – brake

furii – free

furii- freelancer

purinsu – prince

purassu- plus

cl, cr, kl and kr change to kur plus vowel

kurikku – click (with a mouse)

dr and tr often change to dor/ tor plus vowel

doraibu – drive

torankku – trunk

but

tsurii – tree

gl and gr change to gur plus vowel

guran purii – grand prix

sc and sk change to suk plus vowel

sukii – ski/ skiing

scr changes to sukur plus vowel

sukurappu – scrap paper/ newspaper clippings

sl changes to sur plus vowel

suriibu – sleeve

sm changes to sum plus vowel

sumooru – small

sn changes to sun plus vowel

sunakku – snack

sp changes to sup plus vowel

supootsu – sport

spr and spl change to supur plus vowel

supuringu – spring

squ sometimes changes to suk plus vowel

sukooru – squall

st changes to sut plus vowel

sutoppu – stop

(Source: Alex Case (2010) Tefl.net)

Yoruba language and English interference.

Yoruba language has been influenced by the English language spoken by the British, who held colonial power in Nigeria from 1914 to 1960. More than half of the vocabulary words used in Yoruba are borrowed from English. Think of the word ‘cup.’ It was domesticated as *koopu*. The word ‘phone’ is *foonu*, ‘ball’ is *boolu*, and ‘television’ is *ṭelifisoonu*, among others. These English words that were ‘loaned’ to Yoruba expanded its vocabulary over time. There are also instances of the Yoruba language borrowing words from the Hausa language, spoken by 44 million people in the northern part of Nigeria. This language borrows heavily from Arabic, as well, with words like *alubarika* (blessing), *alubosa* (onion) and *wahala* (trouble). The beauty of Yoruba loanwords is that speakers now use them in their day-to-day conversations as they get absorbed into the language. It is not uncommon to hear people say, *Ba ọmo yẹn mu boolu ẹ* (Help that child take his ball). Although the underlined word boolu is not native to the Yoruba language, speakers manage to make it fit.

It is worthy of note however, that there are loanwords in Yoruba which have their original native variant, so that speakers have a choice on whether to use the native variant or loan word. The word ‘*oko*’ represents vehicles, especially cars, trucks etc. However, an aeroplane can either be called *oko ofurufu* or *Eropileni*, same way a ship is called *oko oju omi*, Electricity is called *ina monamona* or *ina elektiriki*. Television can also be called *amohunmaworan*. It is observed that this extra syllabification comes when loanwords are used instead of the native variant. Some other loanwords in Yoruba include:

English	Loan in Yoruba
Asbestos	asibesito
Alum	aalomu
Compass	konnpaasi
Clone	kiloonu
Battery	batiri
Pencil	pensulu
Pilot	pailoti
Dozen	dosini
Prefect	pirifeti
Bath	baafu
Bag	baagi
Gum	goomu
Address	adireesi
Gazette	gaseeti
Alarm	alaamu
Control	kontiroolu
Receipt	risiiti
Bonnet	boneeti
College	koleeji
Magic	majiikii
Notice	nitiici
Almanac	alumanaaki
Vowel	faweli
Lesson	lesini
stadium	stadiomu
Petrol	petiroolu
hospital	osipitulu
telephone	telefoonu
Doctor	dokita
Labourer	lebira
Governor	gomina
Album	alubomu

(Sources: Kenstowicz, M. 2004, Ezekiel, K. 2014)

Paper presentation

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Yoruba tonal vs Japanese pitch accent

The pronunciation of words in Yoruba language is tonal; where a different pitch conveys a different word meaning or grammatical distinction. This means that pronouncing words in Yoruba is based on what is called *ami ohun* --Tone Marks. These marks are applied to the top of the vowel within each syllable of a word or phrase.

There are three types of tone marks namely:

Dò

Low with a falling tone, depicted by a grave accent

Re Mid with a flat tone, depicted by an absence of any accent

Mí High with a rising tone, depicted by an acute accent

Understanding the use of tone marks is key to properly reading, writing and speaking the Yoruba language. This is because some words have similar spellings but at the addition of tone marks, these words could have very different meanings.

Here are some paired examples:

Apá (Re Mí) Arm
Àpá (Dò Mí) Scar
Bàtâ (Dò Dò) Shoe
Bàtá (Dò Mí) A type of Drum
Aya (Re Re) Wife
Àyà (Dò Dò) Chest

Japanese uses pitch accent when communicating. This means that the accent of a word is determined by its pitch (a change in pitch), not its stress. Generally, pitch is used for a lot of things. In songs, one changes the pitch of one's voice in order to hit particular notes. English is a stress accent language, meaning that a word accent is determined by its stress. In English, one raises one's pitch at the end of a sentence to ask a question while same pitch is lowered to make a statement. A whole sentence could have a higher than normal pitch when one is excited. It goes to tell that though English is a stress accent, pitches are used for different meanings. In Japanese language however, pitch accent indicates that words and syllables are abstractly marked with an accent. It therefore is not out of place to conclude that English language has strong and weak beats while Japanese language has High and low beats.

Hashi—chopstick (High low pattern)

Hashi—bridge (Low high pattern)

Pitch makes the difference. This can also be called intonation. In Japanese, a wrong pitch accent can mislead or confuse the listener. Except of course where the listener tries to understand what's being said on the basis of the context of use. One other example is:

Obasan—aunt

Obasan—older woman

Similarities and contrast between Yoruba and Japanese loan word pronunciation

A major similarity in the pronunciation of loanwords among Japanese and Yoruba English speakers is the addition of extra syllables as we have seen in both languages. More examples of this is seen below:

Japanese

Haitsu (Height)

Yoruba

Buredi (Bread)

Chokoreto (Chocolate)

Raberu (Label)

Beddo (Bed)

Appuru (Apple)

Koppu (Cup)

Kpanu (pan)

Shobu (Shop)

Sileti (Slate)

Electiriiki (Electric)

Koopu (Cup)

One can conclude from the examples above that a common feature between both languages is the addition of extra syllable at the end of each word. It is however noted that that such extra syllabus is also seen in the middle of words like Appuru and Buredi (middle /u/). Other Japanese words that have such addition in the middle and ending include sampuru (sample), bisuketo (biscuit). There are words that are also similarly pronounced in both languages except for the choice of the additional vowel. Examples of such words include:

Tarento (Talent)

Kado (Card)

Beddo (Bed)

Taleenti (Talent)

Kadi (Card)

Beedi (Bed)

Thus, it's easy to hear a Yoruba speaker say: *Ma ri taleenti e mole* (Do not bury your talent) while the Japanese advert would talk about *tarento managemento* (Talent management). The Japanese speaker would ask for *Zairyu kado* (residence card) while the Yoruba speaker talks about *Kadi igbeayo* (family card).

Another observation from both languages is the inability to pronounce words correctly because of the absence of certain letters in their writing systems. Japanese struggle with pronouncing words with the /l/ sound, thus you have 'meron' (melon). Even in names, Samuel becomes 'Sameru' and life becomes 'raifu'. Words with /v/ also pose a problem, thereby causing them to replace it with /b/. Thus, oven becomes 'Obun' and Seven Eleven becomes Seibun Elebun. With the Yorubas, vision becomes fision and the name David becomes Dafidi. Also, while Japanese struggle with pronouncing /c/ (shi) e.g. Es emu bi shi (SMBC: a bank's name) some Yoruba speaker would pronounce the word show as sow and /z/ is pronounced as /s/ as observed in dozen. It is also seen that in Yoruba language, there could be the change of vowel sounds as we have in labourer where /i/ is inserted between /b/ and /r/, thereby replacing the schwa sound. This is apart from the fact that even words that end in vowel sounds still experience vowel change as seen in Doctor (dokita). Suzuki, a Japanese teacher, would argue that the /l/ sound exist in the writing system and that the sound is between /l/ and /r/ but in practical terms, listeners only hear Japanese realise the /l/ as /r/.

Effects of extra syllabification on users' spoken English

A major effect of extra syllabification is that it is an obstacle to right expression.

Rebuck, M. (2002) posits that due to large number of false cognates, loanwords may prove an obstacle to learning correct English. The author cited the use of the word *furonto* (front) to mean a hotel reception in Japanese but that the word does not have meaning in English. The author asserts that even Japanese who are quite proficient in English may not realise that the pseudo loanword they commonly use are not recognised by native speakers.

Butterfield (2019) would capture it thus:

Loanwords can have negative effects on learner's production of meaning.

Usage or pronunciation of the loanword is different in Japanese and English and learners are not aware of the differences.

This further buttress what was earlier said about an adequate knowledge of both languages.

Suggestions to Yoruba and Japanese English users

- Identify loanwords from English into your native language.
- Learn the right pronunciation from native speakers, the dictionary.
- Take consciousness of when loan words from English are used in your native language vs when such words are used when you are speaking English.
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Rebeck (2002) also suggests that it may be interesting to select a number of *pseudo loanwords from adverts or other texts and examine the extent to which Japanese speakers recognise them as being Japanese creations. According to the scholar, this can also be used as an exercise for raising language awareness in the classroom and creating awareness of the limitations of katakana English.

In his submission, Butterfield (2019) believes that it would be beneficial for language learners if loanwords were taught or discussed in Japanese or English classes at Junior High or High schools in Japan. According to him, teaching students the similarities and differences of loanwords, both semantic and phonological would help learners to deepen their understanding of loanwords.

As earlier stated, Ogundepo (2015) affirms that most errors observed in the English usage of bilinguals are traceable to their native language and suggests that teachers should undertake contrastive study of the mother tongue of learners and the target language as a way to understand how the difference in the morphological systems predisposes learners of English to committing errors in English language

DISCUSSION ON FINDINGS

Yoruba is a tonal language with three relative tone (pitch) band. Japanese is a pitch accent language—meaning that it has word accents in which one syllable in a word or morpheme is more prominent than others but the accentuated syllable is indicated by a contrasting pitch rather than a loudness as in stress accent language and English is a stressed accent language. It is however safe to say that the features of all three languages are interrelated. One cannot take the use of pitch out of language. Pitch is indicated in tones and stress cannot be discussed without pitch and tone. Pitch in English would be looked at as an indicator of a stressed syllable (with such syllable having a higher pitch and a longer tone) and this is a constant occurrence in English utterances. In Yoruba and Japanese languages however, such pitches (tones) are markers of differences in meaning. The major difference would be that Yoruba marks such tones with the use of superscripts when writing and it reflects when speaking but it is only observed when Japanese are speaking because the words are written the same way, especially because of its writing system, with nothing to mark the difference. Also, Yoruba language could have as many as five different meanings from one written word (*oko* as an example) with

the tone being the indicator of the differences in meaning, but with Japanese it doesn't go beyond two words in most cases. When it comes to the reason for this similar error in both languages, one cannot rule out the fact that one of the reasons is that like Japanese, Yoruba also doesn't end words with consonants and any loanword that ends in consonant gets an additional vowel. Also, Yoruba doesn't recognise consonant clusters and as such, loanwords with such clusters have vowels inserted in between, as seen in the examples above. Even words spelt with consonant clusters (eg Shewa, kpapo) have such clusters pronounced as single sounds. This is apart from the fact that the two words above can also be spelt *Sewa*, *papo*, *like Sola (Shola) and Ilesa (Ilesha)*. These can be summed up as the reason for extra syllabification in both languages.

It is observed that the problem with extra syllabic errors among Yoruba English speakers is not as much as their Japanese counterparts. One major difference with the Yoruba English speaker with respect to English word pronunciation is the role of English language in the life of an average speaker. The general exposure to the language is another vital matter.

According to Butterfield (2019), The Japan Management Association (2015) conducted a survey on 1,000 business people regarding English usage in the workplace and found that approximately 90% of the people surveyed do not use English at work. He wondered what percentage of non-business people use English if only a fraction of people engaged in business use it at work. He asserts that it is estimated that only a fraction of a percentage of native Japanese speakers not engaged in business are exposed to English on a daily basis, other than studying it at school, or hearing it in songs or movies.

Meanwhile, code switching and mixing is a natural communication pattern among Yoruba English speakers. Among other reasons, it is a show of their bilingual nature and a display of their mastery of both languages. Looking at the status of the English language in a country like Nigeria makes it easy to see why the inability to pronounce some English words correctly is a big deal. It therefore goes to show a reduction in such errors, especially among educated Yoruba English speakers. In a nutshell, these errors are commonly found among non-educated Yoruba English speakers or those with low level education. What seems like an error would be used deliberately by educated speakers only when they speak Yoruba language and use loanwords while speaking, especially to accommodate their listeners.

Of course, one would not rule out the fact that lots of Japanese English speakers who studied in English speaking countries do better.

CONCLUSION

The research looks at an aspect of phonological errors among Yoruba and Japanese English speakers and findings reveal a semblance in the features of both languages. Both languages do not allow final word consonants and consonant clusters because they are tonal and pitch accent languages respectively. This could serve as the major reason this error is identified in both languages despite their structural and regional differences. It is observed however, that this error is more with Japanese English speakers as compared to their Yoruba counterparts because

of their little exposure to and use of the English language. An educated Yoruba speaker would easily switch or mix code without allowing the bad pronunciation of loanwords in Yoruba language affect the right pronunciation of same word in Standard English. For the Japanese however, there is the need for more exposure to English language for them to navigate such part easily. The research proffers solution to extra syllabification with a suggestion that speakers should identify loanwords from English to their native languages, learn the right pronunciation of such words in English and speak with consciousness, knowing when there is a transition from their native language to the English language.

Ideas for future research

The research takes a look at extra syllabification as a phonological error in Yoruba and Japanese languages respectively and exposes how these errors play out in both languages. The researcher did not however confirm if these two are the only languages with such errors when it comes to using English loanwords. Researchers can therefore look into other languages that borrowed from English to see if such errors occur.

Also, the research did not look fully into why Yoruba and Japanese English users make other phonological errors as this does not fall within the purview of this research. Mention was made that some of these pronunciation errors stem from a lack of certain letters in the alphabets of both languages. Further research can however look into other aspects and reasons for such mispronunciation of English loanwords and other errors as was done by Case. Finally, the link between extra syllabification and other phonological errors and speakers accent was not established. It will be an interesting research to look into how such errors betray speakers' accent and give out their nationalities easily.

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Appendix

Japanese adverts with extra syllabification		Yoruba adverts with extra syllabification	
Suma seru	Summer sale	Peak milk	Miliki piki
Cloud circle	Kuraudu sako	Panadol	Panadolu
Crowd Bank	Kuraudu banko	Nigerite pan	Paanu Nigeriti
Lifull Home's	Raifuru Homuzu	Golden Penny spaghetti	Supageti Golden Penny
Oddsparck	Odsupaku		

*Pseudo loanwords are English loanwords which have been combined to produce unique combinations that are not found in English and would usually be understood by native speakers. They are called Wasei eigo (English made in Japan). E.g Opun ka (Convertible), Chiku dansu (slow dance), pepa tesuto (written test)

Rebuck (2002)

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