Persistence of prosody

Shigeto Kawahara, Jason A. Shaw
Keio University, Yale University

Abstract

In October 2016, at a workshop held at the National Institute for Japanese Language and Linguistics (NINJAL), Junko and Armin presented a talk in which they argued against Kubozono’s (1999; 2003) proposal that VVN sequences in Japanese are syllabified as two separate syllables (V.VN) (Ito & Mester, 2016a). One of their arguments involved the consequences for VNC sequences (e.g. /beruriNkko/ ‘people from Berlin’); in particular the proposal would require positing syllables headed by a nasal (i.e. V.NC, or [be.ru.ri.Nk.ko]). They argue that syllables headed by a nasal segment are “questionable syllable types”, at least in the context of Japanese phonology. We are happy to dedicate this paper to Junko and Armin, in which we argue that Japanese has syllables headed by a fricative, and possibly those headed by an affricate.