Acquisition of Japanese-Chinese Lexical Homographs and Japanese-origin Words by Chinese Native Speakers Learning Japanese:
Investigation of the Differences between Chinese Collocation and Japanese Collocation

KOMORI Kazuko • MIKUNI Junko • XU Yiping • KONDOH Atsuko

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The purpose of this study is to examine how accurately the Chinese native speakers learning Japanese have acquired the collocation patterns of (1) S-words (Kango), one type of Japanese-Chinese lexical homograph, which share the same meaning with the Chinese language, and (2) Japanese-origin words (Wago), which share one kanji character with S-words. For this purpose, we conducted the sentence correctness decision task with 92 Chinese university learners of Japanese.

The results of our analysis show that (1) both Kango and Wago, which co-occur with the same word in the Chinese language, have been acquired accurately not only by the participants with advanced-level of Japanese proficiency but also by the intermediate-level participants, and (2) irrespective of their language proficiency, the participants are liable to transfer the collocation patterns of the Chinese language to the Wago of which the meaning is slightly different from the corresponding Chinese word as well as to the Kango which do not collocate with the same word in the Chinese language.

(KOMORI: Meiji University, MIKUNI: Bunka Gakuen University, XU: Beijing Center for Japanese Studies, KONDOH: University of Tokyo)