

# J A P A N E S E   P H O N O L O G Y

- in Particular on the Accent Patterns of  
the 11th Century Kyoto Dialect -

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This paper attempts to apply the theory of generative phonology to the Japanese language. The Japanese language has a rich body of old written records, and our special attention is paid to the accent patterns of old (mainly in the 11th century) Kyoto dialect.

First, it is shown that the accent system of the Tokyo dialect, presumably also the Kyoto dialect, should be described based on the syllabic, rather than moraic structure. Next, a set of phonological rules are given, and these derive from a common underlying abstract form actual phonetic forms of all the Japanese dialects considered here. Finally, the phonological rules of the 11th century Kyoto dialect are presented producing the paradigm of verb conjugation. In respect to the accent pattern, two types are established for verbs in this dialect: low beginning verbs and non-low beginning verbs. The distinction between these two types is shown to be well preserved in the modern major dialects.

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