

Phonological Process Analysis of *Shukuyakukei* (Contracted Form) in *Gintama Hōsōkyoku*

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ABSTRACT

Japan provides many opportunities for Japanese language learners to study in their country. However, researchers are aware that there are learners who are not familiar with casual conversation in Japanese language, because of many uses of *shukuyakukei* (contracted form). This study attempts to analyze the use of *shukuyakukei* in Japanese conversations between native Japanese speakers, specifically in a radio broadcast called *Gintama Hōsōkyoku* (broadcast station). This research used phonological analysis as the theoretical approach, whereas qualitative descriptive used as the methodological approach. This study focused on analyzing the phonological aspect based on phonological process theory to find out how and what sound changes occur in *shukuyakukei*. The theory used is the phonological process theory by Schane (1973), which includes four categories, namely (1) Assimilation, (2) Syllable Structure, (3) Weakening and Strengthening, and (4) Neutralization. The findings showed that in assimilation, there is consonant assimilation, while in syllable structure there are vocal deletion, consonant deletion, vocal coalescence, and vocal-consonant coalescence. Weakening and strengthening were including syncope and apocope. By learning *shukuyakukei*, it is beneficial because learners can increase their knowledge and improve their skills in using Japanese more naturally. It also useful to increase the awareness of the existence of *shukuyakukei* as a variety of spoken language in casual Japanese conversations.

Keywords: *Gintama hōsōkyoku*, *japanese language casual conversation*, *phonological process*, *shukuyakukei*

1. INTRODUCTION

As the opportunity for student exchange to Japan increases, demands on the knowledge and skills of a Japanese language learner is also increase. However, there are still learners who are not familiar with casual Japanese conversations, so that communication does not run smoothly.

When we speak casually or when speaking quickly in very informal situations, we often do not realize the words spoken are shortened or contracted (Tsujimura, 1997). Horiguchi (1989) also stated that regarding to spoken language, native speakers generally use *hanashi kotoba* (oral language) in a conversation, where the spoken sentence is shorter than the full form. This form is known as *shukuyakukei*.

Previous research related to *shukuyakukei* is considered still few to be found. These researches investigate on how many *shukuyakukei* were used in

some media, for example, in a movie, radio, and also in other media that consist Japanese conversation. There are also researches that compare the use between two or more Japanese contracted forms (Miyama, 2011; Nishiyama, 1999; Cook, 1999). In a research results by Horiguchi (1989), from 4675 sentences found, there are 2428 (52%) sentences containing *shukuyakukei*, or in other words, that one in two sentences contain one *shukuyakukei*. In addition, Horiguchi (1989) concluded that the most important communication competence in Japanese language education lies not about how much we speak, but also the ability of learners to hear and listen.

Whereas, one of the previous researches related to phonological processes is Huda (2017). Huda (2017) examined the phonological process based on Schane's theory (1973) that occurs in the Banyumas dialect, which relies on the formation of verbs through the nasalization process. From the results of data analysis, there are two processes that are most frequently encountered, namely assimilation and the syllable structure process.

Based on researches above, it is also important to study about how *shukuyakukei* formed. Thus, this research chose phonological analysis as theoretical approach, not only to investigate the variety or how many *shukuyakukei* there are in the data source, but also to identify the process, phenomenon, or the error from the *shukuyakukei*. *Shukuyakukei* consists of sound changes which included in phonological process (Neijt's, 2007). This process is caused by a speech device that makes adjustment to the sound to be produced. In addition, this happens directly, as well as automatically by every tool of speech, maybe the speaker himself not even aware (in Sulihingtyas, 2013).

Thus, the research question of this study is: (1) what kinds of *shukuyakukei* are found in casual Japanese conversation at *Gintama Hōsōkyoku* according to Schane's theory (1973)? And (2) how is the phonological process identified by *shukuyakukei* in casual Japanese conversations at *Gintama Hōsōkyoku*?

2. METHODS

2.1. Data Collection and Analysis Techniques

The data was collected using the observation method, which is listening to the dialogues that contain *shukuyakukei* on the radio recording *Gintama Hōsōkyoku* as the object of research.

Listening to conversation in video segments, note-taking technique is also followed, which is to note down sentences containing *shukuyakukei* that appear in each speaker's utterance. After getting a set of sentences containing *shukuyakukei* which are then used as data, the sentences are marked in bold. Before entering into the data table, the sentence data that has been collected is coded first.

The coding for each sentence data is arranged as follows, theme, column sequence, and data number. For example, FS-1001 means that data is obtained from *Gintama Hōsōkyoku Fuyu Saikai* (FS) with the order of column 1 and data number 001. In addition, the other 6 volumes are coded according to their respective themes, namely *Fuyu Himitsu* (FH), *Natsu Tabidachi* (NTB), *Ninengo no sekai* (NGS), *Nisenrokunen no sekai* (NSR), *Do S no ōji no sekai* (DSO), and *Shogun Zadankai* (SZD).

After the data is collected, data analysis and presentation procedures are carried out to draw conclusions. The data analysis procedure performed was (1) Identifying sentence data containing *shukuyakukei*. (2) Classifying *shukuyakukei* data based on Schane's theory (1973). (3) Analyse and explain the phonological processes of each type of *shukuyakukei* contained in conversations in *Gintama Hōsōkyoku*. (4) Presenting the results of the analysis formally. *Shukuyakukeidata* is sorted by discussion and in bold and underlined. All data

discussed are source coded. The following is an example of presenting data in the discussion.

- (1) *Yoku wakannai kanji no tenshon de enjitete,*

Playing with a tension that you do not understand well. (FS-1014)

2.2. Data Source

The *shukuyakukei* data was obtained from the Japanese subtitled *Gintama Hōsōkyoku* video on youtube.com which was uploaded on different dates from 2018 and 2019, namely from the Youtube channel ユリスのお部屋 (*Yurisu no Oheya*) which in other words has nothing to do with *Gintama* radio official broadcast. The number of videos taken as a data source is 7 pieces or 7 volumes (30% of the actual number), with a total duration of 6 hours 41 minutes. Meanwhile, *Gintama Hōsōkyoku* has a total of 24 volumes of recordings with different themes. The media chosen so that it would make it easier for researchers to collect data with precise accuracy with the Japanese subtitles.

3. FINDINGS AND DISCUSSION

The analysis was carried out based on Schane's (1973) phonological process theory, which has three categories, namely (1) Assimilation, (2) Syllable Structure, and (3) Weakening and Strengthening. The collected data of *shukuyakukei* found in this study were classified based on this theory.

3.1. Type of Shukuyakukei in Conversation at Gintama Hōsōkyoku

Conversations in *Gintama Hōsōkyoku* are conversations that are carried out as in radio broadcasts in general. *Gintama Hōsōkyoku* contains free talk between the hosts and fellow *Gintama* anime voice actors (Steinberg, 2017). The conversations tend to be casual, so the frequency of *shukuyakukei* that appears is quite high. The average duration per volume taken as a sample was 57 minutes. From the 7 volumes taken as data samples, around 600 sentences that contain *shukuyakukei* were found per volume. And based on Schane's (1973) phonological process theory, there are 19 different forms of *shukuyakukei* found in this study. The findings of the type of *shukuyakukei* found in this study are as follows.

Table 1. Assimilation

No.	Shukuyakukei	Example
1.	ら → ん ra → n	わかんない → わかんない wakaranai → wakannai
2.	る → ん ru → n	やるの → やんの yaruno → yanno
3.	れ → ん re → n	かもしれない → かもしれない kamoshirenai → kamoshinnai

From Table 1, it can be seen that there are 3 forms that included into the assimilation category, namely the assimilation of the letters *ra*, *ru*, and *re* to become *n*. From a total of 7 *Gintama Hōsōkyoku* broadcast volumes, the total number of *shukuyakukei* that can be classified in the assimilation category was found to be 115 sentences.

Table 2. Syllable Structure

No.	Shukuyakukei	No.	Shukuyakukei
1.	わたし → あたし watashi → atashi	7.	ない → ねえ nai → nee
2.	すみません → すみません sumimasen → suimasen	8.	こわい → こえ — kawai → koe
3.	の → ん no → n	9.	ひどい → ひで え hidoi → hidee
4.	なの → なん nano → nan	10.	という → つう toiu → tsuu
5.	もの → もん mono → mon		というか → つ か toiuka → tsuka
6.	あなた → あんた anata → anta		といって → つ って toitte → tsutte
		11.	という → っ toiu → tte

Table 2 showed that according to Schane's (1973) phonological process theory, the syllable structure category was found in the highest number compared to the other categories, there are 11 *shukuyakukei* were identified. The most common forms from this category are *no* → *n* (27%) and *nano* → *nan* (13%).

Table 3. Weakening and Strengthening

No.	Shukuyakukei	No.	Shukuyakukei
1.	ている → てる teiru → teru	4.	このあいだ → こな いだ nai → nee
2.	てく → てく teiku → teku	5.	ほんとうに → ほん とに hontou ni → honto ni
3.	てく → てく teoku → teku		でしょう → でしょ deshou → desho
			だろう → だろ darou → daro

Based on Table 3, there are 5 forms that fall into the weakening phonological process category according to Schane's (1973) theory. The form with the highest frequency is *teiru* → *teru* (33%).

From various types of *shukuyakukei*, researcher have carried out a reduction process by sorting and identifying which forms can be explained by Schane's (1973) phonological process theory, resulted on 19 types of *shukuyakukei*.

3.2. Phonological Process of Shukuyakukei in Gintama Hōsōkyoku Conversation

3.2.1. Assimilation

Assimilation is the process of a sound that changes like the sound of nearby letters. The characters possessed by vowels and consonants can have an effect on the sounds around them. The following *shukuyakukei* is included in assimilation along with examples.

In this process there are three *shukuyakukei*, *ra*, *ru*, *re* → *n*. The following example in sentences of each form followed by its analysis explanation.

- (1) *Honshin ga doko ni aru ka wakannai.*
I don't know where my heart is.
(DSO-1088)
- (2) *Zumen toka zenbu yannoyo.*
I'll do all the drawings.
(NGS-4358)
- (3) *Koujouchou ni nareta kamoshinnai nonina.*
I might have become a factory manager.
(FS-5418)

The three forms above have the same process; the process can be seen from the original form as follows.

- (a) *wakar/a/nai* → *waka/r/nai* → *wakannai*
- (b) *zenbu yar/u/noyo* → *zenbu yannoyo*
- (c) *kamoshir/e/nai* → *kamoshinnai*

According to the theory of Schane (1973), the processes above were included in the consonant that assimilates consonant characteristics, namely the consonant *r* which assimilates the *n* consonant. The process of the form (a) is starting from the deletion of the vowel / *a* / before the suffix *nai* (syncope), after which a consonant *r* occurs which assimilates the sound in the letter *n* in front of it. Likewise, with (b) and (c), in (b) there is a release of the vowel / *u* /, while (c) there is a release of the letter / *e* /.

3.2.2. Syllable Structure

This category is the processes that affecting the distribution of consonants and vowels of a word, such as removing the adjacent of two consonants, as well as clusters of vowels. Processes falling into this category can cause a change in the structure of the original

syllable. There are five forms found for this category, while the examples and the representative of each process are explained as follows.

Contracted form: *watashi* → *atashi*

- (1) *Atashi mo sonna ni kawattenai kara.*
I haven't changed that much.

(NGS-2175)

The word *atashi* originally came from *watashi*, which underwent a process of removing the consonant / w /, although actually w is pronounced like the vowel u because the letter w is a semi-vowel, so / wa / in *watashi* is more like a stacked u and a vowel. Therefore, only pronounce as / a / and the letter / w / was omitted.

Contracted form: *nano* → *nan*

- (2) *Insatsugaisha nan desune.*
It's a printing company.

(FS-3227)

According to Schane's (1973) theory, the form above is included in the phonological process of the syllable structure category, namely vowel deletion. In *nan/o/desune* → *nan desune*, the vowels / o / in (a) was removed so that the pronunciation of 'no' changes to 'n'. From this process, we know that the pronunciation of 'n' is more practically pronounced in a conversation when compared to the written form (*no*).

Contracted form: *nai* → *nee*

- (3) *Shiaigo no resuraa janeeka.*
That's post-match wrestler, isn't it?

(SZD-7758)

According to Schane's theory (1973), the form above is included in the phonological process of vowel coalescence. This process occurs because there are clusters of vowels that merge into a single vowel, namely / ai / in / nai / which merges into one vowel e, so it is pronounced / nee /.

Contracted form: *toiu* → *tsuu*

- (4) *kou nantsuuno kana?*
I wonder what this is ?

(SZD-4443)

According to the theory of Schane (1973), the form above is included in vowels and consonants coalescence. In this process, it can occur with the merging of several segments into a single segment.

The *toiu* form above has a stacked vowel that combines into one vowel u in the following process: *toiu* → t/u/ → *tsuu*.

Initially *toiu* has three syllables, after which the vowels and consonants combine to form one syllable. The consonant / t / joins the vowel / u / to become / tsu /.

Contracted form: *toiu* → *tte*

- (5) *Juyou ga atta tte koto dayo.*
There was a demand.

(NTB-2191)

The process in the form (4) is exactly the same as the form (5). The vowel / oiu / combines into one vowel / e /, then the letter / t / in to joins the vowel / e / to become / te /. The double t before / e / is an emphasis in the verbal variant. Combined results make syllables simpler and pronunciation easier and more practical.

3.1.3. Weakening and Strengthening

As the term implies, weakening or lenition is a phonological process which generally indicates a reduction in sound in a syllable. Meanwhile, strengthening is a process that can make the sound stronger. However, knowing that *shukuyakukei* is basically a form of contraction, therefore only included in the weakening process.

In this category, there are three forms as explained below.

Contracted form: *teiku* → *teku*

- (1) *Yattekuyo. Korekara mamotteku.*
I'll do it. I will continue to protect.

(DSO-1026)

In (1) there is a process of removing a vowel in the middle which is also called syncope. Vowels / i / on *teiku* are removed. In the verbal variant / i / is not emphasized.

Contracted form: *kono aida* → *konaida*

- (2) *Konaida youfuku kekkou tottokun desu.*
I'll keep a lot of clothes during this time.

(NSR-6698)

The process in (2) is also the same as the previous form. Syncope occurs with the removal of the vowel / o / because there is a cluster of vowels / oai / in the word *konoaida*, with the removal of the vowel / o /, the consonant / n / follows the pronunciation of the vowel / a / in front of it becomes *konaida*.

Contracted form: *darou* → *daro*

- (3) *Ato nan darona.*
What is it after that.

(NTB-6668)

The form in (3) undergoes a process of removing the vowels at the end of the word, namely the apocope. The vowel / u / in the word *darou* indicate long pronunciation in Japanese, while in the spoken variety the / u / vowel is omitted so that the pronunciation becomes shorter.

Based on analysis result, the phonological process of *shukuyakukei* found in *Gintama Hōsōkyoku* based on Schane theory (1973), it was discovered that in assimilation there is consonant assimilates consonant feature, while in syllable structure there are vocal deletion, consonant deletion, vocal coalescence, and vocal-consonant coalescence. Weakening and strengthening there are syncope and apocope. While on previous research, Huda (2017) who examined the

phonological process of Banyumas dialect only found assimilation and two syllable structure processes, which are insertion and deletion.

4. CONCLUSION

Based on the analysis of this study, *shukuyakukei* that found in casual Japanese conversations, namely from the *Gintama Hōsōkyoku*, showed that native Japanese speakers use *shukuyakukei* consciously or unconsciously. Thus, although *shukuyakukei* is considered as non-beginner learning material, learning *shukuyakukei* is important to better understand the casual Japanese conversation, as well as using in actual Japanese conversations.

For further research, comparison of *shukuyakukei* is also considered necessary. *Shukuyakukei* has a very wide variety of forms, and there is still lack study regarding the type of *shukuyakukei*. Moreover, apart from using a qualitative approach, research on *shukuyakukei* can also be carried out using a quantitative approach.

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