

1. Purpose

To test the applicability of the FT/FA in the domain of interpretation of Japanese demonstrative pronouns by L1 English speakers of L2 Japanese.

FT/FA (Schwartz & Sprouse 1996)

FT: The initial state of L2 grammar is the end state of L1 grammar. All L1 properties can be transferred to the L2.

FA: L2 properties can be acquired by means of UG.

2. Japanese demonstratives

ko-series (proximal)	so-series (medial)	a-series (distal)
kore 'this one'	sore 'that one'	are 'that one there'
koitu 'this guy'	soitu 'that guy'	aitu 'that guy there'
kono '(of) this'	sono '(of) that'	ano '(of) that over there'
koko 'here'	soko 'there'	asoko 'over there'

(1) Kono/sono/ano hon-o kudasai. this/that/that (over there) book-Acc give 'Give me this/that/that (over there) book' (Kuno 1973)

So-series DPs allow a bound variable interpretation although overt pronouns in null subject languages generally cannot take it (Montalbetti 1984).

(2) Sono works as a variable

Dono titioya-mo sono_i/ano_i itiban sita-no musume-o every father- \forall that/that most youngest daughter-Dat kawaigaru. loves 'Every father_i loves his_i youngest daughter.'

(3) Sono+NP works as a variable

Dono otokonohito-moi sono hito_i-no/ano hito_i-no every man- \forall that person-Gen/that person-Gen kodomo-ni presento-o ageta. child-Dat present-Acc gave 'Every man_i gave a present to that person's_i child.' (Nishigauchi 1990, Hoji 1991, Noguchi 1997)

3. English demonstratives

Do not function as variables
(4) Every father_i loves that person's_i/this person's_i youngest daughter.
(5) Every man_i gave a present to that person's_i/this person's_i child.

Exceptions;
(6) Every boy_i dates a girl who adores that boy_i/this boy_i. (Noguchi 1997, Elbourne 2008)

RQ Do L1 English speakers of L2 Japanese initially disallow bound variable interpretations of sono, treating sono like English that? (L1 transfer)

4. Study

Participants: 15 Native Japanese speakers
30 L2ers (L1 English, intermediate/advanced n=15)

4.1 Task1 (coreference judgment task)

(7) Dono otoosan-mo_i sono_i/ano_i/pro_i/self_i itibansita-no ko-o kawaigaru Every father- \forall that/that/pro/self youngest-Gen child-Acc love 'Every father_i loves that_i/that_i/pro_i/self_i's youngest child.'

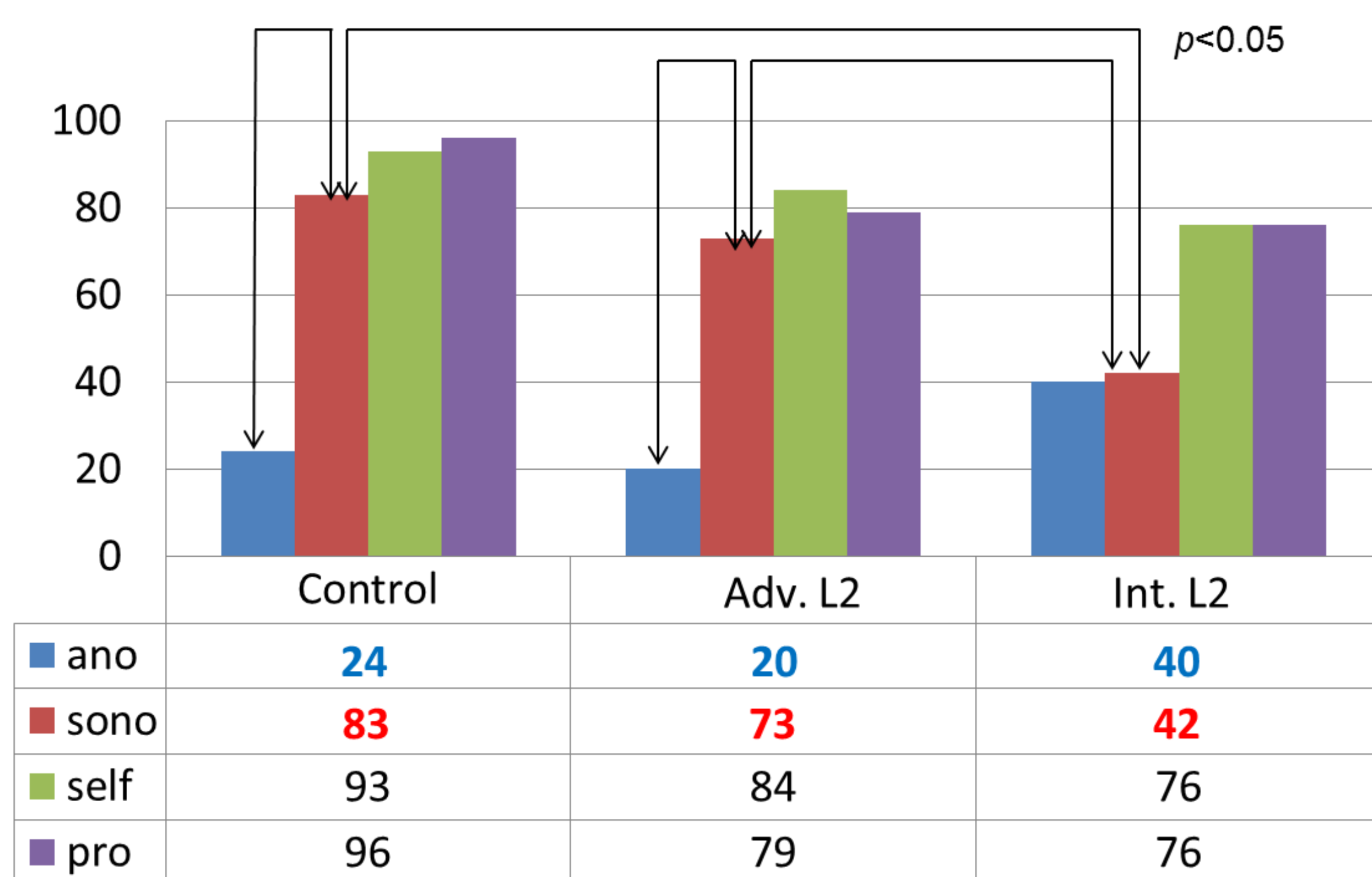
Q. 'Whose youngest child does every father love?'

- A. (a) 'His own child' (bound interpretation)
- (b) 'Another person's child' (disjoint interpretation)
- (c) 'I don't know'

4 conditions (sono/ano/pro/self, n=3 each)

Results

Choice of bound interpretations (%) (B+B/D)

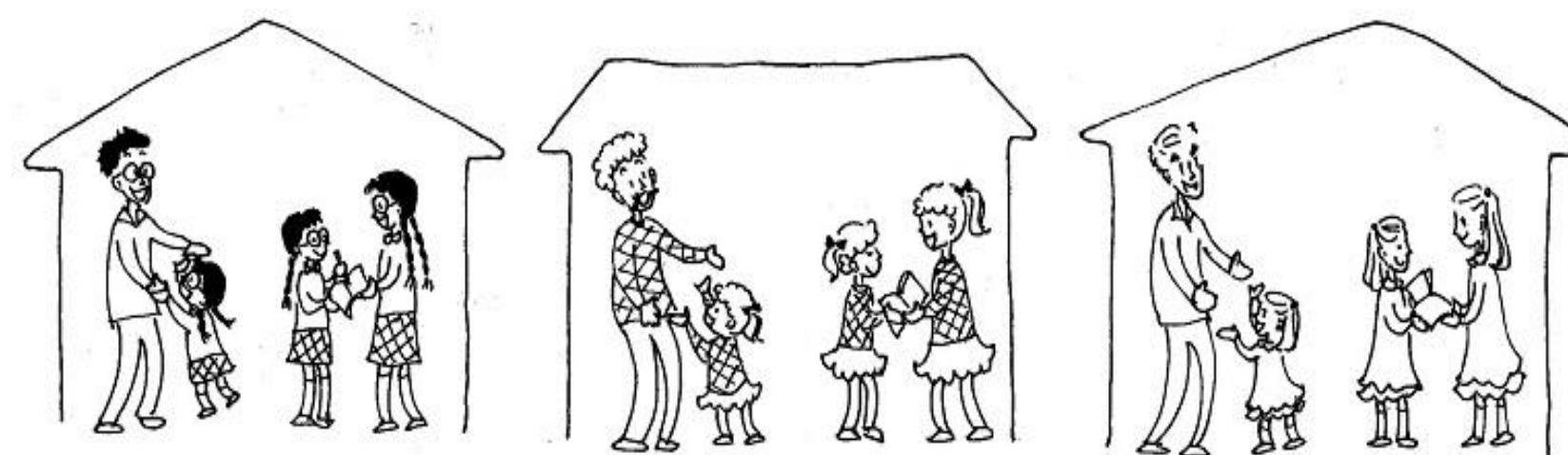


- The intermediate L2ers chose bound interpretations of sono less frequently than the controls (one-way ANOVA, F(2,41)=5.34, p<.01). They also did not make a distinction between sono and ano, suggesting L1 transfer.

4.2 Task2 (truth value judgment task)

(7) Dono otoosan-mo_i sono_i/ano_i/pro_i/self_i itibansita-no ko-o kawaigaru 'Every father_i loves that_i/that_i/pro_i/self_i's youngest child.'

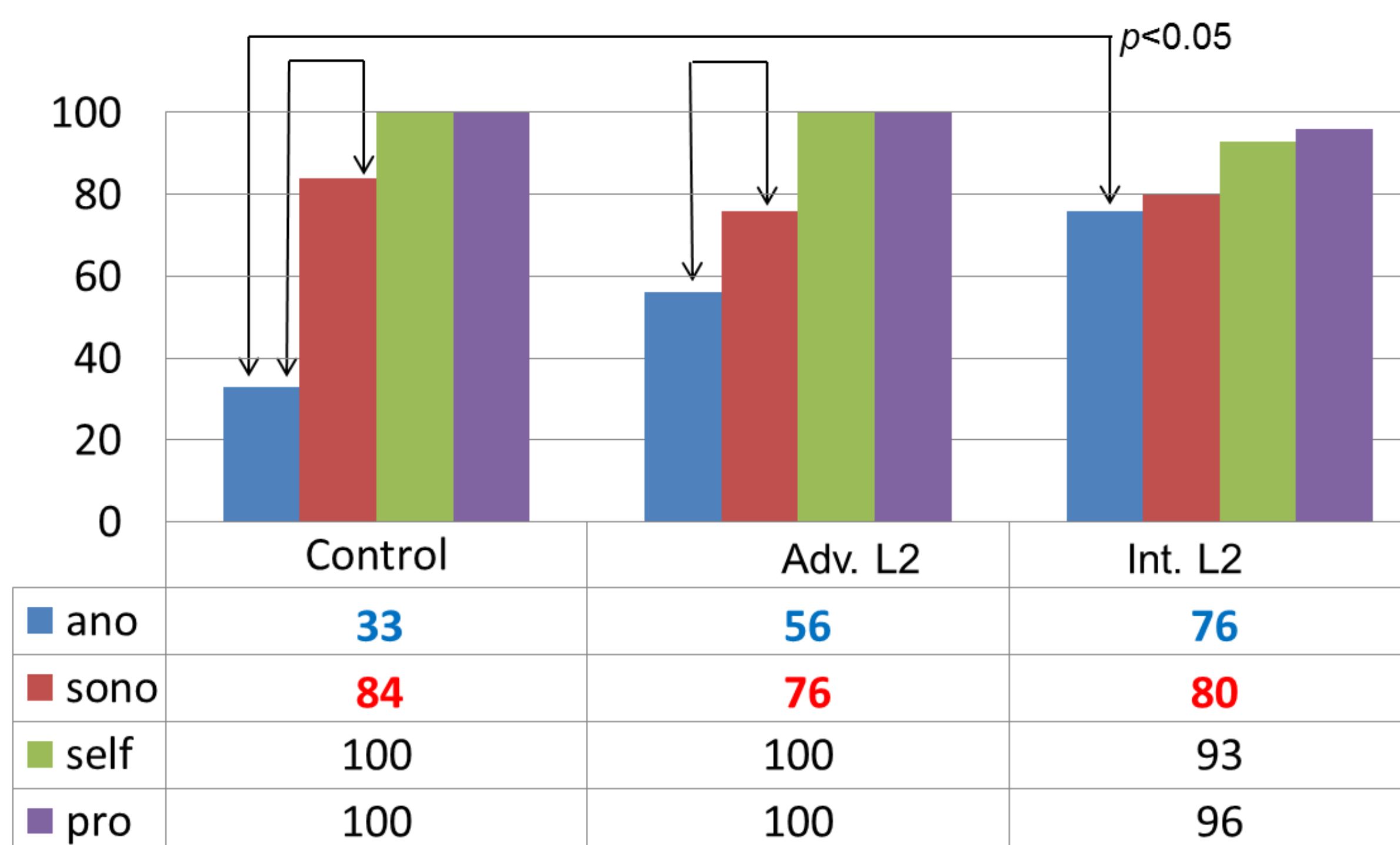
Q. 'Does the picture match the meaning of the sentence?'
A. (a) Yes (b) No (c) I don't know



The bound variable context

Results

Yes responses to bound interpretations (%)



- The intermediate L2ers did not make a distinction between sono and ano. (They allowed the bound interpretation of ano more frequently than the controls, contrary to the expectation. one-way ANOVA, F(2,42)=4.80, p<.05)
- The advanced L2ers showed target-like interpretations of sono and ano.

5. Summary of the findings

1. In both tasks, the intermediate L2ers did not make a distinction between sono and ano.
→ This is attributable to their L1, supporting the FT. The L2ers initially treated sono and ano as equivalents to that.
2. In both tasks, the advanced L2ers showed target-like interpretations of sono and ano.
→ The L2ers acquired the correct interpretations.
3. Discrepancy between the two tasks
The intermediate L2ers chose bound interpretations of sono and ano only 40% of the time in the coreference judgment task. In contrast, they accepted bound interpretations of sono and ano about 80% of the time in the truth value judgment task.

→ A possible explanation: task effect
The pictures in the truth value judgment task failed to provide truly bound contexts. The L2ers may have interpreted ano/sono as a deictic expression.

6. Conclusion

The L2ers initially disallow bound variable interpretations of sono. They also do not make a distinction between sono and ano. These results are attributable to their L1, supporting the FT/FA (Schwartz & Sprouse, 1996).

References

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