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
(1) Kono/sono/ano/this/that (over there) book-Acc give ‘Give me this/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).

4. Task1 (coreference judgment task)
(7) Dono otoossan-mo sono/ano/pra/self/that person’s/this person’s/youngest child’s itibansita-nil iban-sita-no kawaigaru.
‘Every father loves that person’s/that person’s/youngest child.’

4.2 Task2 (truth value judgment task)
(7) Dono itiiya-mo sono/ano/pra/self/that person’s/this person’s/youngest daughter-Dat kawaigaru.
‘Every man gave a present to that person’s/this person’s/youngest daughter.’

Results
Yes responses to bound interpretations (%)

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.

5. References