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A study of the acquisition of the adverb “kitto” :
A reflection upon the prototype usage of Chinese
learners of Japanese

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— A reflection upon the prototype usage of Chinese learners of Japanese —

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This paper looks into prototype usage of “kitto” adopted by Chinese learners of Japanese and probes the causal factors. According to the research findings, it shows that the learners don’t have a sufficient understanding on the application of the word “kitto”. It is also found that they make different assumptions from native speakers. Moreover, the transfer of the learners’ native language influences the process of the prototype formation. This infers that in the teaching of “kitto”, it is necessary to focus on the meaning and similar meanings so as to understand the ways in which the Chinese counterpart varies from the prototype of “kitto”.

Keywords: prototype formation, difference, transfer of first language, semantic construction, teaching