On the voiced obstruent geminates 
in the Owase dialect (Mie Prefecture, Japan)  
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In this presentation, I argue that, interestingly, voiced obstruent geminates (有声促⾳, 
*yusei-sokuon*) are found in the Owase dialect. Owase City is located in the southern part of Mie 
Prefecture, Japan, a part of the Tokai Region near Nagoya City.

As Ito and Mester (1995) and Kawahara (2015) indicate, the native phonology of Standard 
Japanese does not allow for voiced obstruent geminates. Kawagoe (2015) indicates that 
examples of voiced obstruent geminates are found in loanwords as in *beddo* ‘bed’ in Standard 
Japanese; however, patterns where the voiced obstruent geminates undergo devoicing are also 
found as in *beddo~betto* ‘bed’.

As mentioned above, Standard Japanese avoids voiced obstruent geminates. However, 
interestingly, voiced obstruent geminates are found in the Owase dialect. Voiced obstruent 
geminates appear in the *-yoru* forms of the consonant-stem verbs. The *-yoru* forms mean the 
progressive aspect. Table 1 indicates the examples of voiced obstruent geminates.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Infinitive form</th>
<th>Gloss</th>
<th><em>-yoru</em> form</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>kog-<em>u</em></td>
<td>‘to row’</td>
<td>koggyoru</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>oyog-<em>u</em></td>
<td>‘to swim’</td>
<td>oyoggyoru</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>yob-<em>u</em></td>
<td>‘to call’</td>
<td>yobbyoru</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>hakob-<em>u</em></td>
<td>‘to carry’</td>
<td>hakobbyoru</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Takayama (2012) listed the Japanese dialects that allow for voiced obstruent geminates; 
however, the list did not include the Owase dialect. Therefore, this presentation refers to a novel 
discovery.

References:
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