Bilabial, palatal, and glottal fricatives in Japanese

Part I

• If we consider only the data in this part, what would we conclude about the distribution of [ɸ], [ç], and [h] in Japanese? How many distinct phonemes would we want to set up?

  [ johoː ] ‘forecast’ [ toːɸɯ ] ‘tofu’
  [ hoçi ] ‘star’ [ suhada ] ‘bare skin’
  [ eçime ] (place name) [ haha ] ‘mother’
  [ φukɯ ] ‘clothes’ [ tehon ] ‘model’
  [ saiφɯ ] ‘wallet’ [ hahen ] ‘broken piece’
  [ hako ] ‘box’ [ çito ] ‘person’
  [ φukai ] ‘deep’ [ çihon ] ‘capital’
  [ kuφukɯ ] ‘hunger’ [ hen ] ‘strange’
  [ kuçi ] ‘waste’ [ kiçin ] ‘grace’
  [ çihai ] ‘control’

Part II

• Now consider the data in this part. What should we conclude about the distribution of [ɸ], [ç], and [h] now? Should we revise our analysis from Part I? Why or why not?

  [ haišu ] ‘heights’ [ herupu ] ‘help’
  [ hoːsupawaː ] ‘horsepower’ [ çirukuraimu ] ‘hill climb’
  [ koçiː ] ‘coffee’ [ oafɯ ] ‘Oahu’
  [ φuraφɯːpɯ ] ‘hula hoop’

  [ efw ] ‘F’ [ φɯdokoːto ] ‘food court’
  [ φeminisuto ] ‘feminist’ [ φo:kɯ ] ‘fork’
  [ φirumɯ ] ‘film’ [ φaito ] ‘fight’

Data from Tsujimura (2007) and JDIC