

令和 6 年 6 月 25 日現在

機関番号：37111

研究種目：基盤研究(C) (一般)

研究期間：2019～2023

課題番号：19K00698

研究課題名(和文) The origins of 'yes' and 'no'

研究課題名(英文) The origins of 'yes' and 'no'

研究代表者

HOWE Stephen・Mark (Howe, Stephen Mark)

福岡大学・人文学部・教授

研究者番号：90461491

交付決定額(研究期間全体)：(直接経費) 3,200,000円

研究成果の概要(和文)：この研究では、(1)イギリスとアメリカの方言における「はい」と「いいえ」の起源と形式を調査しました。(2)なぜ私たちが「はい」と「いいえ」を三峰的に伝えるのかを調査しました。言語、発声、ジェスチャーで。私は、これまで学術文献では知られていなかったイギリス英語の「yes」と「no」の2つの形式、「jearse」と「dow」を調べました。「ジャース/ジェス」と「ダウ」に関する新しいデータを収集しました。研究の第2部では、「はい」と「いいえ」に関する論文を完成させています。人間の言語における「はい」と「いいえ」の起源に関する仮説を提案します。

研究成果の学術的意義や社会的意義

My research is scientifically and socially significant as it revealed forms of 'yes' and 'no' previously unknown to most scholars, although spoken across Eastern England and America. It is further significant as it will put forward a theory of the origin of 'yes' and 'no' common to all humans.

研究成果の概要(英文)：This research (1) examined the origins and forms of yes and no in dialect in England and America; and (2) investigated a fundamental and probably very old part of human language, namely why we communicate yes and no trimodally; with language, vocalisation and gesture. In the first part of my research, I examined two forms of yes and no in British English previously unknown to the academic literature, jearse and dow. These forms of yes and no are also used in Northeast America. I gathered new data on jearse/jess and dow in research in New England. I am currently in the process of finalising these findings for publication. In the second part of my research, I examined the following questions: Why are yes and no trimodal? And what can yes and no tell us about the origins of human communication and language? I am completing a second forthcoming paper on yes and no. It will put forward a hypothesis on the origins of yes and no in human language.

研究分野：Linguistics, Dialectology, Origin of language

キーワード：yes no language vocalisation gesture East Anglia New England multimodal

### 1. 研究開始当初の背景

This research (1) examined the origins and forms of ‘yes’ and ‘no’ in dialect in England and America; and (2) investigated a fundamental and probably very old part of human language, namely why we communicate ‘yes’ and ‘no’ trimodally – with language, vocalisation and gesture.

### 2. 研究の目的

In the first part of my research, I examined two forms of ‘yes’ and ‘no’ in British English previously unknown to the academic literature, ‘jearse’ and ‘dow’. These forms of ‘yes’ and ‘no’ are also used in Northeast America. Colonists from Eastern England likely brought ‘dow’ and ‘jearse’ to New England in the seventeenth century; four hundred years later, this distinctive feature of Eastern English still survives.

In the second part of my research, I examined the following questions: Why are ‘yes’ and ‘no’ trimodal? And what can ‘yes’ and ‘no’ tell us about the origins of human communication and language? The trimodality of ‘yes’ and ‘no’ is quite exceptional, making them an interesting and potentially significant area of research in understanding human communication and its origins.

None of the standard works on grammaticalisation has entries for ‘yes’ and ‘no’: Grammaticalization (Hopper and Traugott 1993), World Lexicon of Grammaticalization (Heine and Kuteva 2002) or Oxford Handbook of Grammaticalization (Narrog and Heine 2011).

The origins of the gestures for ‘yes’ and ‘no’ were taken up already by Darwin. In the Expression of the Emotions in Man and Animals, he writes ([1872] 2009: 273): ‘In refusing food (...) children frequently move their heads several times from side to side, as we do in shaking our heads in negation (...) the mouth is closed, so that these movements might likewise come to serve as signs of negation’. I dispute Darwin’s hypothesis and will put forward a new theory in the forthcoming publication.

### 3. 研究の方法

I gathered new data on ‘jearse/jess’ and ‘dow’ in research in New England. I recorded *jess* and/or *dow* in all states of New England, except Connecticut, and in New York State. My research included an appearance in the local New England press and on public radio to publicise my work. I also recorded further data on *jearse* and *dow* in the East of England. I am currently in the process of finalising these findings for publication. This includes maps, which show new data previously unpublished of the distributions of these forms. Fischer writes (1989. Albion’s seed: Four British Folkways in America. New York & Oxford: OUP, p. 17) ‘In the nineteenth century, the[ir] descendants migrated east to Maine and Nova Scotia, north to Canada, and west to the Pacific. Along the way, they founded the future cities of Buffalo, Cleveland, Chicago, St. Paul, Denver, Seattle, San

Francisco and Salt Lake City'. Wolfram and Schilling (2016. *American English: Dialects and Variation*. 3rd ed. Malden & Oxford: Wiley, pp. 110–117) report that New Englanders 'were so prevalent on the Oregon coast, even as early as the latter years of the eighteenth century, that Native Americans in the area once referred to all white people as "Bostons"'. In a second period of fieldwork, in the western United States, I found no trace of 'jearse/jess' or 'dow' in local speech today. During this fieldwork, I also researched the use of vocalisation and gesture by Native Americans at the University of California, Berkeley (California Language Archive), and UCLA (American Indian Studies Center).

I conducted further research and fieldwork in England, gathering more data on the use and distribution of 'jearse' and 'dow'.

I set up a website ([yesandno.info](http://yesandno.info)) to gather data from respondents on 'yes' and 'no' English and other languages, as well as how they communicate 'yes' and 'no' by vocalization and gesture.

I analysed language, vocalisation and gesture of 'yes' and 'no' in Italy, in particular in Rome (central) and Naples (south). I looked for differences in gestures for 'yes' and 'no' between Naples and other parts of Italy, the so-called Gesture frontier marking earlier Greek and Roman settlement. I followed up on research by Adam Kendon and Andrea de Jorio's *La mimica degli antichi investigata nel gestire napoletano*. I did not find significant differences between Rome and Naples in gesture 'yes' and 'no' today.

#### 4. 研究成果

My research is scientifically and socially significant as it revealed forms of 'yes' and 'no' previously unknown to most scholars, although used across Eastern England and Northeast America. This data was missed by almost all previous researchers and language surveys. My research is further significant as it will put forward a theory of the origin of 'yes' and 'no' common to all modern humans.

I published a review article: HOWE, Stephen (2023) East Anglian English and the Langue de jearse and dow, Source: NOWELE. North-Western European Language Evolution, Volume 76, Issue 1, Jun 2023, p. 112 – 125. DOI: <https://doi.org/10.1075/nowele.00076.how>

I am working on two forthcoming papers on 'yes' and 'no'. The first will include the new data on 'jearse' and 'dow' in America and England. The second will put forward a hypothesis on the development of 'yes' and 'no' in human language. It will attempt to provide a unified theory for the origin of 'yes' and 'no' in gesture, vocalisation and language rather than separate origins of human language via gesture or via vocalisation. These publications should be completed in 2024 or 2025.

5. 主な発表論文等

〔雑誌論文〕 計2件（うち査読付論文 1件/うち国際共著 1件/うちオープンアクセス 1件）

1. 著者名 HOWE, Stephen	4. 巻 series A, vol. 19
2. 論文標題 New old words for “yes” and “no” in English	5. 発行年 2019年
3. 雑誌名 The Bulletin of the Central Research Institute, Fukuoka University	6. 最初と最後の頁 29-34
掲載論文のDOI（デジタルオブジェクト識別子） なし	査読の有無 無
オープンアクセス オープンアクセスとしている（また、その予定である）	国際共著 -

1. 著者名 Howe Stephen	4. 巻 76
2. 論文標題 East Anglian English and the Langue de jearse and dow	5. 発行年 2023年
3. 雑誌名 NOWELE / North-Western European Language Evolution	6. 最初と最後の頁 112 ~ 125
掲載論文のDOI（デジタルオブジェクト識別子） 10.1075/nowele.00076.how	査読の有無 有
オープンアクセス オープンアクセスではない、又はオープンアクセスが困難	国際共著 該当する

〔学会発表〕 計2件（うち招待講演 1件/うち国際学会 1件）

1. 発表者名 HOWE, Stephen
2. 発表標題 Jearse and dow: Emphatic ‘yes’ and ‘no’ in the East of England and Northeast America
3. 学会等名 American Dialect Society, Annual Conference, New Orleans, Jan. 2-5, 2020（国際学会）
4. 発表年 2020年

1. 発表者名 HOWE, Stephen
2. 発表標題 Yes and No in England and America
3. 学会等名 Podcast on WAMC/Northeast Public Radio（招待講演）
4. 発表年 2019年

〔図書〕 計0件

〔産業財産権〕

〔その他〕

Dow Jearse Survey website: yesandno.info  
Jearse-or-dow questions: Probing New England 's forgotten linguistic quirks. Newspaper article from New Hampshire and Vermont. 18 August 2019.

6. 研究組織

	氏名 (ローマ字氏名) (研究者番号)	所属研究機関・部局・職 (機関番号)	備考
--	---------------------------	-----------------------	----

7. 科研費を使用して開催した国際研究集会

〔国際研究集会〕 計0件

8. 本研究に関連して実施した国際共同研究の実施状況

共同研究相手国	相手方研究機関
---------	---------