

Abstract of Doctor's Thesis

Subject

A Study of Japanese “Word-Combinations”
consisting of “N-ni” and Verb

Name

Li Dan

This paper is a study about “Word-Combinations” consisting of a noun marked by the ni-case marker and a verb in Japanese. Using “Word-Combinations” as a theoretical framework, this research examines the linguistic properties exhibited by the combination of a ni-marked noun and a verb.

“Word-Combinations” are not only groups of two (or three) words, there are certain relations existed in these words (“musubitsuki” in this paper) that form a structure followed in it. For example, in *shinjuku-ni iku* (go to shinjuku) and *kaimono-ni iku* (go shopping), by changing the structure of the combination (in this case, ni-marked noun is a location noun in the former and a movement-related noun in the latter), one combination relates to the other. In this respect, the study of “Word-Combinations” is exceedingly different from the study of a simple case particle or the valence of the verb.

Okuda(1962[1983]) is recognized as the most important research of “Word-Combinations” consisting of a ni-marked noun and a verb. But as it has already been pointed out, Okuda’s research still leaves some questions, especially it has not yet reached the systematization of “Word-Combinations” which can be concluded as the core purpose of “Word-Combinations” study.

In this paper, I followed in Okuda’s footsteps and made an attempt at re-categorizing these combinations based on analyses of corpus data. And then I specified the systematization of “Word-Combinations” consisting of a ni-marked noun and a verb.

First, in Chapter 1 of Part 1, I showed the purpose and the subject of this study and the detailed corpus data which was used for analyzing.

In Chapter 2 of Part 1, I introduced some researches related to this study from the viewpoint of ni-case particle, explained the relationship of a ni-marked noun and a

verb, and “Word-Combinations” including a ni-marked noun.

In Part 2, I talked about the categorization of “Word-Combinations” consisting of a ni-marked noun and a verb. I categorized the combinations into two different groups first, which are “taisyoutekina musubitsuki” (object combination) and “kiteitekina musubitsuki” (regulation combination) from the relationship of the ni-marked noun and the verb and the lexical meaning of them.

In Chapter 3 of Part 2, “taisyoutekina musubitsuki” was then categorized into nine sub-groups. They are, “arika-no musubitsuki” (existence combination), “idou-no musubitsuki” (movement combination), “kuttsuki-no musubitsuki” (adherence combination), “aite-no musubitsuki” (opponent combination), “syakaitekina kakawari” (social relation combination), “sinritekina kakawari” (psychological relation combination), “kankei-no musubitsuki” (relation combination), “hatarakikake-no musubitsuki” (effect combination) and “ukemitekina musubitsuki” (passive combination).

In Chapter 4 of Part 2, “kiteitekina musubitsuki” was categorized into three sub-groups. They are, “kekkakitei-no musubitsuki” (result regulation combination), “naiyoukitei-no musubitsuki” (content regulation combination), and “mokutekikitei-no musubitsuki” (purpose regulation combination).

In Part 3, which was the most important part of this study, I specified the systematization of “Word-Combinations” consisting of a ni-marked noun and a verb.

In Chapter 5 of Part 3, I showed the relationship between “taisyoutekina musubitsuki” and “kiteitekina musubitsuki”. All three combinations of “kiteitekina musubitsuki” relate to “taisyoutekina musubitsuki”.

In Chapter 6 of Part 3, I showed the relationship between the nine combinations of “taisyoutekina musubitsuki”. Within these groups, a very well-developed transfer relationship is observed around “arika-no musubitsuki”, “idou-no musubitsuki” and “kuttsuki-no musubitsuki”. “Arika-no musubitsuki”, “idou-no musubitsuki” and “kuttsuki-no musubitsuki” are expressions of concrete events. On the other hand, “syakaitekina kakawari”, “sinritekina kakawari”, “kankei-no musubitsuki” and “hatarakikake-no musubitsuki” are expressions of abstract events. Between the concrete combinations and the abstract combinations is “aite-no musubitsuki”. For the “ukemitekina musubitsuki”, it is also an expression of concrete events, but it is comparatively independent from the other combinations for the special lexical meaning of the verbs.

Furthermore, there are four forms of transfer among the combinations:

D) Transfer via a change in verb aspect:

When the verbs take a form in “~teiru”, “~tearu” or “~teiru of the passive voice(~(ra)reteiru)”, the combinations transfer to “arika-no musubitsuki”.

II) Transfer via “~teiku” and “~tekuru” forms of the verb:

When the verbs take a form in “~teiku” or “~tekuru”, the combinations transfer to “idou-no musubitsuki”.

III) Transfer via the abstraction of the ni-marked noun and a verb:

Concrete combinations transfer to abstract combinations.

IV) Transfer via the ambiguity lexical meaning of the verbs:

Concrete combinations transfer to abstract combinations.

Finally in Part 4, I summarized a conclusion of this study in Chapter 7 and posed remaining questions for future studies in Chapter 8.