An exploration into the world of experience: a systemic-functional interpretation of the grammar of Japanese

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照屋　一博

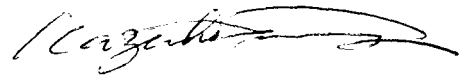
Abstract

This is a theory-based and corpus-based description of the grammar of modern Japanese. The thesis explores the world of meaning that is constituted by means of the grammar, and provides an account for the grammar of Japanese in general, and the transitivity system of Japanese in particular. That is, the thesis explores specifically how our experiences of the world of around us and inside us are construed by the grammar. The exploration is firmly based on systemic functional theory — a theory that offers a multidimensional interpretation of language as resource. Here language is seen as meaning potential, and is interpreted along the dimensions set by the theory — stratification, metafunction, axis, rank, delicacy and instantiation — which capture the multidimensionality of language, and provide trinocular views of language, allowing us to see it 'from above', 'from around' and 'from below'.

Such views obtained through the exploration will be presented very explicitly by means of the system network. It represents paradigmatic and syntagmatic relations of the recurrent grammatical patterns in the form of non-cyclical graph. The thesis explores in detail the domains of process type — processes of 'saying', 'sensing', 'being' and 'doing' — in terms of the theory of nuclear transitivity and, where appropriate, the theory of circumstantial transitivity. Each process type will be explored in the space of a chapter, and the characteristics of each of these process types will be modelled by means of the system network.

The system network will provide us with a view of the global typological organization of the transitivity system as a resource for construing experience; the system network presents interrelated options as discrete grammatical categories. To adjust this typological view of the grammar, the thesis adopts a complementary perspective, i.e. a topological perspective. This perspective allows us to gain further insight into the organization of meaning, and it brings out indeterminate cases that in turn point to the overlapping semantic regions spreading across the domains of different process types. In other words, the thesis will explore the experiential domains of meaning and characterize them as a multidimensional elastic meaning space that construes our experience of the world around us and inside us.

I hereby certify that the work has not been submitted for a higher degree to any other university or institution, and also that the sources of information used and the extent to which the work of others has been utilised have been indicated in the thesis.



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Key to notations

K.1 Morphological notations

The following notations are used to show morphological analysis of text examples. For key analyses, see Section A.2 in Appendix.

adjz .....adjectivalizer
adno .....adnominal
asp .....aspect (see Table A-4 in Appendix)
atp .....attempt: [*-te*] *miru* (see Table A-4 in Appendix)
bnd .....binder (see Table A-3 in Appendix)
cau .....causative
cjt .....conjecture: (see Section 2.5.2 in Chapter 2)
cop .....copula: *aru, iru* (see Table A-1 in Appendix)
cna .....conation (see Table A-2)
cnd .....conditional (see Tables -7 and -8 in Appendix)
dpy .....display:. [*-te*] *miseru* (see Table A-4 in Appendix)
end .....ending:.. *da, desu* etc. (see Tables -7 and -8 in Appendix)
foc..... ..... focus
end=focus ..ending=focus: - *no* (*n*) *da, -mono, wake da* etc.
....(*it is that, the fact is that, the explanation is that* etc.)
enu .....enumerative: [*si*]*tari*)
evd .....evidentiality: *soo da* etc. (see Table 2-9 in Chapter 2)
fml .....formal
g-&-r .....give-&-receive
hrf .....honorific
imp .....imperative
inf .....informal
lnk .....linker (see Table A-3 in Appendix)
mda .....modality (see Table A-9 in Chapter 2)
mdu .....modulation (see Table 2-10 in Chapter 2)
neg .....negative
phs .....phase (see Table 2-9 in Ch. 2 & Table A-2 in Appendix)
phs=incp .... phase=inceptive
phs=apa..... ..... phase=apparent
pot .....potential (*~e-ru/ -rare-ru*)
prf .... prefix (see Table A-6 in Appendix)

prh=pol .... prefix polite
prh=neg..... ..... prefix negative
pst ..... past
pstp ..... postpositional
psv ..... passive
suf ..... suffix (see Table A-5 in Appendix)
suf=rsp .... suffix=respect
suf=cnt .... suffix=counter
suf=hum .... suffix=human
suf=fare..... ..... suffix=fare
suf=nomz... ..... suffix=nominalizer
suf=adjz .... suffix=adjectivalizer
suf=vabz .... suffix=verbalizer
suf=occp..... ..... suffix=occupation
suf=rht..... ..... suffix=rights
suf=dstb..... ..... suffix=distributive
susp ..... suspensive: *site, si*
vblz ..... verbalizer
voc ..... vocative
vol ..... volitional

K.2 Conventions used in glossing

(1) Hyphen '-' sets up relations between (i) lexical meaning of elements and (ii) their morphological information; in general, these are in the order of '(i)-(ii)'. For example:

[Japanese example] `tuketa`
[morphology] `attach-pst-inf`
[i.e. (i) attach (ii) past (ii) informal]

(2) For some cases, approximate lexical meaning of elements (indicated as (1), (2) below) are given after the morphological information. Symbol '=' indicates subcategories and/or their associated meaning. For example:

[Japanese example] `mitai` [(1:) mi-(2:) tai]
[morphology] `see-suf=adjz=want:to-inf`
[i.e. (1-i) see-(2-ii) suffix=adjectivalizer=(2-i) want:to-informal]

(3) The colons ':' are used in the glosses where it takes more than one English word to gloss a given Japanese expression. For example:

[Japanese example] `kyoodai`
[morphology] `brothers:and:sisters`

K.3 Figures, tables and plates

Three types of captions, Figures, Tables and Plates, are employed for easy cross-referencing. In general, the Figures refer to Japanese text examples accompanied by various analyses, the Tables list and compare items, and the Plates indicate diagrams.

The organization of Figures is exemplified below; for some cases, morphological analysis [b] may not be given.

[a]	Matuzawa-wa	[Akiko-ga	iku]	koto-o	yorokonda.
[b]	Matuzawa WA	Akiko GA	go-adno	KOTO O	please-pst-inf
[c]	Matuzawa	Akiko	go		pleased
[d]	Senser	Phenomenon			Process
[e]	*Matuzawa enjoyed the fact that Akiko is going. [Itutu: 61]*				

a. Japanese text example: transcribed in

b. morphological analysis: for key examples, see

c. word-for-word translation

d. function structures

e. English translation (+ [source]): examples are translated in such a way that they reflect grammatical features of original Japanese examples.

K.4 Systemic conventions

Table A-1 Systemic conventions (Matthiessen 1995b)

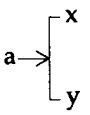
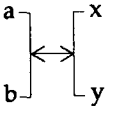
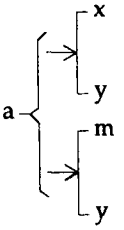
	**system:** if 'a', then 'x' or 'y' abbreviated as 'a: x / y'
	**disjunction in entry condition:** if 'a' and 'b', then 'x / y'
	**simultaneity:** if 'a', then simultaneously 'x / y' and 'm / n'

Table A-1 Systemic conventions (Matthiessen 1995b) (Continued)

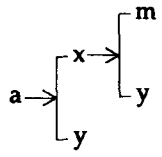
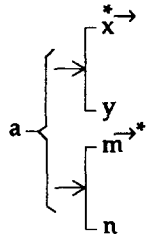
	**delicacy ordering:** if 'a', then 'x / y'; if 'x', then 'm / n'
	**conditional marking:** if 'x', then also 'm'

Table A-2 Various systemic markers (Matthiessen 1995b)

Realizational specification	
↘	Realization
/	Conflation
+	Insertion
:	Preselection
::	Lexical preselection
0	Expansion
^	Ordering
< >	Inclusion of group/ phrase
<< >>	Inclusion of clause
Structural transcription	
| | |	Clause complex, boundary markers.
| |	Clause (not rankshifted), boundary markers.
⟦ ⟧	Rankshifted (embedded) clause, boundary markers.
[ ]	Rankshifted group/ phrase, boundary markers.
Structural interpretation	
a	and other small Greek letters. Elements of hypotactic interdependency structure.
1	and other Arabic numerals. Elements of paratactic interdependency structure.
— >	interdependency relation.
Sayer	and other terms with initial capitals. Function labels.