

STRUCTURE OF ADJECTIVES IN JAPANESE

by

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CHAPTER I  
INTRODUCTION

1. 1 Some of the more persistent problems encountered by Japanese students learning English, and by American students learning Japanese, lie in the area of adjectives. This suggests a need for further descriptive study, particularly in the adjectival structures of Japanese. This paper is an attempt to meet part of that need.

There has been a good deal of descriptive work done on Japanese syntax, inflection, derivation, and morphophonemics by such distinguished linguists as Bernard Bloch, Eleanor Jordan, Samuel Martin, and others; but as far as materials are concerned, they do not suffice in that they deviate from present-day spoken Japanese. As for adjectives, Everett Kleinjans has done a contrastive study of English and Japanese adjectives in the pre-noun modifier position, and this paper owes much to his study; however, because of limits of scope on Kleinjans' work, his paper does not refer extensively to adjectives in the predicator position. This paper tries to cover adjectives as a whole - both in the pre-noun modifier position and in the predicator position.

Consideration is restricted to descriptive study of modern spoken Japanese adjectives, mainly on morphological and syntactic levels.

In the conclusion, some Japanese/English contrastive statements are presented.

1. 2 Phonetic, phonemic, and other symbols.

- [ ] indicates phonetic transcription.
- / / indicates phonemic transcription.
- { } indicates morphemic transcription.

' ' indicates translation in English.

( ) under / / indicates literal translation from Japanese to English.

1. 21 Japanese vowel phonemes.

	Front	Back
High	/i/	/u/
Mid	/e/	/o/
Low	/a/	

1. 22 Japanese consonant phonemes.

/p/: {p}

/t̚/: {t̚}={t̚}

/t/: {t} or {ts}

/z/: {z} or {dz}

/k/: {k}

/ʃ/: {ʃ}={dʒ} or {ʒ}

/b/: {b}

/m/: {m}

/d/: {d} It does not occur before /i/, /u/, or /y/.

/n/: {n}

/ɣ/: {ɣ}

/ŋ/: {ŋ} It is used also as syllabic nasal before pause.

/s/: {s} It does not occur before /i/.

/w/: {w}

/ʃ/: {ʃ}

/r/: {r}

/h/: {h}, {ϕ}, or {x}

/y/: {y}

1. 221 Japanese consonant phonetics.

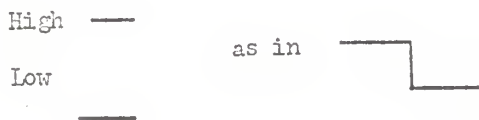
Manner of Articulation	vl. & vd.	Position of Articulation					
		bil.	dent.	alveo,	pre-pala.	pre-vel.	glott.
stop	vl. vd.	p b	t d				k ɣ
aff.	vl. vd.			ts dz	t̚ d̚		
fr.	vl. vd.			s z	ʃ ʒ	x	h
nas.		m	n				n
flap				r			
semi.		w			y		

1

1. 23 Other symbols.

/./: Each syllable has the same temporal duration, and this symbol represents enough time to make a full syllable spent articulating the preceding consonant, i.e., indicates that the preceding consonant has a duration equal to the average duration of a syllable.

Pitch:



CHAPTER II  
SIMPLE ADJECTIVES

2. 0 General. Simple adjectives in Japanese are classified into three classes, on the basis of whether they take the ending /-i/, or /-na/, or /-i~na/, when functioning as pre-noun modifier, e.g.,  
 /-i/: e.g., aka- 'red', e.g., /akai booši/ 'red hat'  
 /-na/: e.g., šizuka- 'quiet', e.g., /šizukana heya/ 'quiet room'  
 /-i~na/: e.g., mak.kuro- 'pure black', e.g., /mak.kuroi neko/ or /mak.kurona neko/ 'pure black cat'

2. 1 /-i/ adjectives. These adjectives are inflected, when used in 'predicative or "completer" functions, for nine categories:

2. 1a. Non-Past Indicative: /akai/ 'is red'  
 b. Past Indicative /akakat.ta/ 'was red'  
 c. Non-Past Presumptive: /akakaroo/ 'may be red'  
 d. Past Presumptive: /akakat.taroo/ 'may have been red'  
 e. Provisional: /akakereba/ 'if (it) is red'  
 f. Conditional: /akakat.tara/ 'if (it) should be red'  
 g. Alternative: /akakat.tari/ 'is red and.....(among other things)'  
 h. Infinitive: /akaku/ 'being red'  
 i. Gerund: /akakute/ 'is red and .....'<sup>2</sup>

<sup>2</sup>Everett Kleinjans, A Descriptive-Comparative Study Predicting Interference for Japanese in Learning English Noun-Head Modification Patterns. (Ann Arbor, Michigan, 1958), p.19.

Kleinjans adopts this datum from Bernard Bloch's "Studies in Colloquial Japanese: Part I. Inflection," JAOS, LXVI(1946), 102.

In the Japanese Language Handbook by Yuuzoo Yamamoto, Chyugaku Kokugo II (Tokyo: Nippon Shoseki, 1961), p.369, six categories are listed, e.g., Non-Past Indicative/akai/, Past Indicative/akakat.ta/, Non-Past Presumptive /akakaroo/, Provisional/akakereba/, Infinitive/akaku/, and in addition, Pre-Noun Modifier/akai/, though it is identical with Non-Past Indicative.

2. 12 Kleinjans says, " of the various forms of the adjective only two categories can function in a modification structure with a noun head." <sup>3</sup> They are the non-past indicative, e.g., /akai/'is red' and the past indicative, e.g., /akakat.ta/'was red'. Kleinjans is concerned with noun-head modification. This paper is concerned with adjectives as a whole, so, as Bloch indicates, " Japanese adjectives, like verbs, imply a predication, usually without reference to any subject", <sup>4</sup> it is pertinent to examine adjectives both as pre-noun modifier and as completer. Both pre-noun and predicator positions are filled by three categories. They are the pre-noun modifier, e.g., /akai/'red', <sup>5</sup> the non-past indicative /akai/'is red', and the past indicative /akakat.ta/'was red'. We will examine /-i/ ending adjectives both as to form and function.

2. 13 Formal characteristics of /-i/ adjectives are: a. in the pre-noun modifier position they have the /-i/ inflectional suffix; b. in the non-past indicative also they have the /-i/ inflectional suffix; and c. in the past indicative they have the /-kat.ta/ inflectional suffix. For example:

/ omoi hon / ' a heavy book'  
(heavy) (book)

/ hon wa omoi desu / ' The book is heavy.'  
(book) (subj.marker)(heavy is)(linking cop.) 'Books are heavy.'

/ hon wa omokat.ta desu / ' The book was heavy.'  
(book) (subj.mark.)(heavy was) (linking copula) 'Books were heavy.'

2. 14 Adjectives ending in /-i/ may function in two ways: a. as pre-noun

<sup>3</sup> Kleinjans, A Descriptive-Comparative Study....., p. 85.

<sup>4</sup> Bernard Bloch, "Studies in Colloquial Japanese:Part I. Inflection," p. 104.

<sup>5</sup> Though the pre-noun modifier and the non-past indicative are identical in form, this paper uses the word pre-noun modifier to preserve the distinction.



modifier, and b. as predicator.

2. 14a. Pre-noun modifier. When adjectives modify nouns attributively they always come before the noun:

/amai saboo/ 'sweet sugar' /kuroi kutuſita/ 'black stockings'  
/kawaii akačan/ 'a lovely baby' /marui kao/ 'round face'

2. 14b. Predicator. When used as predicator, adjectives follow the subject; however, in conversation, to make the sentence polite, and in soft or womanly expressions, copulas or close particles<sup>6</sup> are added to the adjective. Thus,

/kono okaſi wa amai / 'This cake is sweet.'  
(this) (cake) (subj. mark.) (sweet is)

/kono okaſi wa amai desu / 'This cake is sweet.'  
(this) (cake) (subj. mark.) (sweet is) (copula)

/amai/ itself has a function as predicator but in conversation the copula/-desu/ is usually used as linker.

/ano ie wa ſiroo<sup>7</sup> gozaimasu / 'That house is white.'  
(yonder) (house) (subj. m.) (white is) (polite copula)

/hanako no kami wa kurokat.ta desu/ 'Hanako's hair  
(Hanako) (possessive) (hair) (subj. m.) (black was) (copula) was black.'

/hanako no kami wa kuroo gozaimaſita/  
(Hanako) (possessive) (hair) (subj. m.) (black) (past polite copula)

'Hanako's hair was  
black.'

/ano ie wa ookii nee / 'That house is big, isn't it?'  
(yonder) (house) (s. m.) (big is) (isn't it?)

2. 2 /-ni/ adjectives. These also are inflected for the same nine

<sup>6</sup> Kleinjans, p. 16-46. He discusses the definition of Japanese parts of speech, comparing with Bloch and Jordan. Kleinjans' classification seems pertinent.

<sup>7</sup> By the vowel harmony, /kuroi/ 'black' becomes /kuroo/ 'black' before the polite copula /gozaimasu/.

categories as the /-i/ ending adjective:

- 2. 21a. Non-Past Indicative: /šizukada/ 'is quiet'
- b. Past Indicative: /šizukadat.ta/ 'was quiet'
- c. Non-Past Presumptive: /šizukadaroo/ 'may be quiet'
- d. Past Presumptive: /šizukadat.taroo/ 'may have been quiet'
- e. Provisional: /šizukanaraba/ 'if (it) is quiet'
- f. Conditional: /šizukadat.tara/ 'if (it) should be quiet'
- g. Alternative: /šizukadat.tari/ 'is quiet and ... (among other things)'
- h. Infinitive: /šizukani/ 'being quiet'
- i. Gerund: /šizukade/ 'is quiet and...' 8

2. 22 As in the case of /-i/ adjectives, functionally relevant categories are the non-past indicative /-da/ (colloquial form /-desu/), the past indicative /-dat.ta/ (colloquial form /-dešita/) and the pre-noun modifier /-na/, e.g., /genkida/ 'is energetic or active', /genkidat.ta/ 'was energetic' and /genkina/ 'energetic' in /genkina hito/ 'an energetic person'.

2. 23 Formal characteristics of /-na/ ending adjectives as seen above, are: a. in the pre-noun modifier position they have /-na/ endings, b. in the non-past indicative they have /-da/, c. in the past indicative they have /-dat.ta/, e.g.,

/ kireena hito/ ' a handsome man or a pretty woman'  
 (pretty) (person)

/ ano hito wa kireeda (kireedesu)/ 'He is handsome.'  
 (yonder) (person)(subj.m.)(pretty is) (colloq.) 'She is pretty.'

/ano hito wa kireedat.ta (kireedešita)/ 'He was handsome.'  
 (yonder)(person)(s.m.) (pretty was) (colloq.) 'She was pretty.'

<sup>8</sup> Bloch, p. 104.

Both in Yamamoto's Chyugaku Kokugo 2, p.367., and in Shoozi Ishii, Chyugaku 3 Non no Kokugo, (Tokyo: Hyooronshya, 1963), p.85., six categories including Pre-Noun Modifier /-na/ inflection are listed.

2. 24 Adjectives ending in /-na/ may function in two ways: a. as pre-noun modifier, and b. as predicator.

2. 24a. Pre-noun modifier. When they modify nouns attributively, they always come before the noun:

/kireena hana/ 'pretty flower(s)'  
(pretty) (flower)

/bakana hito/ 'a foolish person'  
(foolish) (person)

2. 24b. Predicator. When used as predicator, adjectives follow the subject. In the pre-noun position only the /-na/ suffix is used, but as predicator, both common and colloquial forms can be used and colloquial forms also have declensions correlated to common form declensions, e.g.,

Common form: /wataku<sup>si</sup> wa genkida/ 'I am healthy.'  
( I ) (subj.mark.)(healthy is)

/wataku<sup>si</sup> wa genkidat.ta/ 'I was healthy.'  
( I ) (subj.m.)(healthy was)

Colloquial form: /wataku<sup>si</sup> wa genkidesu/ 'I am healthy.'  
( I ) (s.m.)(healthy is)

/wataku<sup>si</sup> wa genkidesita/ 'I was healthy.'  
( I ) (s.m.)(healthy was)

2. 3 /-i -na/ ending adjectives. There are several adjectives which may take either /-i/ or /-na/ endings in free variation and occur with /-kat.ta/ or /-dat.ta/ forms. They are /yawarakai/'soft' /yawarakana/'soft', /mak.kuroi/'pure black' /mak.kurona/'pure black', /ataakai/'warm' /atakana/'warm', /sikakui/'square' /sikakuna/'square', etc. In the following table the small circle means that the adjective named is available for the function named, while the x means that it is not available for the function named.

inflection stem	pre-noun or predicat. /-i/	pre-noun /-na/	past indicative/-i/ /-kat.ta/	past indicat./-na/ /-dat.ta/
/yawaraka/ 'soft'	o	o	o	o
/šikaku/ 'square'	o	o	o	o
/atataka/ 'warm'	o	o	o	o
/mak.ka/ 'pure red'	x	o	x	o
/aka/ 'red'	o	x	o	o

2. 31 Etymologically /-i/ adjectives are earlier forms and /-na/ adjectives are later developed ones, a result of noun plus copula combinations.

Descriptively it is an interesting phenomenon that there are some words which are not in complementary distribution. One clue is that when the intensifier {maq-} 'purely' is attached to the adjectives which express color, such as /akai/ 'red', /kuroi/ 'black', and /kiroi/ 'yellow', they have both endings, or, as the case of /akai/ 'red', they become /-na/ adjectives:

/akai hana/ 'a red flower' but /mak.kana hana/ 'a purely red flower'  
 /kuroi kutu/ 'black shoes', /mak.kuroi/ or /mak.kurona/ /kutu/ 'purely  
 black shoes'

Thus, /-na/ adjectives seem to have some relation to the notion of intensity. Further study of this phenomenon is needed.

2. 4 Discussion of /-na/ ending adjectives. There is a problem in /-na/ adjectives in the predicator position. In the predicator position /-na/ adjectives drop the inflectional suffix /-na/ and take the inflectional suffix /-da/ or /-dat.ta/. Then the form becomes identical with a noun phrase with the copula /-da/ or /-dat.ta/. For example:

/kore wa benridesu/ (/desu/ is a colloquial form of /-da/)  
 (this)(s.m.)(handy is) 'This is handy.'

/kore wa inudesu/ 'This is a dog.'  
 (this)(s.m.)(dog)(is)

/anata wa rip.padešita/ (/dešita/ is a colloquial form of /-dat.ta/)  
 (you)(subj.m.)(magnificent was) 'You were magnificent (or great).'

/anata wa senseidešita/ 'You were a teacher.'  
 (you)(subj.m.)(teacher)(were)

In the above examples, /-desu/, and /-dešita/ in /-na/ adjectives are parts of inflections, while /-desu/ and /-dešita/ in the noun phrases /inudesu/ and /senseidešita/ are copulas, separate from the nouns /inu/ and /sensei/. There is no difference descriptively except for the fact that in noun phrases there is a very subtle /+/ juncture between a noun and /-desu/, whereas there seems to be no /+/ juncture between adjective stem and the inflectional suffix /-desu/. So in the predicator position it is difficult to distinguish between nouns and /-na/ adjectives.

But there is a way to test whether a form is a noun or a /-na/ adjective in the predicator position, by inserting an adverb before them. Japanese adjectives have no inflectional suffixes to show comparison, but, as in the case of more beautiful and most beautiful in English, Japanese adjectives take /mot.to/ 'more' and /mot.tomo/ or /ičiban/ 'most' preceding them. If the word is a noun, it does not take any comparisons. For example:

/kore wa mot.to benridesu/ 'This is more handy.'  
 (this)(subj.m.)(more) (handy is)

\*/kore wa mot.to inudesu/ \*'This is a more dog.'  
 (this)(subj.m.)(more) (dog)(is)

/anata wa ičiban rip.padešita/ 'You were most magnificent.'  
 (you)(subj.m.)(most)(magnificent were)

\*/anata wa ičiban senseidešita/ \*'You were a most teacher.'  
 (you)(subj.m.)(most) (teacher)(were)

<sup>9</sup> The symbol \* is used to indicate a form known to be impossible, or unattested.

Nouns do not satisfy these two tests:

1. They have no /-na/ inflectional suffix in the pre-noun position as noun modifier.
2. They are not used with comparisons /mot.to/'more' and /mot.tomo/ or /itiban/'most'.

Kleinjans discusses /-na/ ending adjectives and expresses his disagreement with the opinion that /-na/ adjectives should be divided into nouns plus copulas and should be called nouns, on the ground that /-na/ adjectives have few, if any, cases in which they are used with relational particles, such as /wa/, /ga/, and /o/ which indicate respectively; 'nominative', 'nominative', and objective', with which a noun class is normally used.<sup>10</sup>

2. 5 Summary. Though there remains a question regarding discrimination between /-na/ adjectives and nouns in the predicator position, /-i/ and /-na/ adjectives can be defined as two kinds of simple adjectives by the following characteristics:

1. Both of them have declensions.
2. Both of them have functions of adjectives, i.e., as pre-noun modifier and as predicator.
3. Both of them may be modified by adverbs such as /mot.to/'more' or /itiban/'most'.

<sup>10</sup> Kleinjans, p.89, footnote. In the footnote, he mentions the opinions of Bloch, Martin, and Yamagiwa on /-na/ adjectives.



CHAPTER III  
ADJECTIVE PHRASES

3. 0 General. There are several kinds of adjective phrases in Japanese, which function just like simple adjectives, and whose inflections pattern like those of simple adjectives, on the basis of their membership in /-i/ or /-na/ ending class. The components are:

1. N + particle/no/ + suffix/-nai/ (N stands for a noun. /no/ is a linking particle and /-nai/ is a bound form, an adjective formative suffix, carrying also a meaning of 'negative'  
 V + /-nai/ (V stands for a verb in inflected form.)  
 A/-i/ + /-nai/ (A/-i/ stands for /-i/ adjective infinitive form.)  
 A/-na/ + /-nai/ (A/-na/ stands for /-na/ adjective infinitive form.)
2. V + suffix/-tai/ (V stands for a verb infinitive form. /-tai/ is a bound adjective formative suffix, carrying a meaning of 'desirative'.)
3. N + /no/ + suffix/-ii/or/-yoi/ (/ -ii/ or /-yoi/ is a bound adjective formative suffix, carrying a meaning 'good'.)
4. N + suffix/-rašii/ (/ -rašii/ is a bound adjective formative suffix, carrying a meaning of 'look like'.)  
 A + suffix/-rašii/
5. Ar. + suffix/-soona/ (Ar. stands for an adjective root. /-soona/ is an adjective formative suffix, 'look like'.)  
 V + suffix/-soona/ (V stands for a verb infinitive.)
6. D + suffix/-yoona/ (D stands for a determiner/kono/, 'this',/sono/'that',/ano/'yonder' or /dono/'which?'. /-yoona/ is an adjective formative suffix, carrying a meaning of 'look like'.)
7. N + suffix/-tekina/ (/ -tekina/ is attached to a technical term or a new noun, functioning as adjective formative, without a lexical meaning.)

3. 1 Adjective phrases with the suffix/-nai/'not'

1. N + particle/no/ + /-nai/

2. V + /-nai/

3. A/-i/ + /-nai/

4. A/-na/ + /-nai/

3. 11 In the pre-noun modifier position.

a. N + /no/ + /-nai/ + N (head)  
 /ie no nai kōdōmo/ 'a child who has no home'  
 (house) (particle) (not) (child)

b. V + /-nai/ + N  
 /hoe nai inu/ 'a dog which does not bark'  
 (bark) (not) (dog)

c. A(/-i/ class infinitive form) + /-nai/ + N (head)  
 /kuroku nai kaminoke/  
 (black) (not)(hair) 'hair which is not black'

d. A(/-na/ infin.form) + /-nai/ + N (head)  
 /sizukade nai heya/ 'a room which is not quiet'  
 (quiet) (not) (room)

3. 12 In the predicator position.

a. Subject + N + particle/ga/ + /-nai/  
 /kono kodomo wa<sup>11</sup> ie ga<sup>12</sup> nai desu/<sup>13</sup> 'This child has no home.'  
 (this)(child) (house) (not is)

b. Subject + V + /-nai/  
 /kono inu wa hoe nai desu/ 'This dog does not bark'  
 (this)(dog) - (bark) (not)

c. Subject + A/-i/ + /-nai/  
 /kono kaminoke wa kuroku nai desu/ 'This hair is not black.'  
 (this) (hair) (black) (not)

d. Subject + A/-na/ + /-nai/  
 /kono heya wa sizukade nai desu/ 'This room is not quiet.'  
 (this)(room) (quiet) (not)

<sup>11</sup> /wa/ or /ga/ are subject marker particles, carrying no lexical meaning.

<sup>12</sup> /ga/ shows only the relationship between /ie/'house' and /-nai/'not'.  
 See 6.34 below.

<sup>13</sup> /-desu/ is a copula, functioning as a linker.



3. 2 Adjective phrases with the suffix /-tai/ 'desirative'.

V(infinitive form) + /-tai/

3. 21 In the pre-noun modifier position.

V.infinit.	+ /-tai/	+ N (head)	
/tabe	tai	okaši/	'a cake which (I) want to eat'
(eat)	(want)	(cake)	
/hanaši	tai	koto/	'something which (I) want to
(talk)	(want)	(thing)	talk of'

3. 22 In the predicator position.

Subject	V + /-tai/	
/kono okaši ga tabe tai desu/		'(I) want to eat this cake.'
(this)(cake) (eat) (want)		
/kono koto ga hanaši tai desu/		'(I) want to talk of this matter.'
(this)(matter) (talk)(want)		

3. 3 Adjective phrases with the suffix /-ii/ or /-yoi/ 'good'

N + /no/ + suffix /-ii/ or /-yoi/

3. 31 In the pre-noun modifier position.

N + /no/ + /-ii/ or /-yoi/ + N (head)	
/hiñ no ii (yoi) gohujin/	'a lady who is graceful'
(manner)('s) (good) (good) (lady)	
/uñ no ii (or)(yoi) hito/	'a man who is lucky'
(luck)('s) (good) (good)(person)	

3. 32 In the predicator position.

N + /no/ + /-ii/ or /-yoi/ becomes N + /ga/ + /-ii/ or /-yoi/

Subject	+ N + /ga/ + /-ii/	
/ano gohujin wa hiñ ga ii desu/		'That lady is graceful.'
(yonder)(lady) (manner) (good)		
/ano hito wa uñ ga ii desu/		'That man is lucky.'
(yonder)(person) (luck) (good)		

3. 4 Adjective phrases with the suffix /-raši/ 'look like'.

a. N + /-raši/

b. A + /-raši/

3. 41 In the pre-noun modifier position.

- a. N + /-rašii/ + N (head)  
 /kumori rašii tenki/ 'the weather which looks cloudy'  
 (cloudy) (look like) (weather)
- /hare rašii tenki/ 'the weather which looks fine'  
 (fine) (look like) (weather)
- b. A + /-rašii/ + N (head)  
 /kirai rašii yoosu/ 'an attitude which shows that (he)  
 (dislike)(look like) (attitude) does not like (it).'

3. 42 In the predicator position.

- a. Subject + N + /-rašii/  
 /tenki wa kumori rašii desu/ 'It looks cloudy.'  
 (weather) (cloudy) (look like)
- b. Subject + A + /-rašii/  
 /ano hito wa kono okaši ga kirai rašii desu/ 'That man(woman) does  
 (that)(person) (this)(cake) (dislike)(look like) not seem to like this  
 cake.'

## 3. 5 Adjective phrases with the suffix /-soona/ 'look like'

- a. A(stem) + /-soona/  
 b. V(infinitive) + /-soona/

3. 51 In the pre-noun modifier position.

- a. A stem + /-soona/ + N (head)  
 /genki soona kao/ 'a face which looks healthy'  
 (healthy) (look like) (face)
- /kanaši soona kao/ 'a face which looks sad'  
 (sad) (look like) (face)
- b. V + /-soona/ + N (head)  
 /tomari soona kuruma/ 'a car which looks like it is  
 (stop) (look like) (car) stopping right now'

3. 52 In the predicator position.

- a. Subject + A stem + /-soodesu/<sup>14</sup>  
 /anata no kao wa genki soodesu/ 'Your face looks fine.'  
 (you)('s)(face) (healthy) (look like)

<sup>14</sup> /-soona/ is inflected in the same way as /-na/ class adjectives.

- b. Subject + V.infinite + /-soodesu/  
 /kono kuruma wa tomari soodesu/ 'This car looks like  
 it is stopping right  
 now.'
3. 6 Adjective phrases with the suffix /-yoona/ 'like'.

Determiner /kono/, /sono/, /ano/ or /dono/ + /-yoona/ 'like'  
 (this) (that) (yonder) (which?)

3. 61 In the pre-noun modifier position.

D	+	/-yoona/	+	<u>N</u> (head)	
/kono		yoona		hanashi/	'a story like this'
(this)		(like)		(story)	

/ano		yoona		hito/	'a man like him'
(such)		(like)		(man)	

3. 62 In the predicator position.

D + /-yoona/ becomes D + /-yoodes/ in the predicator position.

Subject	+	D	+	/-yoodesu/	
/hanashi wa		kono		yoodesu/	'A story is like this.'
(story)(subj.m.)		(this)		(like is)	

Note that this kind of adjective phrase is not frequently used in the predicator position.

3. 7 Adjective phrases with the suffix /-teki/ (in colloquial /-tekina/).

This suffix /-tekina/ has been newly developed, mainly in the scholarly world. It is often attached to technical terms or abstract nouns. This suffix is only an adjective formative, and carries no lexical meaning.

3. 71 In the pre-noun modifier position.

N	+	/-tekina/	+	<u>N</u> (head)	
/kagaku		tekina		kangaekata/	'the way of thinking which is scientific'
(science)(adj.format.)		(a way of thinking)			

/soozoo		tekina		e/	'a picture which has a creative sense'
(creative)		(adj.format.)		(picture)	

3. 72 In the predicator position.

N + /-tekina/ becomes N + /-tekidesu/ in the predicator position.

Subject	+	N	+	/-tekidesu/	
/kono kangakata wa kagaku				tekidesu/	'This way of thinking is
(this)(way of thinking)		(scientific is)			scientific.'

/ano e wa		soozoo tekidesu/		'That picture is creative.'
(yonder)(picture)		(creative is)		

3. 8 Summary.

Of the above mentioned adjective-forming suffixes, the negative /-nai/ and 'good' /-ii/ or /-yoi/ are sometimes used independently as simple adjectives. The rest of them are always bound forms and play the role of /-i/ or /-na/ adjective functioning together with a preceding noun, verb, or other adjective. They are also inflected for the nine categories, in the same manner as /-i/ or /-na/ adjectives.

Some Japanese grammarians call these suffixes "copular" or "helping verb inflected like adjective".<sup>15</sup> But since they have the characteristics of suffixes-i.e., 1. they are bound forms; 2. they are inflected like simple adjectives; 3. they form adjectives when attached to a verb, a noun, or another adjective-it would be pertinent to call them suffixes. Probably they should be called derivational suffixes, but since they belong to the same paradigmatic class as /-i/ or /-na/ adjectives, this paper uses the term "suffix" only. This paper calls the above mentioned constructions, including adjective formative suffixes, "adjective phrases",<sup>16</sup> since the suffixes carry little lexical meaning and have the possibility of being attached to another form class, i.e., a noun, a verb, or an adjective.

<sup>15</sup> Shimamura Izuru. ed., Koojirin Japanese Language Dictionary. (Tokyo: Iwanami Shoten, 1958), p.2304.  
Yuuzoo Yamamoto, p.188

<sup>16</sup> Kleinjans also call them adjective phrases, p.93.

## CHAPTER IV

## PRE-NOUN MODIFIERS

4. 0 General.

1. N + particle /-no/+N (head) (N stands for a noun, /-no/ is a particle functioning as a linker equivalent to English "possessive".)
2. Nm+C+particle /-no/+N(head) (Nm stands for a numeral, C stands for a classifier, and /-no/ is a linker.)
3. D (/ko-no/, /so-no/, /ano/, and /do-no/) + N (head)

These pre-noun modifiers are different from /-i/ and /-na/ adjectives in that /-no/ is used and they are not inflected, but they occur in the pre-noun position.

4. 1 N+particle /-no/ as modifier. In this construction the noun is typically a free form. N refers to an animate or an inanimate. When we want to express some kind of relationship between two nouns we use the particle /-no/ between the nouns so that the first noun+/-no/ modifies the head noun. /-no/ in this construction has approximately the same function as English "possessive". For example:

/wataku<sup>17</sup>ŋi no hon/ 'my book' /hon no hyooŋi/ 'the cover of the  
 ( I ) (possessive)(book) (book)('s)(cover) book'

/ma<sup>ti</sup> no i<sup>ti</sup>ba/ 'a market in the town'  
 (town)('s)(market)

/i<sup>ŋ</sup>ya no o<sup>ji</sup>/ 'the doctor's uncle' or ' my uncle, a doctor'  
 (doctor)('s)(uncle)

/okaasan no ŋyatin/ 'a picture in which Mother's face is shown'  
 (Mother) ('s) (picture) or 'a picture which belongs to Mother'

<sup>17</sup> /watakuŋi/ is a pronoun but to express the case, a certain case particle has to be attached: /watakuŋi/+/-no/'my', /watakuŋi/+/wa/or/ga/'subject I', /watakuŋi/+/ni/'indirect object me', and /watakuŋi/+/o/'direct object me'.

As seen in these examples, N+/-no/phrases are used variously as noun modifiers, and /-no/ functions as the prepositions, 'of', 'in', 'for', etc., which introduce adjective phrases in English. Sometimes /-no/ has the function of linking the first N as in apposition to the noun head.

There are sometimes ambiguities as is shown in two of the examples. The context then plays a part in determining the meaning.

4. 2 Nm+C+particle /-no/+N (head). (Numeral+Classifier+/-no/+N (head))

In Japanese there are three or four ways of counting number, for example, to count one, two, three, respectively, /içi/, /ni/, /san/, or /hitotu/, /hutatu/, /mit.tu/, etc., may be used. The former is used for mathematics' sake and the latter is used among children or when real objects are counted. When we count the number of books, birds, or cakes, we use numeral classifiers. For Example:

/ip.piki no saru/ 'one monkey' There is a morphophonemic change here, i.e., /içi/'one' plus /hiki/'classifier' referring to rather small animals yields /içi+/hiki/ > /ip.piki/.  
/h/ in /hiki/ > /p/ in the process of contraction and /çi/ in /içi/ is replaced by /p/, homorganic with the initial consonant of the classifier /piki/. 18

/niwa no hiyoko/ 'two chickens' /niwa/ < /ni/'two'+/wa/'a classifier referring to birds'

/ik.ko no kaşi/ 'one cake' /içi+/ko/'a classifier referring to candy, stone, a box, a pencil case, a button, a cake, etc. /içi+/ko/ > /ik.ko/ homogenized with the initial /k/ in /ko/

/rokusatu no hon/ 'six books' /roku/'six' /satu/'a classifier of books'

/sanbon no empitu/ 'three pencils' /san/'three' /hoj/'a classifier of pencils, poles, sticks, etc.  
/san+/hoj/ > /sanbon/. Voicing of /h/ is /b/ in Japanese. 19

18 Samuel Martin, "Morphophonemics of Standard Colloquial Japanese," L.Diss., IILL, Supplement to Lg XXIX,iii,pt.2(1952),91-98.

19 Martin,p.48.



4. 3 D(/kono/, /sono/, /ano/, /dono/)+N (head).<sup>20</sup> These function only as noun determiners, though they carry some demonstrative meaning. In Japanese there are no words corresponding to the articles 'the' and 'a' in English. Japanese determiners are not obligatory and either precede the noun head directly or have some other modifiers between the determiner and the noun head. For example:

We can either say: /hon wa omoi desu/ 'This book is heavy.'  
(book) (heavy is)(cop.)

or: /kono hon wa omoi desu/ 'This book is heavy.'  
(this)(book) (heavy is)(cop.)

The determiner/*kono*/ is sometimes omitted. Usually the word order in the pre-noun position is D+Adj. or (N+/-no/)+N (head) but not necessarily so:

/ano kutu/ 'the shoes over there', /ano ookina kutu/ 'those big shoes'  
(yonder)(shoes) (yonder)(big)(shoes)

/watakuši no ano kutu/ 'those shoes of mine'  
(I) ('s)(yonder)(shoes)

Since /-no/ characterizes these modifiers, /*kono*/, /*sono*/, /*ano*/, and /*dono*/, are not used in the substantive position. In that position, /*kore*/, /*sore*/, /*are*/, and /*dore*/ occur, correlated to the determiners /*kono*/, /*sono*/, etc., and also as adverbial place nouns, correlated to /*ko*/, /*so*/, /*a*/, /*do*/, /*koko*/ 'here', /*soko*/ 'there', /*asoko*/ 'the place over yonder' and /*doko*/ 'which place?', may occur.

<sup>20</sup> /*kono*/ refers to the noun head which(or who) is near the speaker, /*sono*/ refers to what is near the person spoken to. /*ano*/ refers to what is far from both the speaker and the person spoken to.

Other parallel forms are /*kore*/, /*sore*/, /*are*/, and /*dore*/ as pronominals and /*koko*/, /*soko*/, /*asoko*/, /*doko*? as adverbials indicating the place.  
/kore wa hon desu/ 'This is a book.' /sore wa dore desu ka/  
(this) (book) (that) (which) (?)

/koko wa doko desu ka/ 'Where is this place?' 'Which one are you referring to?'  
(here) (where)(is)(?)

4. 4 Summary. This section is concerned with pre-noun modifiers having a particle /-no/ as a characteristic form. In the pre-noun position all three /-no/ forms seem to be the same, but their distributions indicate that they are different:

1. N + /-no/ + N (head) /kišya no kip.pu ga arimasu/  
(train)(’s)(ticket) (there is)  
‘There is a ticket for a train.’
2. Nm + C +/-no/ + N (head)/ni mai no kip.pu ga arimasu/  
(two)(classif.)(ticket) (there are)  
‘There are two tickets.’
3. <sup>D</sup>  
/kono/ + N (head) /kono kip.pu ga arimasu/  
(this)(ticket) (there is)  
‘I have this ticket.’  
  
/sono/ + N (head) /sono kip.pu ga arimasu/  
(that)(ticket) (there is)  
‘I have that ticket.’  
  
/ano/ + N (head) /ano kip.pu ga arimasu/  
(yonder or that)(ticket) (there is)  
‘I have the ticket you refer to.’  
  
/dono/ + N (head) /dono kip.pu ga arimasuka/?  
(which)(ticket) (there is?)  
‘Which ticket do you have?’

The phrases preceding N (head) are found to be non-substitutable:

- /kono hon wa kuroi desu/ → /kore wa kuroi desu/  
(this)(book) (black is)(cop.) (this) (black is)(cop.)
- /kono hon wa kuroi desu/ → /hon wa kuroi desu/  
/hon wa kuroi desu/ ‘The book is black.’  
/kore wa kuroi desu/ ‘This is black.’  
/kore wa hon desu/ ‘This is a book.’  
/kono hon wa kuroi desu/ ‘This book is black.’  
/\*kono wa kuroi desu/ \*‘This is black.’



/hon (book)	ga <sup>21</sup> (there is)	arimasu/ (there is)	'There is(are) a book(books).'
/hutatu (two)		arimasu/ (there are)	'There are two.'
/hutatu (two)	no	hon ga arimasu/ (book) (there is)	'There are two books.'
/hon (book)	wa	kuroi desu/ (black is)(cop.)	'The book is black.'
/hutatu (two)		kuroi desu/ (black is)(cop.)	'Two of them are black.'
/hutatu (two)	no	hon wa kuroi desu/ (book) (black are)(cop.)	'Two books are black.'

These examples show the difference of the distribution and the unsubstutability of these /-no/ form pre-noun modifiers.

In D(/kono/,/sono/,etc.)+N (head) construction, two or three words without /-no/ form are included. They are very few and only come in pre-noun position and carry little lexical meaning, like/kono/ type determiners. Therefore they should be treated as the same syntactic class as D. They are /aru/ 'a certain' in /aru hito/ 'a certain person' /tonda/ 'ridiculous' in /tonda koto/ 'a ridiculous thing' and two or more rather literal words.<sup>22</sup>

<sup>21</sup> Subject marker particle /ga/ substitutes for /wa/ in the context of /arimasu/ 'there is (are)'

<sup>22</sup> Japanese dictionaries call "determiner" /rentaisi/. Shimura, Koojirin, p.2303

CHAPTER V  
COMPOUND NOUNS

5. 0 General. This section is divided into three parts:

1. Compound nouns with morphophonemic change.
2. Compound nouns without morphophonemic change.
3. Compound nouns with a particle /-no/ between two nouns.

In English there are such compound nouns as "black-bird", "butterfly" or "sleeping-car". These have the significant feature /' + ` / in the superfix. Japanese compound nouns, on the other hand, are interesting from the morphophonemic point of view. As Kleinjans points out, Japanese compound nouns are like the English Noun Noun construction "stone wall" in that the first noun modifies the second noun.<sup>23</sup>

5. 1 Compound nouns with morphophonemic change. The components of the compound nouns are:

1. A + N (A stands for an adjective, N stands for a noun and an underline indicates the head.)
2. V + N (V stands for a verb.)
3. N + N

(Of the three, < indicates originating from, and > means "becomes".)

5. 11 A + N

/akagutu/ 'red shoes' < /akai/ + /kutu/ /-i/ is dropped and /kutu/ voices to /gutu/.<sup>24</sup>

<sup>23</sup> Kleinjan, p.80

<sup>24</sup> Martin, Morphophonemics, Chapter 6. Assimilative alternations, p.27-31, and Nigori Chapter 8. 'voicing alternations' p.48-49.

/omoši/ 'a heavy stone used for pickles' < /omoi/ 'heavy' + /iši/ 'stone'

/-i/ in /omoi/ is dropped and the initial vowel in /iši/ is dropped.

/osozakura/ 'cherry blossoms which bloom a little behind time'

< /osoi/ 'late' + /sakura/ 'cherry blossoms', /-i/ in /osoi/ is dropped, and /sakura/ voices to /zakura/.

/amaguri/ 'sweet chestnut' < /amai/ 'sweet' + /kuri/ 'chestnut', /k/ > /g/.

### 5. 12 V + N

/tabemono/ 'food' < /taberu/ 'eat' + /mono/ 'thing'

/urek.ko/ 'a popular actor' < verb stem /ureru/ 'sell well' + noun /ko/ 'a child' /ureru/ > /urek/, homorganic with initial consonants /k/ of N<sup>25</sup>

/hurigana/ 'Japanese phonetic letters attached to Chinese characters'

verb stem /huru/ 'put' + noun /kana/ 'phonetic letters' >  
verb stem + /i/ + N with /k/ > /g/ (voicing)

character → 字 か /hurigana/  
校 じ ←

### 5. 13 N + N

/kasizara/ 'a cake dish' < noun /kaši/ 'cakes' + noun /sara/ 'a dish or a bowl', /s/ > /z/

/subako/ 'a nest box' < noun /su/ 'a nest' + noun /hako/ 'a box', /h/ > /b/ (voicing)<sup>26</sup>

In both A+N and V+N constructions, the inflectional suffixes /-i/ or /-na/ in A and verb suffix in V are dropped. Sometimes in the N of A+N and V+N compounds, voicing does not occur:

<sup>25</sup> Martin, Chapter 6. Assimilative Alternations, p.30-31.

<sup>26</sup> Martin, Chapter 8. Cf. Nigori, p.48. In the Table of p.48, the voicing alternant of /h/ in Japanese is shown as /b/.

- A+N /wakakusa/ 'fresh grass' < /wakai/ 'young' + /kusa/ 'grass'  
 /akatuçi/ 'red soil' < /akai/ 'red' + /tuçi/ 'soil'  
 V+N /nomimono/ 'something to drink' < /nomu/ 'drink' + /mono/ 'thing',

Whereas adjectives and verbs drop their inflectional endings when they enter into compounds, N+N compounds, whose first element lacks any inflectional ending, show no morphophonemic change.

5. 2 Compound nouns without morphophonemic change. In this situation there is a problem in deciding whether it is a compound word or a phrase, since a morphophonemic change is the marker of the boundary between the two original words in compounds. Probably native speakers discern very subtle transition or a relative pitch change between them.

- N + N /yamamiçi/ 'a mountain road' < N /yama/ 'mountain' + N /miçi/ 'road'  
 /kuzukago/ 'a waste paper basket' < N /kuzu/ 'waste paper' + N /kago/ 'a basket'

In these examples the pitch change would be a helpful marker.

5. 3 Compound nouns with the particle/no/ between the two nouns. As has been seen in the previous chapter, the particle /-no/ is a characteristic feature in Noun Noun construction as a sequence or phrase. Some words are heard as compounds though they have /-no/ between the two words:

/waki no ke/ 'the hair under the arm' or /wakige/ 'the hair under the arm', but we don't say /\*kamige/ 'hair on the head'; we say /kaminoke/ 'hair' (This compound seems to emphasize the 'hair', since /kami/ and /ke/ both refer to 'hair'.

- /kazunoko/ 'eggs of herring' < /kazu/ 'number' + /no/ + /ko/ 'a child' or 'a baby'  
 /nanohana/ 'a name of a flower' < /na/ 'green vegetables' + /no/ + /hana/ 'a flower'.

/amanogawa/ 'the Milky Way' < /ame/ 'rain' + /no/ + /kawa/ 'a river'  
N.B.: /k/ > /g/ as well as /ame/ > /ama/

The examples of /kzunoko/, /nanohana/ and /amanogawa/ show grammaticalization<sup>27</sup> which is the characteristic of compound nouns. Furthermore, in /amanogawa/ 'the Milky Way', the vowel harmony and voicing are shown.

5. 4 Discussion. When the morphophonemic change is discerned in both or either of the components, they are bound forms, and it is easy to perceive that two components form a compound:

- a) /amagasa/ 'an umbrella for rain' < /ame/ 'rain' + /kasa/ 'umbrella'  
           /a/ < /e/ (vowel change as the result of  
           vowel harmony to /a/ in /kasa/  
           /g/ < /k/ (voicing)




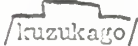


In the example both components are bound forms and clear markers of a compound.

b) /kašizara/ 'a cake dish' < /kaši/ 'cake' + /sara/ 'a dish' /\*-zara/ is not a word. In the example /kaši/ 'cake' is a free form and /-zara/ is a bound form, but /-zara/ alone can be a compound marker.

In the combination of A+N or V+N, by dropping an inflectional suffix in A or V a compound is perceived, sometimes together with voicing alternation:

- a) /nagaisu/ 'sofa' < /nagai/ 'long' + /isu/ 'chair' /-i/ is dropped.

In the examples of /yamamiči/ 'a mountain road' or /kuzukago/ 'a waste paper basket', there is no change in voicing or in assimilation, but there is a pitch change:

- a)  /yamamiči/ <  /yama/ +  /miči/ 'mountain' + 'road'  
 b)  /kuzukago/ <  /kuzu/ +  /kago/ 'waste paper' + 'basket'

<sup>27</sup> The phenomenon of meaning 1 + meaning 2 = meaning 3 (creating a new meaning) is called grammaticalization.

There are also compound nouns which show another type of morphophonemic change:

/momenito/ 'cotton yarn' < /momen/ 'cotton' + /ito/ 'thread or yarn'

In the example, the number of Onsetsu<sup>28</sup> is reduced from five to four.

/momenito/ < /momen/ 'cotton' + /ito/ 'thread'  
 1 2 3 4                      1 2 3                      4 5

5. 5. Summary. From what we have seen, several characteristics of compound nouns become evident:

1. In Japanese the absence of internal /+/ is the evidence of compound nouns.

2. Sometimes voicing occurs in the initial voiceless consonant of the second component.

3. The assimilation is observed in the non-nasal consonant of the final syllable of the first component, homorganic with the non-nasal consonant of the second component.

4. Both assimilation and voicing are morphophonemic changes, and thus present the components in bound forms. Therefore, where voicing and assimilation occur, they are evidence of compounding.

5. The pitch change and the reduction of Onsetsu may be a marker of compound nouns.

<sup>28</sup> Mieko Shimizu Han. Japanese Phonology. Tokyo: Kenkyusha, p.69. She defines Onsetsu as "a basic unit of duration associated with the syllable."

For a description and analysis of voicing and assimilation between morph boundaries, see Samuel Martin, p.27-31,48.



## CHAPTER VI

## VERBS FUNCTIONING AS PRE-NOUN MODIFIERS

6. 0 General. In English when verbs function as noun modifiers, they take {ing} endings or {D2} or {to+verb} forms which are all non-finite verb forms. In Japanese even when verbs are used as noun modifiers the forms are identical with the verbs used as predicators, i.e., they take the same verb inflections in either situation. As a result, the Japanese verb class has no such distinction as finite vs. non-finite. Consequently, the only criterion of the function of the verb class is the position in relation to the noun(head). Predicate verbs come after subject, whereas verbs functioning as noun modifier always come in the pre-noun position, which is the common modifier position. The verb class in Japanese, as in many other languages, is inflected for tense (past/non-past) in both predicator and modifier positions. The same thing can be said about /-i/ ending and /-na/ ending adjectives since they function also as predicators, i.e., these adjectives in either position may be inflected for tense. In English the presence of a finite verb may be used as the signal of a clause, whereas in Japanese, since there is no such distinction, this criterion will not work. Therefore, only criterion is the presence of an explicit subject, though this still leaves problems to be solved. Verbs which are pre-noun modifiers without subject are either phrases or compounds.

6. 1 Verbs as pre-noun modifier without subject. Pre-Noun modifier verbs, in contrast with the same verbs in the predicator position, are tabulated:

Pre-noun position	Predicator position
<u>Present tense</u>	<u>Present tense</u>
/hanasu hito/ 'a man who talks' (talk)(person)	/kono hito ga hanasu/ 'this man talks' (this)(person) (talk)

Future tense

/asu hanasu hito/ 'a man who  
(tomorrow)(talk)(person) will talk  
tomorrow'

Future tense

/kono hito ga asu hanasu/  
(this)(person) (tomorrow)(talk)  
'This man will talk tomorrow'

(Future tense is identical with present tense, so futurity is expressed by means of an adverb.)

## Pre-noun position

Present Progressive

/hanasiteiru hito/  
(talk)(ing)(is)(person)  
'a person who is talking'

## Predicating position

Present Progressive

/aru hito ga hanasiteiru/  
(certain)(person) (talk)(ing)(is)  
'a person is talking'

Present Perfect

/ima hanasita hito/  
(now)(talked) (person)  
'a man who has talked now'

Present Perfect

/kono hito ga ima hanasita/  
(this)(person) (now) (talked)  
'This man has talked now'

Past Tense

/hanasita hito/  
(talked) (person)  
'a man who talked'

Past Tense

/kono hito ga hanasita/  
(this)(person) (talked)  
'This man talked'

(Just as the future is identical with the present tense, just so the present perfect and past perfect are identical with past tense. The perfect tense is expressed with the help of adverbs or left to be inferred from the context.)

6. 2 Adjectives inflected for tense. /-i/ ending and /-na/ ending adjectives are inflected only for present and past tense.

## Pre-noun position

Present Tense /-i/ ending

/utukusii hito/  
(beautiful)(person)  
'a beautiful lady'

## Predicator position

Present Tense /-i/ ending

/ano hito wa utukusii/  
(yonder)(person) (beautiful is)  
'That lady is beautiful'

Past Tense

/utukusikat.ta hito/  
(beautiful was)(person)  
'a lady who was beautiful'

Past Tense

/ano hito wa utukusikat.ta/  
(yonder)(person)(beautiful was)  
'That lady was beautiful'



Present Tense /-na/ ending

/kireena hito/  
 (pretty) (person)  
 'a pretty lady'

Past Tense

/kirecdatta hito/  
 (pretty was) (person)  
 'a lady who was pretty'

Present Tense /-na/ ending

/ano hito wa kireedesu/  
 (yonder)(person) (pretty)  
 'That lady is pretty'

Past Tense

/ano hito wa kirecdat.ta/  
 (yonder)(person) (pretty was)  
 'That lady was pretty'

6. 3 Adjective "clause". Since the verb forms do not serve as a criterion for the clause, the existence of an expressed subject is the criterion.

6. 31 Pre-noun position. /watakuši ga kinoo at.ta hito/  
 (I) (yesterday)(met)(person)  
 'a man who I met yesterday'

6. 32 Predicator position. /watakuši wa kinoo kono hito ni at.ta/  
 (I) (yesterday)(this)(man) (met)  
 'I met this man yesterday'

6. 33 Pre-noun modifier position. /otoosan ga tat.teiru tokoro/  
 (Daddy) (stand)(ing) (is)(place)  
 'the place where Daddy is standing'

6. 34 Predicator position. /otoosan ga soko ni tat.teiru/  
 (Daddy) (there) (stand)(ing)(is)  
 'Daddy is standing there'

However, there are some questions about such adjective "clauses" as:

/ano jiko no at.ta hi/ 'a day when that accident happened' or  
 (that)(accident)(happened)(day) 'the day when the accident happened'

In this construction the particle/no/ is often substituted for /ga/  
 explicit subject marker. Thus, when /no/ is substituted for /ga/, it  
 implies 'the subject of the action.'

Another case is:

/kinoo tabeta gohan wa katakat.ta/ 'the rice which (I or we)  
 (yesterday)(ate) (rice) (hard was) ate yesterday was hard.'

In the Japanese sentence the first person forms 'I' or 'we' are often understood, though not expressed. Therefore, it is a question whether the

sequence /kinoo tabeta/ 'ate yesterday' is a modifier phrases of /gohan/ 'rice' or "clause" with subject (the first person) unexpressed.

6. 4 Summary. This section has dealt with verbs functioning as noun modifiers. Though there are some questions about the definition of the adjective "clause", the exceptions are not so many, so adjective clause can be defined as pre-noun modifier including an explicit subject, together with a verb or an /-i/ or /-na/ ending adjective.

There are two especially interesting facts in this section:

1. Verbs are used as noun modifiers without changing the form of the verbs.

2. Verbs functioning as noun modifiers are capable of indicating tense. Adjectives also, since they are used as predicators as well as pre-noun modifiers, are inflected for tense in both functions.

## CHAPTER VII

## CONCLUSION

7. 10 Summary. From what has been seen regarding adjectives and noun modifiers, the following points may be summarized:

7. 11 There is the /-i/ ending for simple adjectives which satisfies both the formal and functional characteristics of an adjective: such an adjective may fill either the pre-noun position or the predicator position.

Adjectives in this class share the paradigm /-i/, and /-kat.ta/.

7. 12 /-na/ ending adjectives belong to another class of simple adjectives, since they have formal characteristics of the paradigm /-na/, /-dat.ta/, etc.; and syntactic features of the pre-noun position. Furthermore the /-na/ class adjectives are modified by adverbs such as /totemo/ 'very', /zuibun/ 'extremely' as is the case with /-i/ class. One complication in the /-na/ class is that in the predicator position it drops the /-na/ ending and takes /-desu/ (an inflectional suffix, but the form is identical with the present linking copula) or /-dat.ta/ (past linking function ending, which is identical with the past copula /-dat.ta/). Consequently when in the predicator position, the /-na/ adjectives are sometimes not distinguishable from nouns.

7. 13 There are several bound forms, adjective formative suffixes, which have /-i/ or /-na/ ending and which appear both in the pre-noun and in the predicator position. The characteristic of these bound forms is that they function as /-i/ or /-na/ class, attached to the noun, verb, or adjective stem. These constructions are called adjective phrases in this paper.

7. 14 There are three /-no/ forms used to construct pre-noun modifiers. They are interesting in the difference of distribution and the difference

of function in the pre-noun modifier construction.

7. 15 In the compound nouns there often occur interesting morphophonemic changes, though this phenomenon is not always present. In Japanese there are many "words" which are composed of more than two words yet are felt to be one unit.

7. 16 Pre-noun modifiers including a verb-stem as a component show some peculiarities:

a) There is no distinction between non-finite and finite verb forms either in the pre-noun or in the predicator position.

b) As a result, even in the pre-noun position, verb modifiers are capable of expressing tense.

c) /-i/ and /-na/ class adjectives also have the capability of expressing tense both in the pre-noun and in the predicator positions.

d) The criterion to decide whether a sequence is a clause, depends on the presence of a subject, though sometimes this criterion also fails, as when the subject is implicit. Further study, especially on the level of supra-segmentals, is needed.

7. 17 The most significant characteristic of Japanese adjectival structures is their position. They always come before the noun as head, when functioning as attributive, but always after the subject when functioning as predicator or completer.

7. 20 Significant differences between English and Japanese adjectival structures. It is very difficult to contrast the structures of different languages, since they belong to quite different systems. But several significant differences may be pointed out.

7. 21 In English inflections are available for adjective comparison, e.g., large, larger, largest: and the comparison by synthetic method is an important

maker of adjectives. In Japanese, though there are declensions, the inflections are for nine categories in terms of the predicator function not in terms of comparison.

7. 22 In English, besides the positions adjectives fill, there exist derivational suffixes which can be the marker of adjectives, whereas in Japanese, though there exist derivational-like adjective formative suffixes, they end either in /-i/ or /-na/ and these suffixes are inflected exactly the same way as /-i/ or /-na/ adjectives on the bases of their membership; therefore, in Japanese the distinction is not clear between inflectional and derivational suffixes.

7. 23 In English the position of adjective phrases and adjective clauses is always after the noun head, whereas in Japanese when used as attributive simple adjectives, adjective phrases, adjective clauses and pre-noun modifiers with /-no/ form always come before the noun head.

7. 24 In Japanese, compound nouns are very common, but signals of compounding are largely segmental morphophonemic changes, whereas in English one of the identifying characteristics of the compound is the superfix /' + \/.

7. 25 In English adjectives do not function as predicator or completer without finite verbs, whereas in Japanese they do.

7. 26 In English verbs functioning as noun modifier are not identical with verbs functioning as finite verb. In Japanese they are identical both in the pre-noun and in the predicator positions.

7. 27 In English the formal and functional distinctions between adjectivals and verbs are clear. In Japanese verbs can function as pre-noun modifier with the finite verb forms and adjectives can function as predicator

without finite verbs. As a result, functional distinction between verbs and adjectives is not so clear, e.g., both adjectivals and verbs are capable of expressing tense in both positions.

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STRUCTURE OF ADJECTIVES IN JAPANESE

by

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AN ABSTRACT

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This paper deals with the descriptive study of the adjectival structures in Japanese, mainly on the morphological and syntactic levels. Adjectival structures are divided into five types:

Simple adjectives. There are two kinds of simple adjectives, one ending in /-i/ and the other in /-na/, which have inflectional characteristics and occur both in the pre-noun modifier and in the predicator positions. They are in complementary distribution except for several words which may be inflected either way.

Adjective phrases. There are several kinds of adjective phrases in Japanese which function just like simple adjectives, and whose inflections pattern like those of simple adjectives, on the basis of their membership in /-i/ or /-na/ ending classes. The components are: Verb, Adjective, Noun, or Determiner + adjective formative suffix plus either /-i/ or /-na/ ending.

Pre-noun modifiers. This chapter deals with three kinds of modification structures with a noun head. The characteristics of the constructions are:

1. they have no inflection;
2. they take /-no/ affix before a noun head;
3. they do not occur in the predicator position. This paper tries to show that they are common in form but in complementary distribution as to function.

Compound nouns. Quite a large number of compound nouns exist in Japanese and they have a morphophonemic change as a marker between two morph boundaries.

Verbs functioning as pre-noun modifiers. Verbs may be used as noun modifiers in the pre-noun position and they are identical in form with those functioning as verb in the predicator position. The description is made for verbs and adjectives both in the pre-noun and in the predicator positions in

terms of a tense marker.

In conclusion, together with a summary of Japanese adjectival structures, the significant differences between English and Japanese adjectival structures are presented.