

Converb particle: Core, peripheral and mono-clausal structures

1. Introduction: In this paper, I will discuss the nature of the “converb particle (CVP)” *te* ‘ing’ in Japanese (Masuoka 2014) by newly showing that it serves to create (i) dependent adverbial forms and (ii) clause chaining with coordination relations through the ideas of Haegeman (2012) and Cinque (2006).

2. Dependent adverbial form: Haegeman (2012) discusses the distinction between peripheral adverbial clauses, which show main clause phenomena (MCP) like argument topicalization (=1a), and core adverbial clauses, which are integrated into the main clause showing no MCP (=1b).

(1) a. His face not many admired, while his character still fewer felt they could praise.

b. *We discovered something else while this paper we were writing.

I propose to extend this distinction into absolutive constructions (ACs) in Japanese, which is headed by the CVP *te*. Miyagawa (2012) shows that the politeness particles *masi* in Japanese is a landmark of MCP. The AC in (2a) is of the core type and thus may not contain the politeness particle *masi*, which is possible with the AC of the peripheral type in (2b). Kuno (1973) notes another landmark of MCP in Japanese, i.e. the appearance of the topic particle *wa*. The bracketed AC of the core type in (2a) may contain the topic particle *wa*, which is possible with the AC of the peripheral type in (2b).

(2) a. [isu-ni-(***wa**) suwari-(***masi**)-**te**] utatta.

chair-on-(***Top**) sit-(***polite**)-**ing** sang

‘I sang while sitting on the chair’

b. [Wagasya-**wa** zyuntaku-na sikin-ga ari **masi te**], tasya-wa kanawanai desyoo.

‘Our company having a lot of money, other company may not defeat us’

Various types of peripheral ACs are created in Japanese by the CVP *te* being suffixed by other particles, as in *te-wa* for conditional, *te-mo* for concessive, etc.

3. Clausal chaining: Cinque (2006) argues that not only modal verbs (ModVs) but also motion verbs (MotVs) can be combined with a verb to create mono-clausal structures by appearing in his various types of functional heads. His idea is supported by the fact that

MotV+ModV connected by the CVP *te* in Japanese creates a mono-clausal structure(=3), where the clause-bound NPI *nanimo* ‘anything’, which is the direct object of V *tabe* ‘eat’, can be licensed by the Neg *nai* suffixed to the MotV *it* ‘go’+the ModV *hosiku* ‘want’ connected by the CVP *te*.

- (3) John-ni **nanimo** tabe-te it-te **hosiku** **nai**.
John-Dat **NPI** eat-ing go-ing want **Neg**
‘I want John to go and eat nothing’

References

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