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A Review of Japanese Passive Sentences

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SUMMARY*

1. Some Preliminary Remarks

- 1.1. We are going to share the modern conception of deep and surface structure in syntax in this paper.
- 1.2. Neither Jespersen nor Khrakovsky's theory of passive construction as well as their definition to passive can be adopted if we deal with Japanese passive sentences.

2. The Passive Marker "RARE"

"RARE" is an affix that has syntactic function and grammatical content. They are [+passive], [+potential], [+polite]. Japanese passive sentence is identified by the feature [+passive] of "RARE" or by the semantic feature [+passive] of the verb itself.

"Hanako was taught English by Taroo"

- Hanako ga Taroo ni Eigo o osierareta
Sb C3 Cl V

osierareru:(osieru+RARE): ([teach]+[+passive])

- Hanako ga Taroo ni eigo o osowatta
Sb C3 Cl V

osowaru: (osowaru+ \emptyset): ([teach]+[+passive])

Sb:subject, Cl:accusative complement(direct object),
C3:agentive complement, V:verb

Morpheme {rare} has two allomorphs, /rare/ and /are/, which are in complementary distribution.

3. Typology

3.1. Affixal Passive

3.1.1. Transitive Passive

3.1.1.1. Animate Direct Transitive Passive

- Satiko ga Jiroo ni nagurareta
Sb C3 V

"Satiko was hit by Taroo"

3.1.1.2. Inanimate Direct Transitive Passive

- Suika ga Taroo ni(yotte) warareta
Sb C3 V

"The water-melon was cracked by Taroo"

3.1.1.3. Possessive Indirect Transitive Passive

- Taroo ga suri ni saihu o surareta
Sb C3 Cl V

"Taroo had purse stolen by a pick pocket"

3.1.1.4. Non-possessive Indirect Transitive Passive

- Hanako ga Taroo ni eigo o osierareta

3.1.1.5. Extra Subject Transitive Passive

- Watasitati wa tonari no musuko ni hitobanzuyu rekoodo o
Sb C C3 C C1
kakerareta
V

"We suffered from the noise of gramophone set by the
next-door boy all night"

3.1.2. Intransitive Passive

- Boku wa ame ni hurareta
Sb C3 V

"I was rained on"

3.1.3. Animate Direct/Indirect Passive

- Taroo ga norainu ni kamitukareta
Sb C3 V

"Taroo got bitten (on the leg) by an ownerless dog"

3.2. Non-affixal/Lexical Passive

- Hanako ga Taroo ni eigo o osowatta

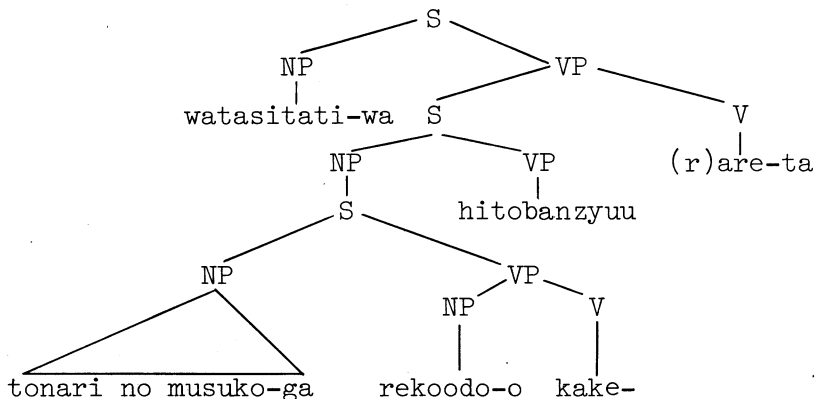
4. Passive Construction

Conclusion:

- i. Pure passive construction is derived from simplex-underlying structure.
- ii. Adversity passive construction is derived from complex-underlying structure.
- iii. Intransitive Passive, Extra Subject Transitive Passive and Possessive Indirect Transitive Passive are adversity passive.
- iv. Inanimate Direct Transitive Passive is pure passive.
- v. Non-affixal/Lexical Passive is not put into the account of pure or adversity passive.
- vi. Passive of the other types may or may not be adversity passive.
- vii. Affixal passive is identified by the feature [+passive] of the affix "RARE".
- viii. Non-affixal passive is identified by the semantic feature [+passive] of the verb itself.
- ix. The additional grammatical meaning, i.e. the adversity sense of adversity passive is derived from its complex-underlying structure.
- x. Only in the case of Intransitive Passive and Extra Subject Transitive Passive there is an exception, and in the case of the other types, even if the additional grammatical adversity sense [+adversity] occurred, there is a possibility that it will be neutralized by semantic feature [-adversity] of the verb concerned. Thus, the verb being neutral to adversity sense (with respect to its semantic structure) must be a presupposed condition for the occurrence of adversity passive. However, it requires further investigation on semantic domain of the verb group.

Pure passive means the subject does not have any connotation of having been suffered from the action identified by the verb. Adversity passive implies that the topic-subject has been inadvertently affected by the action represented in the rest of the sentence.

The complex-underlying structure of adversity sentence:



References は省略する。

* The original paper is available at Department of Linguistics, Faculty of Letters, Hiroshima University.

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