On Japanese Benefactive Accessory Verbs

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I

Japanese accessory verbs function as verbs,[1] auxiliary verbs[2] and aspect-indicators. I categorized them as embedding verbs in my past papers.[3] For instance, the verbs '-ageru,' and '-yaru' are all benefactive accessory verbs which embed regular sentences to make embedded constructios.

Among the so-called accessory verbs or compound verbs in Japanese, '-miru'[4] is the most popular one as in,

(1) Tokyo e itte-*miru*

'I will attempt to go to Tokyo.'

(2) Okasi o tabete-*miru* (miyoo)

'I will try to eat candies.'

(3) Akai huku o kite-*miru* (miyoo)

'I will try this red jacket on.'

This verb 'miru' can be an imperative as in,

(4) Kono huku o kite-miyo

'Try this suit on.'

(5) Kono okasi o tabete-minasai

'Try (to taste) this cake.'

(6) Anata no namae o $\begin{cases} \text{kaite-miyo} \\ \text{kaite-minasai} \end{cases}$

'Write your name.'

Some accessory verbs can be turned to imperatives with some transformations, such as inflectional changes and addition of particles. However, others cannot derive the imperative even if they go through the same process.

The aim of this paper is to examine some features of some accessory verbs and describe their functions and their idiosyncrasies in terms of these peculiar grammatical elements.

II

The benefactive embedding verbs '-ageru,' '-kureru' and '-yaru' are basically intransitive verbs requiring identity between the subjects of the matrix and the embedded sentence. They preserve the gerundive ending on the embedded verb. The semantic effect played by this construction is that the action identified by the embedded sentence is performed for somebody else's benefit. The main difference between '-ageru,' '-kureru' and '-yaru' is a part of the honorific system of Japanese. The beneficiary is a socially superior person in terms of age and position in the case of '-ageru,' and *vice versa* in the case of '-yaru'; whereas in the case of '-kureru', the relationship between the receiver and giver of the favor is equal.
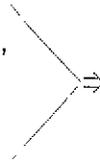
(7) musuko ga —(S)— ageru

'The son (does something) for the benefit of ...'

(8) musuko ga sobo ni bon o yomu

'The son reads the book for his grandmother.'

(9) musuko ga sobo ni hon o yonde-ageru

'The son reads the book for his grandmother.'

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Diagram 1

In this case the subject or agent 'musuko (the son),' who is inferior to 'sobo (his grandmother),' receiver of beneficiary in respect to age, does something (the action of reading a book) for his superior (elder).

Let me compare this with another benefactive accessory verb '-kureru.'

(10) Taroo ga —(S)— kureru

'Taroo (does something) for the benefit of ...'

(11) Taroo ga bokuni hon o yomu

'Taroo reads the book for me'

(12) Taroo ga boku ni hon o yonde kureru

'Taroo reads the book for me'

This construction indicates that the relationship between the subject 'Taroo' and the receiver of the favor 'boku' is equal; *i.e.* 'Taroo' and 'boku' are brothers or relatives such as cousins, class-mates or good friends.

In the case of '-yaru' the human relationship is the reverse of

Diagram 2

'-ageru.' Let me examine the next example :

(13)　Hanako ga kodomotati ni e o kaite-yatta

　　　　'Hanako drew a picture for the children.'

To generate the above, the following process is proposed.

(14)　Hanako ga —(S)— yatta

　　　　'Hanako (did something) for the benefit of ... `

(15)　Hanako ga kodomotatı ni e o kaku

　　　　'Hanako draws a picture for the children.'

(16)　Hanako ga kodomotati in e o kaite-yatta

　　　　'Hanako drew a picture for the children.'

In this construction, the accessory verb '-yaru' ('-yatta' in the pre-
terite) denotes that the subject or the agent 'Hanako' ıs someone who
is socially superior to the children. She might be a teacher at a
nursery school or church school.

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Diagram 3

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                          S
              _____/|_____
            NP            |            VP
           /  \           |            |
     Hanako    ga         S          yatta
                    _____/ \_____
                  NP             VP
                 /  \         __/ |\__
          Hanako     ga     NP    NP    V
             \      /      /  \   / \   |
              \    /   kodomo ni e   o  kaku
               \  /     tati
                ⇓                         ⇓
                φ                        kaite
        ⎡Identical Subject⎤
        ⎣  NP Deletion    ⎦              [Gerundivization]
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In Japanese, these benefactive accessory verbs are used as the mirrors of the psychological standpoint of the subject or agent. They indicate that the subject or agent is favorable or neutral or reluctant in doing the action denoted by the main verb. Thus these accessory verbs function as the indicator of the agents' mental framework.

Namely, in the case of '-yaru' the sentence denotes some sense of favor-demanding or reluctancy, while in the cases of '-ageru' and '-kureru,' these are expressions of pure favorable deeds. But I must admit if I use 'no tame ni,' a purer indication of a benefactive deed instead of the simple 'ni,' the meaning of each sentence becomes more definite and firm. This may explain that the function of 'ni' in the sentences with such verbs as 'naosu' remains a psychological ambiguity. [5]

The imperative counterparts[6] of these examples are :

(17) Oba ni tegami o kaite-age nasai [polite]

'Write a letter for[7] the aunt.'

(18) Oba ni tegami o kaite-age yo [literary]
'Write a letter for the aunt.'

(19) *Boku ni hon o yonde-kure nasai
'Read a book for me.'

(20) ?Boku ni hon o yonde-kure yo
'Read a book for me.'

(21) Inu ni hone o katte-yari nasai
'Buy a bone for a dog.'

(22) ?Inu ni hone o katte-yare yo
'Buy a bone for a dog.'

These reveal that imperative constructions with '-kureru' do not make grammatical sentences. The accusative NP before 'o' has a peculiar relationship with the transitive verb selected. The selection is affected by the social status of the subject and the indirect object.

The verbs 'ageru,' '-kureru,' and '-yaru' can also be classified in a different way. The verbs '-ageru' and '-yaru' constitute volitive sense, although the psychological situation of the subject (agent) is quite opposite as discussed earlier in this paper[3]. On the other hand, '-kureru' is an expression of simple-minded pure favor between the two participants of equal social status. However, the imperative construction derived after some transformations, such as inflection and addition of a particle, reflects an interesting feature of these verbs.

Next let me examine other aspects of the matter.

(23) Taroo ga oba ni tegami o kaite-ageru
'Taroo writes a letter for his aunt.'

(24) Taroo ga boku ni hon o yonde-kureru
'Taroo reads a book for[9] me.'

(25) Taroo ga inu ni hone o katte-yaru

'Taroo buys a bone for the dog.'

In Japanese, honorific selection works in this instance.

(26) Otoosan ni hon o yonde-age nasai

'Read a book for your father.'

(27) *Otoosan ni hon o yonde-yari nasai

'Read a book for your father.'

(28) Imooto ni hon o yonde-age nasai

'Read a book for your sister.'

(29) Imooto ni hon o yonde-yari nasai

'Read a book for your sister.

We can also observe the next contrast :

(30) Niisan ni tegami o kaite-age nasai.

'Write a letter for your brother.'

(31) *Sensei ni tegami o kaite-age nasai

'Writer a letter for your teacher.'

These examples roughly show that the difference of social order and degree of intimacy affect the choice of accessory verbs. Namely, the status or the order in the family or society determines the selection of accessory verbs proper to the social relationship. And this also signifies the relationship between the speaker and participants in the speech. So each relationship between

Taroo—Oba—Boku—Niisan—Sensei—Inu

influences the selection of the accessory verb. However, '-kureru' cannot derive good imperative sentences, regardless of the kind of accusative noun before 'o.'

III

The above fact reminds me of the grammar of other accessory verbs '-dasu' and '-hazimeru'; both are Incipient markers.[10]

These embedding verbs function as follows :

(32)   kodomo ga —(S)— hazimeru
       'The child starts to ...'

(33)   kodomo ga hasiru
       'The child runs.'

(34)   kodomo ga hasiri-hazimeru
       'The child starts to run.'

(35)   Taroo ga —(S)— dasu
       'Taroo begins to ...'

(36)   Taroo ga utau.
       'Taroo sings.'

Diagram 4

[Identical Subject NP Deletion]

[Gerundivization]
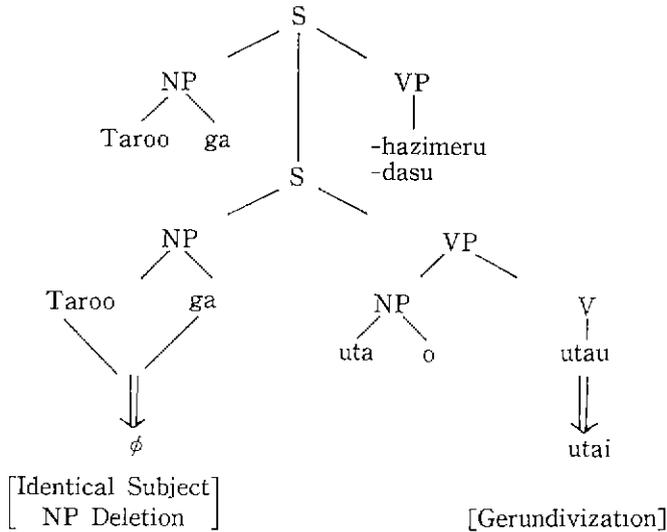
(37)   Taroo ga utai-dasu.

'Taroo begins to sing.'

Although these verbs look similar in their semantic and distributional functions, they are different in some essential way. In making imperative constructions from statement constructions they are quite different. [11]

Imperatives with '-hazimeru' are fully acceptable, whereas the ones with '-dasu' result in ungrammaticality as shown in the following :

(38)   Tabe-hazime nasai

'Start eating.'

(39)   Tabe-hazime yo

'Start eating.'

(40)??Tabe-dasi-nasai

'Start eating.'

(41) *Tabe-dase yo

'Start eating.'

(42)   Utai-hazime nasai

'Start singing.'

(43)   Utai-hazime yo

'Start singing.'

(44) ?Utai-dasi nasai

'Start singing.'

(45) *Utai-dase yo

'Start singing.'

Even if an object noun is added, the same results occur :

(46)   Sakana o tabe-hazime-nasai

'Start eating fish.'

(47) Sakana o tabe-hazime yo

  'Start eating fish.'

(48) ?Sakana o tabe-dasi-nasai

  'Start eating fish.'

(49) *Sakana o tabe-dase yo

  'Start eating fish.'

In '-dasu' construction the bare gerundive form 'dase' replaces these constructions with 'yo.' Thus,

(50)*?Tabe dase

  'Start eating.'

(51) Sakana o tabe dase

  'Start eating fish.'

(52) Utai dase

  'Start singing.'

are more acceptable than the examples with 'dase yo.' This might be a peculiar case with these incipient embedding verbs[12].

IV

Now let me discuss some other issues concernng the particle 'ni' in the following exaimples[13].

(53) *Isya ga Taroo *ni* byooki o naosita

(54) Isya ga Taroo *no tame ni* byooki o naosita

The English counterparts are supposed to be

(55) *The doctor cured Taroo the disease.

(56) ?The doctor cured the disease *for* Taroo.

(57) The doctor cured Taroo of the disease.

(58) The doctor cured Taroo's disease.

but if the sentence

(59) *Isya ga Taroo ni byooki o naosita

is embedded in a benefactive construction with benefactive accessory verbs such as '-ageru,' '-kureru,' and '-yaru,' the meaning of the sentence becomes clear and results in a good grammatical sentence.

(60) Isya ga Taroo ni byooki o naosite-ageta

(61) *Isya ga Taroo ni byooki o naosite-kureta

(62) Isya ga Taroo ni byooki o naosite-yatta

It is interesting in English that this psychological, mental situation on the side of the doctor is usually expressed by an adverb.

(63) The doctor cured Taroo's disease. [Plain]

(64) The doctor *kindly* cured Taroo's disease. [Favor]

(65) The doctor *favorably* cured Taroo's disease. [Favor]

(66) The doctor *reluctantly* cured Taroo's disease. [Reluctancy]

This psychological mental situation is expressed by the aspectual drift of the accessory verbs in Japanese as seen above. Some Japanese accessory verbs serve to produce benefactive sense which are signaled by adverbial expressions in English.

V

It is an interesting fact that in Japanese what an accessory verbs express is either aspectual or adverbial and they always appear as a verbal expression within the final predicator, whereas, in English, there is a clear distinction between an aspectual expression, which is always signaled by a modal auxiliary and an adverbial expression, which appears as an adverbial phrase or clause.

Although it is generally believed that all the aspectual expressions

are products of some additional elements to the finite verb — they appear in syntactic representation as auxiliary (as in English) and inflection (as in most Slavonic languages), in Japanese some embedding verbs known as the accessory verbs serve to fulfill this role. In Cebuano, a language in the Philippines, some aspectual features are signaled by the change of case as pointed out by Professor Luzares[14].

The manifestation of aspectual function of a language, it seems, is much more complicated than has been considered[15]. In this brief paper I attempted to prove that in Japanese some accessory verbs function as aspect markers, but I still suspect there should be more entries which will serve to supplement the subtle difference of aspectual meanings in any language. Japanese is no exception. Though still immature, in myself is growing a hunch that some particles are relevant to the above mentioned potentiality. I would like to pursue this issue in my forthcoming works.

Notes

1 In my categorization, I listed 20 verbs as embedding verbs. "A Study of Japanese Verb Phrase Embedding Constructions," *Doshisha Literature* 25 (1969), 73—94.

2 Most grammar books dealing with traditional Japanese grammar have classified these as auxiliary verbs or adjectival verbs. Daisaburo Matsushita, *Kaisen Hyozyun Nippon Bunpo* (Revised Standard Japanese Grammar) (Tokyo : Tyubunkan, 1927). Kokichiro Yuzawa, *Kaisetu Nippon Bunpo* (Interpreting Japanese Grammar) (Tokyo : Ookayama Shoten, 1931). Kotoki Tokieda, *Nippon Bunpo Kogohen* (Japanese Grammar — Colloquial Usages) (Tokyo : Iwanami Syoten, 1950), etc.

3 Teruhiro Ishiguro, "A Study of Japanese Verb Phrase Embedding Constructions." The original discussion of this theme was first introduced in my M. A. thesis I submitted to the Ohio State University in 1966. Cf. also Note 1.

4 The accessory verb '-miru' is different from the regular verb 'miru' (to see) in respect to its meaning as well as to its function. It denotes 'attempt' or 'trial.' However, in the following example, some ambiguity occurs :

Sono mise e itte-miru.

(I will try to go to the store.)

Sono mise e itte sina o mite-miru.

(I will go to the store and see the article.)

5 Concerning benefactive expression '-no tame ni,' see my "The Domain of Transitivity," *Doshisha Studies in English* 50 (1990), 93—104.

6 Japanese imperatives are obtained by adding '-nasai' (polite form) or '-yo' (-plain form) at the end of the gerundive form of the finite verb or at the end of the verb phrase consisting of verb+accessory verb.

7 This 'for' means 'on behalf of.' Therefore, it is a different kind of benefactive expression.

8 See pp. 225—226.

9 This 'for' means 'for the benefit of.'

10 Teruhiro Ishiguro, "A Study of Japanese Verb Phrase Embedding Constructions," p. 87.

11 The regular verb 'hazimeru' (to begin, to start) can have such imperative forms as

Koosin hazime ! (Start walking)

Syokuzi hazime ! (Start eating)

Benkyoo hazime ! (Start studying)

Siai hazime ! (Start the game)

the italicized words are all nouns. These may be called nominal imperatives in contrast with verbal imperatives I am discussing here. The nominal imperatives in Japanese will be pursued further in my forthcoming paper.

12 L. J. Brinton discusses the similar phenomenon in English and other languages. Laurel J. Brinton, *The Development of English Aspectual Systems* (Cambridge : Cambridge University Press, 1988), especially Chapter 3, pp. 95—162.

13 This is actually a continuation of my former discussion in "The Domain of Transitivity," *Doshisha Studies in English* 50 (1990), 93—104.

14 Casilda E. Luzares, *The Morphology of Selected Cebuano Verbs : A Case Grammar* (Pacific Linguistics, Australian National University, 1979). Also

Teruhiro Ishiguro, "The Interplay of Case and Aspect," *Doshisha Studies in English* 49 (1989).

15 As to the definition of aspect in English, scholars differ in their opinions. I would like to adopt the broadest sense as introduced by Charleston. B. M. Charleston, "A Reconsideration of the Problem of Time, Tense, and Aspect in Modern English." *English Studies : A Journal of English Language and Literature* 36 (1955), 263—78.