

JMORF — Morpho-Syntax

Structure of the lexicon

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Lecture 6
Location: SV 2.39

Lexical Types and Rules

We will use slides from Emily Bender:

- Lexical Types
- Lexical Rules

P3: Arguments in Japanese

As noted in Chapter 2, Japanese word order differs from English in a number of ways, including the fact that it is a ‘Subject-Object-Verb’ (SOV) language. Here are a few relevant examples. In the glosses, ‘NOM’, ‘ACC’, and ‘DAT’ stand for nominative, accusative, and dative case, respectively. (Note that Japanese has one more case – dative – than English does. This doesn’t have any important effects on the analysis; it merely requires that we posit one more possible value of CASE for Japanese than for English).¹

- (1) *Hitorino otoko-ga sono hon-o yonda.*
one man-NOM that book-ACC read.PAST
'One man read that book.'
[cf. *Yonda hitorino otoko-ga sono hon-o.
*Hitorino otoko-ga yonda sono hon-o.]

¹The examples marked with '*' here are unacceptable with the indicated meanings. Some of these might be well-formed with some other meaning of no direct relevance; others might be well-formed with special intonation that we will ignore for present purposes.

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- *Otoko-ga hitorino sono hon-o yonda.
 - *Hitorino otoko-ga hon-o sono yonda.
 - *Hitorino otoko-ni/-o sono hon-o yonda.
 - *Hitorino otoko-ga sono hon-ga/-ni yonda.]

(2) *Hanako-ga hon-o yonda*

Hanako-NOM book-ACC read.PAST

‘Hanako read the book(s)’

[cf. *Yonda Hanako-ga hon-o.

*Hanako-ga yonda hon-o.

*Hanako-ni/-o hon-o yonda.

*Hanako-ga hon-ni/-ga yonda.]

(3) *sensei-ga Taroo-ni sono hon-o ageta*

teacher-NOM Taroo-DAT that book-ACC gave.PAST

‘The teacher(s) gave that book to Taroo’

[cf. *Ageta sensei-ga Taroo-ni sono hon-o.

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- *Sensei-ga ageta Taroo-ni sono hon-o.
 - *Sensei-ga Taroo-ni ageta sono hon-o.
 - *Sensei-o/-ni Taroo-ni sono hon-o ageta.
 - *Sensei-ga Taroo-ga/-o sono hon-o ageta.
 - *Sensei-ga Taroo-ni sono hon-ga/-ni ageta.]

(4) *Hanako-ga kita*

Hanako-NOM arrive.PAST

'Hanako arrived.'

[cf. **Kita Hanako-ga.*]

As the contrasting ungrammatical examples show, the verb must appear in final position in Japanese. In addition, we see that verbs select for NPs of a particular case, much as in English. In the following tasks, assume that the nouns and verbs of Japanese are inflected words, derived by lexical rule from the appropriate lexemes.

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- A. Write Head-Specifier and Head-Complement Rules for Japanese that account for the data illustrated here. How are they different (if at all) from the Head-Specifier and Head-Complement Rules for English?
 - B. Give the lexical entry for each of the verbs illustrated in (i)–(iv).

[Make sure your entries interact with the rules you formulated in part (A) to account for the above data. The data given permit you to specify only some features; leave others unspecified. Assume that there is a Past-Tense Verb Lexical Rule (an i-rule) that relates your lexical entries to the words shown in (i)–(iv). We have not provided a hierarchy of lexeme types for Japanese. You may either give all relevant constraints directly on the lexical entries, or posit and use subtypes of lexeme. In the latter case, you must also provide those types.]

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- C. Give the lexical entries for the nouns *Taroo* and *hon*. [See notes on part (B).]
 - D. Formulate the lexical rule for deriving the inflected forms ending in *-o* from the nominal lexemes.

Acknowledgments and References

- Course design and slides borrow heavily from Emily Bender's course: *Linguistics 566: Introduction to Syntax for Computational Linguistics*
<http://courses.washington.edu/ling566>