Trad 101 | Languages and Cultures of East Asia

Sentences in East Asian Languages (2)
Sentences

Lexical Categories (aka parts of speech)
- Nouns
- Verbs
- Adjectives
- Adverbs
- Prepositions/postpositions
Sentences

Nouns

- can be modified by relative clauses
  - Benkyo: suru hito wa gakusei desu.
    - study do-ATT person TOP student copula
    - The person who studies is a student.
  - can indicate gender (masculine, feminine, neutral, etc.)
    - Grammatical gender is not found in Japanese
Nouns can refer to number (singular or plural)
  - In English there is a number distinction, in Japanese there is not.
    - cat neko
    - cats neko
  - There are some fossilized plural markers
    - -tati tomodati 'friend, friends', watashitati 'we, us'
    - -domo kodomono 'child, children', kodomotati
    - -ra warerara 'we, us'
Sentences

Pronouns

personal pronouns

- E: I, you, he, she, it, we, they
- J: has a large number of pronouns for “I”

Watasi | Wasi
Watakusi | Ore
Boku | Onore
Atasi | Zibun
Wa, ware | Yo
Utì
Sentences

Pronouns

personal pronouns

- E: I, you, he, she, it, we, they
- J: has a large number of pronouns for “I”

watasi (standard, polite)  wasi  (old men)
watakusi  (formal)  ore  (tough guys)
boku  (casual, men)  onore  (self, literary)
atasi  (casual, women)  zibun  (self)
wa, ware  (formal)  yo  (royal we)
uti  (casual, Kyoto area women)
Sentences

Pronouns

personal pronouns
- E: I, you, he, she, it, we, they
- J: has a large number of pronouns for “you”
  anata (polite), anta (casual, close relationship)
  kimi (casual, used by men to people of lower status)
  omae (casual, used by tough guys to people of lower status)
  nanji ('thou', extremely formal)
  otaku (formal, lit. 'your house')
Sentences

Pronouns

- personal pronouns
  - E: I, you, he, she, it, we, they
  - J: kare 'he' and kanojo 'she' (lit. his woman)
  - Despite the large number of pronouns, the tendency is to not use them.
    - konohito, kotira 'this person'
    - sonohito, sotira, anohito, atira 'that person'
    - people are referred to by name
    - when the pronoun is not needed it is omitted
Sentences

Pronouns

- demonstrative pronouns
  - E: this, that, these, those
  - J:
    - kore (this, near the speaker),
    - sore (that, near the listener),
    - are (that, over there removed from both speaker and listener)
Sentences

Pronouns

- Interrogative pronouns
  - E: who, whose, which
  - C: dare 'who', dore 'which'
Sentences

Pronouns

Relative pronouns

- E: who, that
- J: [clause] noun

Benkyo: suru hito wa gakusei desu.
study do-ATT person TOP student copula
The person **who** studies is a student.
Sentences

Pronouns

Indefinite pronouns

- E: whoever, whatever
- J: daredemo 'whoever', nandemo 'whatever'
Sentences

Determiners

- E: definite and indefinite articles (the, a); demonstratives (this, that, these, those); possessives (my, your, his, her, its, ours, their); interrogatives (which, what, whose)

- J: definite and indefinite articles (none); demonstratives (-no is added to demonstrative pronoun: ko-no, so-no, a-no); possessives (-no is added to personal pronoun: watashi-no); interrogatives (-no is added to interrogative pronoun: dare-no)
Sentences

Verbs

- transitive vs. intransitive

  The door opens.
  I open the door.
Sentences

Verbs

- transitive vs. intransitive
- very important in Japanese

intransitive
doa ga aku
door NOM opens
The door opens.

transitive
doa wo akeru
door ACC opens
[Someone] opens the door.
Sentences

Verbs

- transitive vs. intransitive

(v.i.) (v.t.)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Verbs</th>
<th>Meaning</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>aku</td>
<td>open</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>akeru</td>
<td>open</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>simaru</td>
<td>close</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>simeru</td>
<td>close</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>otiru</td>
<td>fall, drop</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>otosu</td>
<td>fall, drop</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>kieru</td>
<td>go out, extinguish</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>kesu</td>
<td>go out, extinguish</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Verbs

transitive vs. intransitive

This distinction is important because it determines the case particles that can be used (we'll come back to case particles). Nominative *ga* is used with intransitive verbs and accusative (direct object) *wo* is used with transitive verbs.
Sentences

Verbs

- transitive vs. intransitive
- Adding -teiru to intransitive verbs makes a stative statement. Adding -teiru to transitive verbs makes a progressive statement.

aku 'open (v.i.)'
doa ga aiteiru 'The door is open.'
akeru 'open (v.t.)'
doa wo aketeiru '[someone] is opening the door'
Sentences

Verbs

Since Japanese is an agglutinative language, verbs acquire morphemes to indicate tense, politeness, etc.

- **tabe-ru** taberu  
  '[I] eat' (non-past)
- **tabe-ta** tabeta  
  '[I] ate' (past)
- **tabe-te-i-ru** tabeteiru  
  '[I] am eating' (progressive)
- **tebe-te-i-ta** tabeteita  
  '[I] was eating' (past progressive)
Adjectives

There are two types of adjectives in Japanese: adjectives and nominal adjectives.

Adjectives directly modify a noun:
- takai yama 'tall mountain'

Nominal adjectives need a particle `na`
- kirei na hito 'pretty person'
Adjectives

There are two types of adjectives in Japanese: adjectives and nominal adjectives.

Both adjectives and nominal adjectives have tense.

- takai yama 'tall mountain' (non-past)
- takakatta yama 'the mountain that was tall' (past)
- Sono yama wa takakatta 'That mountain was tall.' (past)
- kirei na hito 'pretty person' (non-past)
- kirei datta hito 'the person who was pretty' (past)
- Sono hito wa kirei datta 'That person was pretty' (past)
Adjectives

- There are two types of adjectives in Japanese: adjectives and nominal adjectives
- Both adjectives and nominal adjectives can be negated

  takai yama 'tall mountain' (non-past)
  takakunai yama 'not tall mountain' (negative non-past)
  takakunakatta yama 'was not tall mountain' (negative past)

  kirei na hito 'pretty person' (non-past)
  kirei janai hito 'not pretty person' (negative non-past)
  kirei janakatta hito 'was not pretty person' (negative past)
Counters or classifiers

- What is a classifier?
- E: a cup of coffee, a pod of whales, a pride of lions, a murder of crows, an army of frogs, a knot of toads
- J: -tu is the default counter and is used with native numbers (hitotsu, futatsu, mitsu)
- Most other counters in Japanese are used with Sino-Japanese numbers: -hon for bottles and round things (ippon, nihon, sanbon); -satsu for books; -mai for flat things
- People are counted with a mix of native and Sino-Japanese: hitori (1 person), futari (2 people), sannin (3 people, Sino-Jpn)
Word Order

Six possible orders:

- SOV – Japanese, Korean
- SVO – English, Chinese
- VSO
- VOS
- VOS
- OSV
Word Order

Review: subject, object, and verb

- Subject
  - is the actor of the verb, performs the action of the verb
  - in English we often have fillers like “there” (There is a book.)

- Verb
  - is the action of the sentence

- Object
  - direct objects – patient, receives the action of the verb
  - indirect objects – is the goal of the verb
Word Order

- Review subject, object, and verb
  - I threw John a ball.
  - Subj verb IO DO
Japanese uses case particles to indicate subjects, objects of verbs, etc.

- **ga** marks the nominative case (subject)
- **wo** marks the accusative case (direct object)
- **ni** marks the goal (indirect object or location)
- **e** marks direction towards something
- **de** marks location where an action occurs
Word Order

Japanese uses case particles to indicate subjects, objects of verbs, etc.

I threw John a ball.
Subj verb IO DO

Although Japanese is SOV, scrambling occurs.

Scrambling is when phrases get moved around.
I threw John a ball.
Subj verb IO DO
Word Order

- Japanese uses case particles to indicate subjects, objects of verbs, etc.
- Although Japanese is SOV, scrambling occurs.
  - Scrambling is when phrases get moved around.
Word Order

- Although Japanese is SOV, scrambling occurs.
  - Scrambling is when phrases get moved around.
  - There is no change in meaning or function of the phrases that are scrambled – the case marking indicates grammatical roles.
  - Scrambling is sometimes done for emphasis.
Word Order

- Japanese uses case particles to indicate subjects, objects of verbs, etc.

- Although Japanese is SOV, scrambling occurs.

- Scrambling cannot always occur:
  - John-ga Mary-o suki desu.
  - “John likes Mary”
  - Mary-o John-ga suki desu.
  - *“John likes Mary”
  - “Mary likes John.”
Topic Comment

Topic-Comment constructions

- Topic – what is being talked about
- Comment – what is being said about the topic
- Topics in Japanese are marked with the particle "wa"
  
  - John-wa Mary-ga suki desu. 'As for John, he likes Mary'
  - Watasi wa susi. 'I'm the one who ordered sushi.'
  - John-ni-wa bo:ru-wo nageta. 'As for to John, [I] threw him the ball.'
Ellipsis

What is ellipsis?

- In English we are required to say the subject of a sentence:
  - It is raining.
  - *Raining.
Ellipsis

What is ellipsis?

- In Japanese the subject is often omitted, and will be said when needed for clarification.
- Anything that can be omitted probably will be.

John-ni bo:ru-wo nageta. ("I" is understood)
watasi-ga bo:ru-wo nageta. ("to John" is understood)
watasi-ga John-ni nageta. ("a ball" is understood)
watasi-ga nageta. ("a ball to John" is understood)
John-ni nageta. ("I" and "a ball" are understood)
bo:ru-wo nageta. ("I" and "to John" are understood)
nageta . (everything else is understood)