

Aspect and tense in Japanese dialects

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There are many researches about aspect and tense in which not only the Standard Japanese (SJ) but also in Japanese dialects. In those researches, nowadays, the aspect and tense systems are almost confirmed in each dialects. Kudo (2014) shows the systems and its features of some typical dialects. Of SJ, it has the system that *su-ru* conflicts with *si-te i-ru* as perfective and durative in present tense. Dialects in Tohoku region have similar systems as SJ even though durative form is different from SJ. *Si-te-da* is used as durative form in Tohoku dialects. Therefore, it means they are confront in two forms. On the other hand, dialects in western Japanese have the system that *su-ru* conflicts with *si-jor-u* and *si-tor-u* as perfective, imperfective (progressive) and perfect (resultative). In other words, they have a confrontation between three forms. Especially the difference of meaning between *si-jor-u* and *si-tor-u* have been argued from Meiji era. Thus, the studies for aspect and tense in Japanese has been promoted by the construction for the system of aspect and tense.

However, does the approach adapt to clarify the essence of aspect and tense in Japanese? This presentation will reexamines how to recognize aspect and tense in Japanese. For the purpose, this presentation takes up the dialects in western Japanese, and reports the dialects has been explained from the meaning of the construction of their forms. Most of the temporal expressions in Japanese includes the Existential Verb; *si-ta* (*si-te ar-i* > *si-tar-i* > *si-ta*), *si-te i-ru* (*-te* form and *i-ru*), *si-jor-u* (continuative form and *o-ru*) and so on. It means that the Existential Verb is concerned with the meanings of the Japanese temporal expressions in a large way. Oka (2013) says the previous studies of aspect and tense are based on the theory of the language using the completive form as the marked form like Slavonic, but in Japanese, the forms expressing aspect and tense meaning are grammaticalized by the Existential Verb. Then he suggests the new point of view how the state of the verb existent. In addition, Tsuda (2015) clarifies the fundamental meaning of *si-tor-u* in western Japanese dialects from the meanings of elements of the construction. Such specific examples will indicate that the idea influences other dialects or SJ. For analyzing the essence of aspect and tense in Japanese, there is necessity to recognize the meanings of the elements of the construction in later studies.