Kakarimusubi in the Irabu dialect of Ryukyuan

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This talk aims to present the synchronic description of Kakarimusubi (KM) in the Irabu dialect of Ryukyuan. It is well known that KM, which was once found in Classical Japanese but is lost almost entirely in mainland Japanese, is well retained in Ryukyuan dialects. However, due to the lack of synchronic descriptions of individual Ryukyuan dialects, the structural and functional features of KM in individual Ryukyuan dialects are still unclear. The primary goal of the present study is to provide a detailed description of Irabu KM by focusing on the following structural and functional features.

(1) The basic mechanism of KM: the presence of a focus marker blocks (rather than requires) the occurrence of a special verbal form, or what I call realis form. This *negative* concord is explained by referring to the modal-pragmatic feature of the realis form rather than by appealing to a syntactic mechanism such as clause nominalisation (which would make sense if the focus marking required the verb to be a nominalized, or *Rentai*, form).

(2) Focus marking sensitive to sentence type: Irabu has a rich array of focus markers which are used according to the sentence type in which they occur (*du* for declarative, *ru* for Yes-No interrogative, *ga* for WH interrogative, and none (or zero) for imperative).

(3) Focus marking strategies: argument and adjunct focus are marked by particles whereas predicate focus is marked by a focus suffix.

(4) The focus marking in broad (sentence) focus environments: in a sentence with broad focus, where the entire sentence is under the scope of focus, the focus marker appears at the left-most constituent of the sentence rather than the sentence-final position.

(5) Frequency of KM in discourse: KM is almost obligatory to the extent that focus marking occurs in almost every sentence.