

## On the Condition of Application in Rendaku

Rendaku always occurs in voiceless sounds on the first position in the second word of compounds and the voiceless sounds change to voiced, when two noun words make compounds as follows:

(1) [ori]N + [kami]N >> [ [ori] + [g]ami ]N (Compound)

Therefore, in forms of Rendaku in Adjective + Noun Phrases (“i” is a marker of Adjective in Japanese), Rendaku usually does not occur as follows:

(2) [furu+i]A + [ [h]on ]N >> [ [furu+i] + [ [h]on ] ]NP (Noun Phrase)  
>> [furu]N+ [ [h]on ]N >> [ [furu+] + [ [h]on ] ]N (Compound)

In this case in (2), Rendaku is blocked by [+son] due to the feature of the final sound [n] in the second word of the compound. But there is an example which does not block Rendaku by the feature of [+son] in the final sound [n].

(3) [manga]N + [ [h]on ]N >> [ [manga] + [ [b]on ] ]N (Compound)

According to Vance (2005), though it seems that Rendaku is governed by many rules or constraints, the conditions where Rendaku occurs are irregular. Consider the following examples:

(4)

- a [koi-no]A + [ [h]anasi ]N(P) >> [koi + [b]ana(si)]N(Compound)
- b. [yama-no]A + [ [s]akura ]N(P) >> [yama + [z]akura]N(Compound)
- c. [umi-no]A + [ [t]ori ]N(P) >> [umi + [d]ori]N(Compound)
- d. [kawa-no]A + [ [k]isi ]N(P) >> [kawa + [g]isi]N(Compound)

Rendaku occurs in the examples in (4) (“no” is also a marker of Adjective or Genitive in Japanese), and then, as the left columns are NPs (Noun Phrases) such as Adjective + Noun, Rendaku does not occur, while as the right columns are new compound derived from two nouns, Rendaku occurs.

Therefore, I suggest that the condition where Rendaku occurs is based on the first voiceless sound of the second word in N-Compounds. According to the examples in (4), I also indicate that, when the first voiceless sound of the second word exists within Noun Phrases, Rendaku does not occur.

Finally, I conclude that the basic condition where Rendaku occurs is strictly restricted to the domain within the sequence of N-Compound but not the sequence of Noun Phrases. Furthermore, because of the case of NPs, there are clear boundaries between the two words, but because of N-Compounds, there are not clear boundaries between the two words, since the boundaries gradually disappear after the derivation of N-Compounds.

## References

Vance, T. (2005) “Nihongo Kyooiku ni-okeru Rendaku.” [Rendaku in Teaching of Japanese] In Minami, M. (ed.) *New Directions in Applied Linguistics of Japanese*. Tokyo: Kuroshi Publisher. 1-11.