

論文の英文要旨

(Abstract of Doctoral Thesis)

論文題目 (Title)	A Descriptive study of Suspended Clauses Using Conjunction Particles in Modern Japanese: Grammatical Characteristics and the Meanings/Functions of “~te” Suspended Clauses
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This thesis describes the characteristics of “~te” suspended clauses, which are among the most widely used suspended clauses types incorporating conjunction particles in modern Japanese. However, their functions have been studied rather insufficiently, similar to those of “~kara” and “~kedo.”

The “~te” suspended clauses considered in this paper are used in expressions such as “*kacho wa ima tyotto seki wo hazushite orimashite*. (The section chief is a little out of his seat now...)” Formally, the clause is an assertion that the main clause does not appear and ends with the conjunction particle “te.” This paper also considers expressions constituting sentence-final particles like “sa” and “ne” attached to “te”—for instance, “*ima kariteru heya sugoku hirokute sa*. (The room I’m renting is very large...)” “*mada narete nakute ne*. (I’m not used to it yet...)”

This dissertation aims to analyze and describe the grammatical characteristics, meanings, and functions of “~te” suspended clauses based on linguistic interpretations. The examples for observation and analysis were procured from modern Japanese TV dramas and the “Corpus of Everyday Japanese Conversation” (CEJC). To date, there has been no detailed investigation of the corresponding relationship between “~te” suspended clauses and -te subordinate clauses. This dissertation addresses this research gap. It also clarifies the general representation of the “~te” suspended clauses.

This thesis comprises three sections: Introduction (Part I), Main Discussion (Part II), and Conclusion (Part III). The contents of each chapter of this thesis are summarized below.

Part I Introduction (Chapter 1 ~ Chapter4)

Chapter 1 describes the purpose, research object, scope of research, data collection materials, thesis structure, and terms used in this thesis.

Chapter 2 critically examines the significant previous studies related to this thesis.

In chapter 3, the research issues to be solved in this thesis are outlined based on the previous

research examined in Chapter 2.

Chapter 4 describes the research methods utilized, including data studied in this thesis, data collection procedure, and the precautions considered during data collection.

Part II Main Discussion (Chapter 5 ~ Chapter 8)

The Main Discussion section of this thesis comprises Main Discussion (1) and Main Discussion (2). The Main Discussion (1) outlines the premise under consideration. The Main Discussion (2) is the central part of this thesis. The following is a summary of each thesis chapter (chapters 5-8).

Main Discussion (1): the premise of consideration (Chapter 5)

Chapter 5 disclosed the occurrence of 31 conjunctive particles used in Japanese in suspended clauses lacking main clauses. Analysis reveals that not all conjunctive particles can be used in suspended clauses. Moreover, significant differences prevail among conjunctive particles that can be used in suspended clauses. This difference is likely caused by the various conjunctive particles' differing degrees when used in complex sentences. It was found that subordinate clauses using particles, which can be established as suspended clause, belong to class B or C in the Minami (1974). Moreover, subordinate clauses in class A, which has the highest subordination degree, could appear as suspended clauses only in the *-te* subordinate clause.

This paper also considers predicates immediately preceding conjunctive particles, examining their grammatical and formal characteristics. It also clarifies any differences from subordinate clauses in standard complex sentences. Analysis reveals that suspended clauses often display characteristic co-occurrence with *noda*. There are no co-occurrences appearing with the so-called "scope *noda*," which only has a nominalizing function. All co-occurrences appear with the so-called "mood *noda*" which expresses modality. This result appears to support previous studies describing parallels between suspended clauses and independent sentences.

Main Discussion (2): discussion about "*~te*" suspended clauses (Chapter 6 ~ Chapter 8)

In this part, I considered 2,638 cases of "*~te*" suspended clauses collected from contemporary Japanese TV dramas and CEJC.

Chapter 6: correspondence relation between "*~te*" suspended clauses and *-te* subordinate clauses

In Chapter 6, I considered the correspondence between "*~te*" suspended clauses and *-te* subordinate clauses from two viewpoints: the degree of *-te* subordinate clauses (Minami 1974) and the meaning and usage of *-te* subordinate clauses.

First, from the correspondence between the degree of subordination and the *-te* subordinate clauses, "*~te*" suspended clauses corresponding to any of the *-te* subordinate clauses A, B, and C

can be observed. However, there is a considerable difference in the likelihood of the appearance of correspondence among the three classes. That is to say, “~*te*” suspended clauses corresponding to the *-te* subordinate clause B are reported on significantly more occasions than are the other two classes.

In addition, I clarified the correspondence between “~*te*” suspended clauses and *-te* subordinate clauses, including the meaning and usage of the *-te* subordinate clauses that appear in each of the A, B, and C classes. First, I found that the expressions appearing in the predicated part of *-te* subordinate clauses A corresponding to the “~*te*” suspended clauses have a common feature of weak volition. Next, I considered the “~*te*” suspended clauses corresponding to the *-te* subordinate clauses B and found that *-te* subordinate clauses with the three meanings and usages of “cause/reason,” “successive action/state,” and “foretaste” as well as *-te* subordinate clauses whose main clause is difficult to assume; can appear as “~*te*” suspended clauses. However, I also observed that the *-te* subordinate clause, which expresses a semantic relation of temporal sequence (“*kono ringo wa aokute, okii/chiisai.*”(This apple is green and big/small.)), cannot be used as a “~*te*” suspended clause.

Finally, the “~*te*” suspended clause, which corresponds to *-te* subordinate clause C, that is, one with the meaning and usage of “parallel clause connection,” was analyzed. Thus, *-te* subordinate clauses can be considered independent sentences with coherent meaning. In conclusion, it is reasonable that these could appear as “~*te*” suspended clauses.

Chapter 7: grammatical characteristics of “~*te*” suspended clauses

In chapter 7, I organized the expressions focusing on the predicates of “~*te*” suspended clauses from two perspectives: part of speech and volition.

First, organizing by parts of speech revealed that verb predicates accounted for 2,460 cases or over 90% (93.25%) of the total. In particular, many “*iu*” and “*omou*” were used as quotations in “~*te*” suspended clauses (“~*to/tte itte*” “~*to/tte omotte*”). Moreover, of the 91 cases entailing copulative predicates, 86 cases (94.51%) assumed the negative form. Among 84 adjective predicates of “~*te*” suspended clauses, 70 cases (83.33%) constituted attribute adjectives. Out of 2,638 cases, only three cases (0.11%) had adjectival noun predicates.

Regarding volitionality, a substantial amount of particles without volition were found in “~*te*” suspended clauses. This is consistent with the chapter 6 finding that the expressions in the predicated part of *-te* subordinate clauses A corresponding to “~*te*” suspended clauses have a common feature of weak volition.

Chapter 8: meanings and functions of “~*te*” suspended clauses

Prior studies have demonstrated two meanings and functions in “~*te*” suspended clauses: “explanation of circumstances” and “exclamatory.” This thesis reveals a third meaning and function of these clauses, namely, “confirming information.” Moreover, “~*te*” suspended clauses expressing

“exclamation” simultaneously achieve the meaning and function of “explanation of circumstances.” These results indicate that “*~te*” suspended clauses have the following three meanings and functions:

1. Exclusive “explanation of circumstances.”
2. “Explanation of circumstances,” and achieving the meaning and function of the “exclamation” through contextual information and common sense.
3. “Confirming information”; this type is an expression uttered in the form of a question with rising intonation. The “*~te*” suspended clause with this meaning and function is one in which the speaker is asking the interlocutor to confirm what the speaker has already presumed based on the context. This usually causes a cognitive gap between the speaker’s presumption and the information/common sense that the speaker knows; thus, the speaker’s utterance is often accompanied by slight surprise.

Part III Conclusion (Chapter 9)

In chapter 9, I first summarize what was demonstrated in this thesis. Then, I describe significance of the thesis finding. Finally, I describe the limitations of this thesis and potential issues. To clarify the whole picture of “*~te*” suspended clauses, this paper first describes the characteristics of conjunctive particles that are easy to be established as suspended clauses and those that are difficult to be established, from the viewpoint of the degree of subordination in complex sentences. By considering the correspondence between “*~te*” suspended clauses and *-te* subordinate clauses, I elucidate what kind of *-te* subordinate clauses correspond to “*~te*” suspended clauses and what kind do not. Then, I organize the expressions focusing on the predicates of “*~te*” suspended clauses based on two perspectives: part of speech and volition. Furthermore, by observing the contexts and utterances in which “*~te*” suspended clauses appear, I describe their meanings and functions in more detail. For future research, analysis focusing on the addition of sentence-final particles remains as a developmental issue.