



Understanding The Word 'Toki' In Japanese Sentence (Syntax Studies)

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Abstract

Japanese has various characteristics that are used in everyday conversation. This includes Japanese expressions, vocabulary and sentence patterns. This research focuses on understanding the word 'toki' in Japanese through syntax studies. This research aims to facilitate the understanding of Japanese language learners so that they can distinguish the time when a situation or event occurs in various activities that have been carried out, activities that are being carried out or activities that occur continuously. This research method uses a qualitative descriptive method by collecting data from various sources and analyzing them one by one. This research is able to produce an understanding of the word 'toki' which occurs suddenly due to activities carried out by chance, the word 'toki' which occurs continuously when the speaker carries out an activity routinely and the word 'toki' which indicates the occurrence of an activity. in the past when the speaker expresses past events.

Keywords: *Time; Toki; Japanese; Syntax Studies; Japanese Sentence*

Introduction

Japanese is included in the category of language that is difficult to learn because Japanese has three types of letters, namely: hiragana, katakana, and kanji. However, interest in Japanese language learners around the world tends to increase, including in Indonesia.

Based on data from the Japan Foundation as of 2021, it shows that there are 711,732 Japanese language learners in Indonesia at various levels. Looking at history in 2012, Indonesia was ranked second in the world for the number of people studying Japanese and increased very significantly by 21.8 percent compared to 2009. This is driven by the increasing number of Japanese comic, manga, anime, drama and film industries that are emerging, thus encouraging the interest of Japanese language learners to increase.

In Japanese there are several words that express time relationships; for example 'toki' (時) and 'baai' (場合). These two words have almost the same meaning regarding time. As an example:

1. 道を渡る時、車に気をつけます。

(Michi wo wataru toki, kuruma ni ki wo tsukemasu.)

(Be careful of cars when crossing the road.)

(MNN, 2002:192)

In the sentence above the word 'toki' is attached to the words 'wataru' which is a compound sentence with the main sentence 'kuruma ni ki wo tsukemasu' and the subordinate sentence namely 'michi wo wataru'. In this sentence the word 'toki' is a link between sentences and gives meaning which states that the speaker is telling the other person to be careful when crossing the road.

2. 会社に遅れる場合は、連絡してください。

(Kaisha ni okureru baai wa, renrakushite kudasai).

(Please contact me if you are late coming to the office).

(MNN, 1998:162)

In the sentence above the word 'baai' is attached to the word 'okureru' which is a compound sentence with the main sentence 'renraku shite kudasai' and the subordinate sentence 'kaisha ni okureru'. In this sentence the word 'baai' which is attached to the clause with the particle 'wa' has a syntactic function as the subject. So this sentence means that if the person you are talking to is late arriving at the office, please contact the speaker immediately.

Literature Review

Syntax in Japanese is called *tougoron* (統語論). Syntax is a branch of linguistics that studies the elements of sentence formation. (Sutedi, 2004). Nitta in Sutedi (2004) explains that the field of syntax is a sentence which includes its type and function, its constituent elements, and its meaning structure. Thus, syntactic work includes phrase structure, clause structure and sentence structure, plus various other elements. Meanwhile, according to Koizumi (1993: p. 155), syntax is a science that examines the relationship and structure of language.

A sentence is a series of several words or clauses, which can be used with connecting words or conjunctions. Sentences play a very important role in communication because sentences play a role in conveying information and describing someone's feelings.

Arifin and Junaiyah (2008), concluded that sentences explain a relationship between clauses and other clauses. In general, what is meant by a sentence is a part that has a series of meanings contained in a discourse which is delimited by a period (Sudjianto, 2007). Therefore, a sentence is a relationship between parts of a sentence that is structured and contains a series of meanings.

Meanwhile, the sentence in Japanese is called 'bun'. Various sentences in Japanese and Indonesian have a difference. Hiroshi in Sudjianto and Dahidi (2004: p. 141), explains that it consists of three classifications of Japanese sentences, including classification based on the number of clauses or *setsu*, classification based on the class of words that are the predicate, and classification based on the function of the expression.

The division of word classes in Japanese is called *hinshi bunrui*. *Hinshi* is defined as a type of word class, while *bunrui* is defined as classification, classification of word classes based on various grammatical characteristics (Sudjianto, 1996).

Modern Japanese grammarians have different opinions regarding the division of word classes. According to Motojiro in Sudjianto (1996: p. 27) word classes are divided into 10, including 名詞 *meishi*

(noun), 動詞 doushi (verb), 形容詞 keiyoushi (adjective), 副司 fukushi (adverb), 助詞 joushi (particle), 助動詞 jodoushi (auxiliary verb), 接続詞 setsuzokushi (conjunction), 感動詞 kandoushi (interjection), and 連体詞 rentaishi (prenoun).

Related to the author's research, there are several word classes carried out, including:

1. 名詞 meishi (noun). Meishi is a class of words that express people, objects, events and so on that cannot change form. Example: sensei (teacher), yama (mountain).
2. 動詞 doushi (verb). In Japanese, verbs are divided into two, namely:
 - a. 自動車 jidoushi is an intransitive verb that does not require an object.
 - b. 他動詞 tadoushi is a transitive verb that requires an object.
3. 形容詞 keiyoushi (adjectives ending in -i). Keiyoushi is an adjective that ends in the letter i. The ending i undergoes changes in form, such as into denying, past tense and so on.
4. 形容動詞 keiyoudoushi (adjectives ending in -na). Keiyoudoushi is an adjective that ends in na. However, if the adjective na is used as a predicate in a sentence, then the ending na cannot be used anymore, it is directly followed by the ending desu.
5. 副詞 fukushi (adverb). Fukushi is a class of words that determine properties and cannot undergo changes in form.
6. 助詞 joushi (particle). Joushi is a class of words (particles) that are placed after a word to show the relationship between the word and the information that explains it. Usually used between subject and predicate words.
7. 助動詞 jodoushi (copula). Jodoushi is a class of words (interjections) that cannot change, becoming subjects, adverbs, conjunctions and can themselves become bunsetsu without the help of other word classes.
8. 接続詞 setsuzokushi (conjunction). Setsuzokushi is a class of words (conjunctions) that cannot change and function to connect sentences with other parts of sentences.
9. 感動詞 kandoushi (interjection). Kandoushi is a class of words such as interjections, greeting words, or nicknames that cannot undergo change, can become subjects, adverbs, conjunctions, and themselves can become bunsetsu without the help of other word classes.
10. 連体詞 rentaishi (prenoun). Rentaishi is a class of words that cannot change and is used only to describe nouns (meishi).

According to Kenji Matsura's dictionary, 'toki' is time; when; moment; and that time. Apart from that, Sunakawa (1998: p.323-324), states that 'toki' also has the meaning of after and before. There are several classes of words that can be attached to 'toki', including nouns, i-adjectives and na-adjectives, preouns and verbs (Sunakawa, 1998: p. 323). After the noun and before 'toki' the particle no needs to appear, and the verb attached to toki is a verb with the regular form (futsuu).

Methods

According to Sudaryanto (1993: p. 9), method is a method that must be implemented and technique is a way of carrying out the method. Oxford in Muhammad (2014: p. 233), says that a method is a scientific way to analyze data, while technique is a way to implement a method. Sudaryanto (1992:p.62), methods and techniques are needed, because the two are interconnected. This research is a qualitative descriptive study. Descriptive research is research that uses descriptive methods, namely methods that are carried out solely based on existing facts or phenomena in the speaker.

Research has several stages that need to be carried out in order to solve problems easily. Sudaryanto (1993: p. 5), said there are three strategic stages in research, namely data collection, data analysis and presentation of the results of the relevant data analysis.

Results & Discussion

The use of the word 'toki' in everyday life is often found in various situations. Here are some examples of usage situations:

1. とこっコミュニケーションとる時に、どういふ方法をチョイスするかっていふことです。

(Hito to komyunike-shon toru tokini, dou iu houhou wo choisusuru katte iu koto desu).

(It's about what method you choose, when communicating with other people).

(Asahi Shinbun, 2022:June)

In the sentence above, 'toki' attaches to the verb 'toru' which has the meaning 'when communicating with other people' which states the time when the main clause occurs (dou iu houhou wo choisu suru katte iu koto desu 'what method should be chosen). 'Toki' in the sentence above means a situation that occurs continuously while the subject is speaking.

2. 中学になるとジュニア日本代表として海外遠征などにも出るようになり、帰郷時には絶対食べたい一品になりました。

(Chuugaku ni naru jyunia nihon daihyou toshite kaigai ensei nado nimo deru youni nari kikyuu toki ni wa zettai tabetai ippin ni narimashita).

(When I entered middle school, I started going on overseas expeditions as a junior Japanese representative, and it (food) became a must-eat dish when I returned home).

(Asahi Shinbun, 2022:June)

In the sentence above, the word 'toki' is attached to the verb kikyuu 'back' which has the meaning 'when' which states the time when the main clause occurs (zettai tabetai ippin ni narimashita 'it (food) is an item that must be tried'). 'Toki' in the sentence above has the meaning, namely 'when you return home, it (food) becomes an item that you must try'. In this sentence, the -ta form of the verb narimashita represents an event that occurred in the past when the subject was speaking.

3. 母の日に母が好きなケーキを買おうとした時、売り切れだった。

(Haha no hi ni, haha ga sukina ke-ki wo kaou to shita toki, urikiredatta).

(When I tried to buy my mother's favorite cake for Mother's Day, it was sold out).

(Chukyu Bunpou)

In this sentence, 'toki' attaches to the adverb 'kaou to shita' 'I tried to buy' which has the meaning 'at that time' which states the time when the main clause occurs (haha no hi ni haha ga sukina kēki o kaou to shita toki, urikeredatta' I tried to buy my mother's favorite cake on Mother's Day, but it was out of stock'). This situation describes an event that happened suddenly at that time. This is confirmed by the use of the verb urikuredatta in the main clause, which is a verb that confirms unforeseen circumstances and sudden occurrences. Meanwhile, the -ta form of the verb urikeredatta 'has been sold or finished' proves that the event happened in the past.

4. レストランで先生に会って、会計を払おうとした時、先生が払ってくださいました。

(Resutoran de sensei ni atte, kaikei wo haraou to shita toki, sensei ga haratte kudasaimashita).

(I met the teacher at the restaurant, when I was going to pay, it turned out the teacher had already paid for my food).

(Chukyu Bunpou)

In this sentence, 'toki' sticks to the adverb 'haraou to shita' which means 'when I wanted to pay for the order' which explains the time when the main clause 'sensei ga haratte kudasaimashita' (it turns out the lecturer had paid for my food) proves that the incident happened suddenly. Suddenly met since the subject was at the restaurant. Meanwhile, the -ta form of the verb haratte kudasaimashita 'has been paid' in the main clause proves that the event has occurred in the past.

5. タベ、母の夢を見た。何かあったかと心配して、電話をかけようとした時、電話のベルが鳴った。お母さんだった。

(Yube, haha no yume wo mita. Nani ka attaka to shinpai shite, denwa wo kekeyou toshita toki, denwa no beru ga anatta. Okaasan data).

(Last night, I dreamed about mom. Worried that something might happen, when I tried to call my mother, the phone rang. It turned out to be my mother).

(Chukyu Bunpou)

In this sentence, toki sticks to the adverb kekeyou to shita 'when I was going to call my mother' which explains the time when the main clause occurred (denwa no beru ga natta. Okaasandatta 'The phone rang. It turned out to be my mother') proving that the event happened suddenly when the subject is discussing that topic. This is proven by the verb natta 'ringing' in the main clause (denwa no beru ga natta. Okaasan datta 'The telephone rang. It turned out to be mother') which forms a verb that indicates a situation that cannot be predicted and occurs suddenly. Meanwhile, the -ta form of the verb natta 'ringing' states that the event happened in the past.

Conclusions

The word 'toki' is used very often in various events in everyday life. From the above analysis the following conclusions can be drawn:

1. The word 'toki' which shows an event that continuously occurs when the speaker does something routinely or the event is repeated.
2. The word 'toki' indicates an activity occurred in the past when the speaker expresses a situation that has passed with the -ta form marker at the end of the sentence. So that events that have passed are still being discussed by the speaker at the moment.
3. The word 'toki' which shows the sudden occurrence of an event. In this situation, a situation occurs coincidentally at the same time as the speaker expresses a situation.

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