

Contrastive Analysis of transitivity in English, Japanese and Myanmar Languages

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(英語・日本語・ミャンマー語の他動性の対照分析)

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論 文 内 容 の 要 旨

This study compares the narrative events in English, Japanese and Myanmar language regarding the notion of Transitivity. The narrative events are analyzed to see the distinctive grammatical characteristics of the three languages. The results are then described and discussed with examples from the three languages. Chapter 1 is the introduction of the study and consist of the study' background, purpose and explanation of the structure this research.

Since this research is a comparative study from a grammatical point of view, it is necessary to provide the characteristics of grammar in English, Japanese and Myanmar. Chapter 2 introduces the grammatical characteristics of English, Japanese and Myanmar language. The general linguistic features and the introduction to the primary grammatical roles that are analyzed in this study are also described.

Chapter 3 reviews previous literature regarding the notion of Transitivity. The previous literature on theoretical framework of Transitivity and other Transitivity studies that use different approaches are reviewed. Studies that applied the ten Transitivity parameters and previous remarks on the ten parameters models are also described.

The data analysis chapter; chapter 4 firstly describes research method and how the data are transcribed. After that the most prominent parameters that can reveal the grammatical distinction in English, Japanese and Myanmar language are chosen. They are aspect, mode, tense, agency, affectedness of the object and the individuation of the object. The materials for the data analysis are two novels which are from different language sources. One is the Japanese novel translated into English and Myanmar versions and the other is the French novel translated into English, Japanese and Myanmar. The Japanese novel is 'Kitchen' by Yoshimoto Banana and the French novel is 'The Little Prince' by Antoine de Saint-Exupéry. The data are taken from two different language sources because Japanese and Myanmar are similar in word order and the Myanmar translation from Japanese resembles the Japanese original. Therefore, to see that distinction amongst the three languages, translation from another source which is not originally in English, Japanese and Myanmar is included. The same narrative events of the different language versions are chosen to be analyzed. The analysis of the data is divided into two groups of parameters; the first is the verbal group and the second is the agent/patient or subject/object related group. The examples from each language are described in tables to see the

comparison. Then the clauses that are analyzed in each language are counted and the results are calculated based on the number of clauses each language possesses. The verbal group analysis shows the different grammatical characteristics such as lower aspect, intransitive preferences, descriptiveness in encoding the narrative events in the Myanmar language. The results also show that Japanese preference of lower Transitivity in encoding narrative event compared to English.

In chapter 5, various examples in three languages and the prominent factors that cause variations in English, Japanese and Myanmar are discussed. One of the reasons for variation of Aspect in the three languages is the tense. Although the tense and aspect in languages is not directly proportional to the cause of aspect variation, the analysis of different tenses in the three languages suggest that lower aspect in Myanmar is due to encoding some narrative events as they are happening in the present moment of speaking. Additionally, there is different event centralization in the three languages although the events are from the same narratives. Regarding the agent/patient or subject/object related analysis, it does show the effect of Agency in the Transitivity system of the three languages. The Agency scores and the different types of agent in the three languages reveal the differences and similarities.

In the conclusion chapter; chapter 6, the summary of the research with the limitations found in parameters like affectedness and individuation of the object are given. This chapter points out that some generalization can be difficult to make regarding the object-related parameter. The analysis regarding the object of the sentence seems imbalanced because the same narrative events cannot be analyzed as they are in the verbal group analysis. On account of the different syntactic structures, for instance, some encoded events in English has object (esp., direct object) whereas Japanese and Myanmar do not have one. Similarly, some events are encoded with objects in Japanese or in Myanmar where English does not have one. This variation is seen mostly in the stative sentences and complex sentences with subordinate clauses in the position of the object. Moreover, the classification of nouns that are related to the higher Transitivity consists of some grammatical components that are not essentially categorized in Japanese and Myanmar grammatical system such as definite/indefinite articles and singular/plural noun and verb agreement.

Lastly, the transcribed data in English, Japanese and Myanmar from 'Kitchen' and 'The Little Prince' are given in the appendices section. Myanmar data are given in original script and literal translation.