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Contrastive Analysis of transitivity in English, Japanese and Myanmar Languages

イイソミン

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（様式６－２）

氏　　名	Ei Ei Soe Min （イ　イ　ソ　ミン）			
論　文　名	Contrastive Analysis of Transitivity in English, Japanese and Myanmar Languages（英語・日本語・ミャンマー語の他動性の対照分析）			
論文調査委員	主　査	九州大学	教授	松村　瑞子
	副　査	九州大学	教授	山村　ひろみ
	副　査	九州大学	准教授	Andrew Hall
	副　査	九州大学	准教授	内田　諭
	副　査	東京外国語大学	准教授	岡野　賢二

論　文　審　査　の　結　果　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. This is not an area that is commonly explored, so hopes to bring a degree of originality to the field.

Chapter 1 is the introduction of the study and consist of the study' background, purpose and explanation of the structure of this research. Chapter 2 introduces the grammatical characteristics of English, Japanese and Myanmar languages. Chapter 3 reviews previous literature regarding the notion of Transitivity.

Chapter 4 firstly describes the 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 languages are chosen. They are aspect, mode, tense, agency, affectedness of the object and the individuation of the object. 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 related group. 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 result also shows that Japanese preference of lower Transitivity in encoding narrative event compared to English. The overall result regarding the affectedness of O (object) suggests that English has more transitive sentences with a direct object to be affected than Japanese and Myanmar languages. When comparing Japanese and Myanmar, Myanmar language has less transitive verbs and less objects to be affected. This suggests that English has the highest Transitivity preference of the three and Japanese is higher in Transitivity than Myanmar language, in terms of the parameter of Affectedness of O.

In chapter 5, various examples in the 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 in languages is not

directly proportional to the cause of Aspect variation, the analysis of different tenses in the three languages suggests 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.

Chapter 6 summarizes the research and shows the limitations and strengths of some parameters.

This thesis therefore clarifies the differences in transitivity between English, Japanese and Myanmar languages through the collection and analysis of narrative discourses, which has not previously been considered. As such, the committee has decided that the dissertation concerned deserves to be awarded a doctorate in art and science.