'TA/EOSS' Form used for Unrealized Future Events

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This paper deals with the unique phenomenon that 'TA/EOSS' form is used for telling unrealized future events. Such phenomenon could be explained by the concept of 'mental perfect' which is thought to be a cognitive completion of unrealized events. It further examined the environment which facilitates the introduction of 'mental perfect' into speech.

　　Another point implied by the results is that the same phenomenon is also found in Korean and the way of recognizing 'mental perfect' is somewhat different between Japanese and Korean. The allowance range for such usage in Korean seems a little broader than in Japanese.

Keywords: mental space, mental perfect, perfect form

I. INTRODUCTION

There is almost no difference in basic usage between TA in Japanese and EOSS in Korean. They both are used for already realized events and represent past or perfect. Take a look at the following examples (a: Japanese, b: Korean). TA/EOSS in example (1) represent past events. Those in example (2) indicate past or perfect linked to the present. Example (3), however, is not a correct sentence in that TA/EOSS are used to represent unrealized future events.

(1)　a.　Kinou tanakasan **kita**? (Did Miss Tanaka come yesterday?)
　　　　　Iya konakatta. (No, she didn't.)

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    b. Eoje tanaka-ssi **wasseo**?[1]

       Ani, an **wasseo**.

(2) a. Tanakasan (mou) **kita**? (Did Miss Tanaka come already?)

       Iya mada kiteinai. (No, she didn't yet)

    b. Tanaka-ssi **wasseo**?

       Ani, ajik an **wasseo**.

(3) a. *Asita tanakasan **kita**? (*Did Miss Tanaka come tomorrow?)

       Kurudeshou. (She will come.)

    b. *Naeil tanaka-ssi **wasseo**?

       Ogess-jiyo.

We can hear, however, such improper speeches from the viewpoint of general usage in the process of actual conversation. Let's have a look at the example (4) to (7).

(4) (A person met with an accident in climbing. Then, a rescue helicopter appeared.)

  a. Aa, **tasukattazo**. (Oh, I 've been rescued.)

  b. Aa, **salassda**.

(5) (Hanshin vs. Yakult at play-off match. Yakult is leading the game at a score of 1 to 9 in the 9th inning. One of Hanshin fans says......)

  a. Aa, korede kyoumo **maketana**. (Oh, Hanshin was defeated again today.)

  b. Aa, oneul-do **jyeoss-guna**.

(6) (At a pitching contest where there are 9 target boards to be struck out, Furuta fromYakult strikes out 4 target boards. One of Endo's friends says to Endo from Taiyo ....)

  a. Mou Endo **yararetana**. yaranaide kaereyo.

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1) In Korean, past tense may take EOSS or ASS form.

(You are already defeated. You had better go instead of trying.)

   b. Endo, ije **teullyeosseo. (geolleosseo./ teossda, teosseo)**. ～

(7) (When Furuta from Yakult struck out 7 boards, his rival Saito from Taiyo says...)

   a. Mou **kimattana**. kachimenaidesu. (The game is over. There is no possibility of winning it.)

   b. Beolsseo **gyeolpan-nasseo**. igigi-neun **tullyeosseo**.

All the above use the TA/EOSS form to tell unrealized future events. These examples show the relation to the speaker's recognition such as assurance or judgment of event proceedings or outcomes.

In this study, we point out the existence of a special usage as in the above examples and the circumstances which facilitate that kind of usage. Another point we are interested in is if there are any differences between the two languages in the allowance level of such usage. One interpretation for special usage of TA/EOSS is that a speaker has recognized mentally the event completion based on the assurance or judgment by that time even if the event is supposed to be realized in the near future. We attempt to explain TA/EOSS form resulting from speaker's recognition by the 'mental perfect' concept in the context of mental space theory.

By the way, how does a speaker recognize an event? In the next chapter, we discuss the cognitive process of a speaker and introduce 'mental space' and 'mental perfect' concepts.

II. MENTAL SPACE AND MENTAL PERFECT

1. Event perception of a speaker

How is the event perception of a speaker changed as a result of additional information flow and changing circumstances? For example, when a speaker encounters an event he understands and judges it based on his own knowledge base so far. Discrete areas such as the learning area, experience area, belief area, and judgment area are linked together and related with event recognition as needed. Beginning with initial event recognition, status of event is changing continually along time and additional information is also being added. Such ever changing status and new information inflows change one's event perception structure by linking to each area within the established knowledge base. Figure 1

Figure 1   Information inflows and event perception structure

(EPi : Event Perception, Ij : Information)

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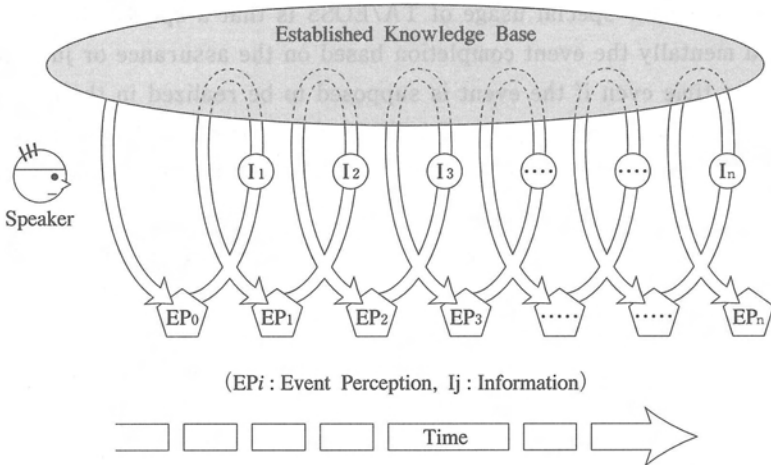
2) Figure1 is somewhat revised from 'the Theory of Discourse Management' of Kinsui [1990].

shows the changing pattern of perception structure of an event.[2]

There are two types of information. One is direct information which relates to inner perception by way of status understanding. The other is indirect information which influences perception by entering from outside.

The perception of an event goes through a complicated process as shown in the above figure. The number of scenarios which a speaker has about event completion decreases with the process. In other words, the number of scenarios about the future results is reduced as the event approaches to its completion point and only the ones with high probability remain. At the same time, the conviction towards certain event results increases because the remaining time span of each scenario becomes shorter. Finally, the speaker chooses and recognizes the one scenario that is most probable.

The number of event scenarios is proportional to the remaining time until event completion as shown in Figure 2. An event proceeds as time goes by and the number of scenarios decreases while the conviction of event completion of a certain scenario becomes stronger. Just before the

Figure 2   Event perception and scenario spaces
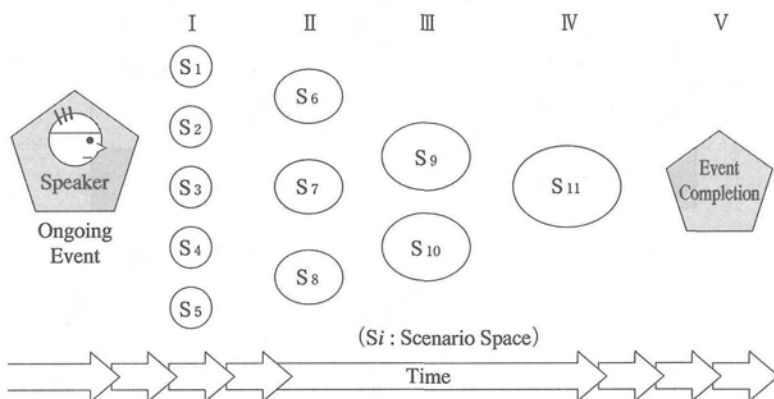
completion point, the only scenario that describes real world of event completion itself can be inferred.

Each scenario space itself could be thought as a mental space[3]. The speaker becomes convinced of event completion and moves his or her viewpoint to the mental space that conceives event completion. As a result, speeches which recognize event completion in advance are expressed. The speaker's perception about completion within a mental space is called 'mental perfect'. When the speaker recognizes 'mental perfect', TA/EOSS form could be expressed.

2. Naked 'TA/EOSS' form

The phenomenon that TA/EOSS form is used to tell the unrealized events can be explained by introducing the concept of 'mental perfect' as mentioned above. The concept of 'mental perfect' is summarized as follows (see Figure 3).

The process that 'mental perfect' is expressed as a language form could be illustrated as in Figure 4[4]. There exist two conceived spaces in the speaker's head. The one is future space that has an event completion point (P). The other is present space where an event does not come to its completion point yet (-P). If the speaker is given some information or

Figure 3   The concept of mental perfect

Actual Event	Past	Present ▼	Future E
Mental Perception			Ⓔ ▼

(▼ : viewpoint, E : event time)

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3)   Mental space is a cognitive interface where the speaker grasps and infers a variety of information continually given from both inside and outside and introduces or understands speeches.
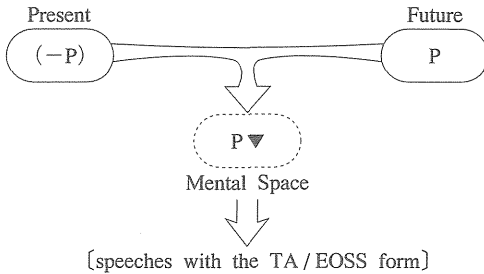
4)   Comments from Prof. Kinsui were very helpful in drawing Figure 4.

Figure 4   Mental space and mental perfect in the TA/EOSS form

(1) Present space and actual space with the event completion in the future

(2) After assurance by information gathering

* P : Event Completion Point
** ▼: Viewpoint

circumstances, he or she forms a mental space that images the development of the event and recognizes event completion in advance[5]. The speaker can express TA/EOSS form in telling the future events by putting forth his or her viewpoint on the mental space.

3. '～mo douzenda/ ～n geona machangajida' as an ancillary form

In Japanese, the allowance range of TA form for an unrealized future event could be quite enlarged by using '～mo douzenda'. In other words, we may use TA form telling unrealized future events by using 'TA mo douzenda' form even when the naked 'TA' is not allowed.

Similarly, '～n geona machangajida' in Korean which corresponds to '

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5) Event completion point in mental space could be considered to be copied from that in future space.

~mo douzenda' in Japanese has the same function.

(8) (In one scene of a gangster movie, the boss put his pistol on the head of a man who betrayed him.)

   a. *Korede mou **korosaretaka**. (I am killed.)

   b. Korede mou **korosaretamo douzenka**. (I am almost killed.)

(9) (A man looks at a vase with a big crack.)

   a. ***Waretana**. (It is broken.)

   b. **Waretamo douzendana**. (It is almost broken.)

In case of (8) and (9), naked TA form is not allowed to express 'mental perfect'. By adding '~mo douzenda', they can be changed to natural sentences. This is because '~mo douzenda' identifies present space with future space, which tends to facilitate mental perfect as a cognitive completion. The concept of 'mental perfect' with '~mo douzenda' is illustrated in Figure 5.

In this case, there also exist two conceived spaces in the speaker's head. One is future space that has the event completion point (P). The other is present space where an event has not come to its completion yet (-P). Unlike in the case of the naked TA/EOSS, '~mo douzenda' is used

Figure 5   Identification of conceived spaces by manifest form
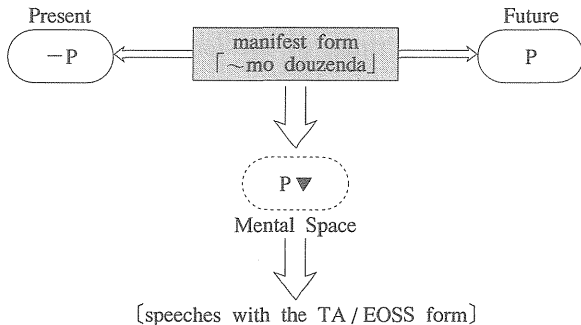
which helps to form mental space. The form ' ～ mo douzenda' identifies present space with future space and functions as a facilitator in introducing mental space. The recognition of event completion in the mental space results in 'TA/EOSS' form of expression.

Ⅲ. ALLOWANCE RANGE OF 'TA/EOSS' USED FOR UNREALIZED FUTURE EVENTS

Based on the 'mental perfect' model, let's examine the allowance range of 'TA/EOSS' in telling unrealized future events.[6]

1. Manifestation of event progress

Completion in the mental space is likely to result in 'TA/EOSS' form when the process of event progress is manifest and the result of event is easy to infer. Games or matches whose results are reached within a certain amount of time, as well as a pass/fail type of event, are the typical examples.

(10) (=5)

    a. Aa, korede kyoumo **maketana**. (Oh, Hanshin is defeated again today.)

    b. Aa, oneul-do **jyeoss-guna**.

(11) (When Murata strikes out 2 consecutive target boards, Iida from Yakult who struck out only 3 target boards all together says......)

    a. Aa, kore **maketana**. (I am defeated.)

    b. Aa, ije **jyeoss-guna**.

(12) (=7)

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6)   The allowance level for each example of Japanese sentences is marked based on both survey results of Cho [1995] and the judgment of Japanese students majoring in Japanese linguistics. For each example of Korean sentences, on the other hand, it is marked by both Cho [1995] and writer's own judgment.

a. Mou **kimattana**. kachimenaidesu. (The game is already over. There is no possibility of winning it.)

b. Beolsseo **gyeolpannasseo**, igigi-neun **teullyeosseo**.

(13) (At a soccer ball kicking contest where there are 9 target boards to be kicked out, Dunga from Jubiro failed to kick out target boards two times consecutively after kicking out 3 target boards. He says.....)

a. Mou **owattana**. yameta. (It's over. I give up.)

b. Ije, **kkeutnassda**. pogihaesseo.

These are the speeches that come from the inference or guess about achievement results where one will either 'win or lose'. In this case, the process of event progress is manifest and the result of an event is easy to infer as a result of direct observation.

2. Expression of the speaker's decision making

When the speaker can control the results of event completion at his or her own will, the concept of mental space and mental perfect may make more sense.

(14) (= 13)

a. Mou **owattana**. yameta. (It's over. I give up.)

b. Ije, **kkeutnassda**. pogihaesseo.

(15) (A man decided to buy certain goods. Before paying for it, he says......)

a. Yoshi, kore, **katta**. (O.K. I'll get it.)

b. Ja, igeo, **sassda**.

These expressions reflect the speaker's decision making. Event completion is within the control of the speaker in the case of 'quitting the game' or 'buying something'. So the speech with TA/EOSS form could

be possible. The speaker can control event completion in the speech related to his/her decision making. Therefore, it is easy to identify present space with future space. In sentence (14), the speaker did not quit the game at present but did almost quit it in the mental space. As a result, TA/EOSS form was used in order to reflect completion within the mental space.

3. Negative event completion

Even when event progress is manifest and event completion is easy to infer, the allowance level of TA/EOSS form used for negative event completion is higher than that for positive event completion. Here are the examples.

(16) (=7)

   a. Kore **kattana**. (I won.)

   b. Ije, **igyeoss-guna**.

   a. Aa, kore **maketana**. (I lost.)

   b. Aa, igeo **jyeoss-guman**.

(17) (When a man grades his examination paper himself after the exam and expects a good grade (or a bad grade), without waiting for the official announcement, he says.......)

   a. Korede **goukakushitazo**. (I passed.)

   b. I jeongdo-myeon **hapgyeokhaesseo**.

   a. **Ochitana**. (I failed.)

   b. **Tteoleojyeosseo**.

In these examples, TA/EOSS form is allowed for both negative and positive event completion. The allowance level of TA/EOSS form for the former, however, is higher. This is because positive events need more energy than negative ones to come to its completion.

4. Quantity and quality of grounds on hand

If '~mo douzenda' is accompanied by, the allowance range of TA/EOSS expression could be enlarged. Recognizing mental completion without '~mo douzenda' does need, however, more information about event progress and event completion. The more information the speaker has, the easier it is for him or her to recognize mental perfection.

(18) (Taro has joined the same contest several times. Due to his previous experiences, he did a wonderful job this time. And the judge praises him for his good job. Just before the official announcement of the results, he says.......)
  a. Korede **erabaretamodouzendana**. (I have almost won.)
  b. Yoshi konkaiwa kitto **erabaretazo**. (Certainly, I have won this time.)
(19) (At a contest of digging up the radish, Tanaka is digging up the last 100th radish. When he saw Kimura digging up the 90th radish, he says.....)
  a. Korede watashiga **kattamodouzenda.** (I have almost won the game.)
  b. Korede watashiga **kattazo**. (I have won the game.)

In both examples, the event is just near the completion and the speaker has enough grounds to predict and judge the final results.

5. Attributes of verbs

Attributes of verbs also influence the allowance level of 'TA/EOSS' form used for unrealized future events. The allowance level is higher for the verbs that are not accompanied by physical results than for those that are. Further, the allowance level is higher for verbs with high abstraction or verbs made from pure Japanese than those with high

concreteness or those made from only Chinese characters.

(20)   (=8)

    a. *Korede (mou) **satsugaisaretana** (He is already killed.)

    b. Aa **yararetana** (He is killed)

    a′. *Ije, **salhae-danghaess-guna**.

    b′. Aa, **danghaess-guna**.

In example (20), TA/EOSS form in 'satsugai sareta' is not allowed although it is sure that he is going to be killed and it is easy to infer the event completion. On the other hand, TA/EOSS form is allowed for 'yarareta'. This is because the former needs physical evidence in nature while the latter covers wide range of meaning without specifying contents of events in detail. In other words, the difference of attributes between the two verbs influences the allowance level of 'TA/EOSS' form.

(21)   (Hanshin vs. Yakult at play-off match. Yakult is leading the game at a score of 1 to 9 in the 9th inning. One of Yakult fans says......)

    a. ??**Yuusho sitazo**. (Yakult has won the victory.)

    b. **Kattazo**. (Yakult has won.)

    c. **Kimattazo**. (Yakult's win is fixed.)

    a′. ? **Useung haesseo**.

    b′. **Igyeoss-da**.

    c′. **Gyeoljeongdwess-da**.

Example (20) and (21) show that attributes of verbs influence the allowance level of 'TA/EOSS' form used for unrealized future events.

From the standpoint of attributes of verbs, the difference of allowance level of 'TA/EOSS' form between Japanese and Korean may be ex-

plained.

(22) (=9) (A man looks at a vase with a big crack.)

   a. *Konagonani **nattazo**. (It is broken into pieces.)

      *Konagonani **nattamodouzenda**. (It is almost broken into pieces.)

   b. *__Waretazo__. (It is broken.)

      Waretamodouzenda. (It is almost broken.)

   a′. *__Sansanjogaknass-ne__.

      ??**Sansanjogaknan-geona-machangaji-da**.

   b′. **Kkaejyeoss-ne**.

      Kkaejin-gena-machangaji-da.

In example (22), 'TA/EOSS' form is not allowed in a and a' because the verb 'konagonani naru (sansanjogaknada)' has physical characteristics in nature. The allowance level of TA form in b is not so high because 'wareru' is also related to physical nature. On the other hand, 'kkaejyeoss-da' in b' covers wide range of meaning from cracking to breaking into pieces, so the allowance level of EOSS form in b' is very high. In Korean, however, 'sansanjogaknass-da' in a' is not allowed or hardly allowed.

To sum up, 'wareta' in Japanese inclines toward 'breaking into pieces' while 'kkaejyeoss-da' as a counterpart in Korean inclines toward 'cracking', which seems to result in the difference of allowance level between the two.

(23) (When the company is about to go into bankruptcy, the owner manager of the company says.....)

   a. *Aa, mou **horobitana**. (It perished.)

      ??Aa, **horobitamodouzendana**. (It almost perished.)

b. *Aa, mou **tousanshitana**. (It went bankrupt.)

c. *Aa, mou **ochiburetana**. (It is ruined.)

d. Korede **owattana**. (It ends.)

e. Mou tousanga **kimattana**. (Bankruptcy is sure.)

a′. Aa, ije **manghaess-guna**.

    Aa, ije **manghan-geona machangaji-da**.

b′. ??Aa, ije **dosanhaess-guna**.

c′. Aa, ije **manghaess-guna**.

d′. Ije **kkeutjang-nass-guna**.

e′. Ije dosan-eun **gyeoljeong-nass-guna**.

The verb 'horobiru' in Japanese is not generally used for company because it has the meaning of 'destruction'. In Korean, however, 'manghada' as a counterpart covers wider range of meaning from 'destruction' to 'ending without properly functioning of individuals, organizations or companies'. The sentences with 'Tousan suru' and 'ochibureru' in Japanese are not proper ones because of high concreteness while their Korean counterparts are allowed due to the looser restrictions of concreteness.

Ⅳ. CONCLUSIONS

This paper deals with the unique phenomenon that 'TA/EOSS' form is used for telling unrealized future events. Such phenomenon could be explained by the concept of 'mental perfect' which is thought to be a cognitive completion of unrealized events. It further examined the environment which facilitates the introduction of 'mental perfect' into speech. Especially, from the viewpoint of attributes of verbs, verbs with low concreteness are likely to be much more familiar with 'mental perfect' phenomenon.

Another point implied by the results is that the same phenomenon is

also found in Korean and the way of recognizing 'mental perfect' is somewhat different between Japanese and Korean. The allowance range for such usage in Korean seems a little broader than in Japanese. The speaker goes into the event completion point and recognizes the completion mentally as a subjective judgment for a future event. As a result, perfect form could be used in speech.

The 'mental perfect' is considered to be influenced by such factors as manifestation of event progress, expression of the speaker's decision making, negative event completion, quantity and quality of grounds on hand, direct relatedness with the event, nearness to event completion and so on. Based on the results above, some research agendas for the future are as follows: Is there any difference in the event perception between Japanese and Korean? How could the delicate difference of range in meaning of corresponding verbs between the two languages be measured? And is the same phenomenon applicable to other languages[7]?

To sum up, by applying mental space theory, this paper reinterpreted the 'TA/EOSS' phenomenon from the viewpoint of Aspect rather than its traditional interpretation as Modality. Further, it suggested 'mental perfect' framework using mental space theory as a theoretical base of 'TA/EOSS' expression for unrealized future events.

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7)   With the relation to the applicability to other languages, it is interesting to note that there can be also found similar phenomenon in English and Chinese. Let's have a look at the following example from 'Star Wars Ⅲ'. Luke Skywalker says, "I can't kill my father." Following that OB-1 comments, "Then the emperor has already won."

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