Abstract

In previous studies, great deal of effort has been made on possession both in Japanese and Korean. What seems to be lacking, however is to inquire the features of the predicative and attributive possessive expressions inclusively.

These two types of possessive expressions are different in linguistic construction but there are also cases in which they share the same functions and conceptual meanings. Nevertheless, little attention has been given to the matter so far. Further investigation regarding the circumstances and usages of these expressions is needed to come up to the intrinsic features of possession.

In this thesis, it will be discussed that the possessive domain in both languages are closely related to an adjective clause as well as a copula construction in conceptual meaning, on the one hand and, they are not entirely separate domain to a verb clause, that is to say an event predication, on the other. The lexical feature of the possessed and the order of possessor and possessed in particular are concerned with the subtypes of conceptual categories of possession.

It will be presented the semantic schema of possessive expressions of Japanese and Korean by means of a corpus-based analysis for several possessive verbs including exist verb and the attributive possessive construction, that is, [NP no NP] in Japanese and [NP ‘yi NP] in Korean.

Furthermore, the differences and the similarities between Japanese and Korean are described specifically from the contrastive linguistic point of view. It has been presented the characteristics of possessive expressions in both languages especially by classifying possessed nouns and comparison of the usages. In terms of the classification of possessed nouns, I have been adopting Tsunoda’s possession cline but further kinds of categories have been classified on the basis of observable different features in the given data.

Given the particular, after the outline of the thesis and a cursory survey of previous literature in chapter 1, predicative possession considered from chapter 2 to chapter 4.

First of all, in chapter 2, the expressions by the Japanese exist verb “aru/iru” and the Korean exist verb “issa” is considered. I have attempted to classify the sentences in the data base into various semantic subcategories. It is inevitable to cover the peripheral semantic domains as the borderline between possession and other domain is not clear-cut as is well known. Therefore the
classification is not limited to the possessive domain but covers other semantic domains which are encoded by the exist verbs. So that can make it possible to present the linear feature between the possession and the others encoded by the same predicate.

In chapter 3, we will consider the sentences with the transitive possessive verbs “motsu” in Japanese and “gajida” in Korean which corresponds to “have-construction” in English in some respect. The semantic and syntactic features of the possessive expressions encoded by transitive verbs are presented including the distribution of possessed nouns.

In chapter 4, the possessive sentences with the transitive verb “suru” in Japanese and the corresponding verb “hada” in Korean are considered. The possessive sentences with the both “suru” and “hada” are quite restricted. These verbs are employed to indicate “body-part” possession and few of abstract possession only. The distinctive usages and the similarities between “suru-possessive sentences” and “hada-possessive sentences” are presented.

In chapter 5, the relative clauses involving possessive verbs are considered. There are some different usages observing between the eases that the possessed follows the possessor and the reverse. The former construction is indicated as [Pr V Pe] and the latter is as [Pe V Pr] in this thesis. The [Pr V Pe] is apparently unproductive compare to [Pe V Pr] and such phenomenon is closely involved with the function of the attributive possession marked by possessive “no” in Japanese and “‘yi” in Korean.

In chapter 6, the semantic classifications of the attributive possession involving with the possessive marker “no” in Japanese and that of Korean “‘yi” are attempted. When it comes to possessive domain, the [Pe possess Pr] construction is fairly unproductive. The fact leads to the conclusion that the function of the possessive construction marked by possessive particle is complementary to the function of the relative clauses with the possessive verbs. This tendency has been observed in both Japanese and Korean. The final chapter 7 presents a concise summary of the major results of each chapter.