This study deals with adnominal content clauses, examples of which are *hikouki-ga chakuriku-shita (toi) jujitsu* (the fact that the plane has landed) in Japanese and *die Tatsache, dass das Flugzeug gelandet ist* (the fact that the plane has landed) in German, in which the clauses modify their HNs by supplementing the HNs (HNs) with content.

Studies of such clauses have treated it as a problem in grammatical theory, focusing mainly on form and structure. However, the number of studies focusing on the semantic and functional aspects and the expressive functions of the whole complex consisting of the content clause and the HN (here called “CC”) are few. Therefore, in this study, the CC is approached mainly from the semantic and functional aspects of the HN and discussed from the viewpoint of how the supplement (the underlined part in the example above) and the HN interact. To be specific, this study focuses on the effect the HN has on the supplement. In addition, by contrasting the CC in Japanese and German, and by considering its expressive function as seen from the typological point of view of *mono* (thing) oriented expressions and *koto* (affair) oriented expressions, Japaneseness and Germanness as
seen in the use of the CC are discussed.

Viewing the expressive function of the CC from the viewpoint of *mono* (thing) oriented expressions and *koto* (affair) oriented expressions, the HN is seen as being integrated with its supplement and functioning as a single noun (thing) at the sentence level and the discourse level and, therefore, the CC can be considered a *mono* (thing) oriented expression. However, in Japanese, it became clear that there is a group of nouns that bring about the effect of *koto* (affair) oriented expressions (hereinafter called “koto-effect”) upon the CC. Nouns that can bring about the “koto-effect” are nouns with a relatively weak meaning, such as *hanashi* (talk), *kimochi* (feeling), and *sugata* (appearance), which can be seen as extensions of the formal noun *koto* (following Halliday & Hasan (1976), I will call such nouns “general nouns”). The data show that in Japanese, which is rich in “general nouns”, a CC with a “general noun” as its HN (a so-called noun modification construction) is used. However, in German, a predicative construction in the form of subject–predicate is used.

This thesis is structured as follows.

Chapter 1 provides an outline of the previous literature with regard to CCs, while Chapter 2 provides details of the methodology. Chapters 3, 4, and 5 present our findings. Finally, Chapter 6 provides a summary of the findings, as well as a discussion of the “koto-effect.”

In Chapter 1, we outline the classifications and descriptions of CCs found in previous studies. In previous studies, including both single-language and contrastive studies, there are many descriptions that address CCs from a grammatical point of view, focusing on form and structure. However, there are few descriptions that address CCs from the point of view of semantics or function. Previous single-language (single-language) studies of Japanese and German mainly describe CCs by semantically classifying the CC and the HNs, although some references are made to the relationship between the supplement and the HN. The primary studies that mention the relationship between the supplement and the HN are Teramura (1993b) and Takahashi (1979), who suggest two primary ways of categorizing this relationship. The first is Teramura’s (1993b) “*futsū no naiyouhojū* (ordinary content supplementation)” or Takahashi’s (1979) “*naiyoutzuke no kakawari* (content supplement relationship).” This relationship can be seen in the example, *kūki-ga kannsoushita toiu genin* (the cause being that the air was dry). The second categorization is Teramura’s (1993b) “*soutaiteki naiyouhojū* (relational content supplementation)” or Takahashi’s (1979) “*joukyou no kakawari* (situational
relationship)” as in *kaji ga hirogatta genin* (the cause of the fire spreading). In this thesis, the first category is referred to as “integrated supplementation,” and the second is referred to as “relational supplementation.” In addition to these two categories, Takahashi (1979) advocates a third category, “tokushuka no kakawari (relation of specialization),” in which the HN is a superordinate of the supplement, as in *doujousuru kimochi* (feeling of sympathy). We consider this relationship as a subset of “integrated supplementation.” The effect of the HN upon its supplement is described in Ōshima (1990) as Labelling, and in Brinkmann (1969) as “formuliert begrifflich (abstractly summarized).” There are indications that effects of the HN upon its supplement are in fact observed; however, there are no specific definitions or explanations of this effect in the literature.

In Chapter 2, methodological details are given. In the first section, answers will be provided to the central methodological questions of how the noun list was created and how the material was collected (15,358 total instances: 9,710 instances in Japanese and 5,648 instances in German). In the second section of Chapter 2, our sub-classification of HNs is explained. While referring to the classification systems used in previous studies, HNs were divided into three groups based on their meaning: “language activity nouns,” “mental and emotional nouns,” and “*kotogara* (affair) nouns.” The first two groups are recognized in most previous studies. The remaining group, after excluding the first two groups, includes a large number of nouns with a wide variety of meanings, making it difficult to find a common meaning among them. In trying to find some common semantic features among those nouns, we found that they all represent states of affairs or elements related to this, so this group is called “*kotogara* (affair) nouns.”

In the third section of Chapter 2, our method of analyzing CCs is presented. In this study, we focus on the effect the HN has on its supplement, which is referred to in previous studies as “Labelling” (e.g. Ōshima 1990). No concrete definition of “Labelling” is found in previous studies, but the understood definition for this thesis is sticking different labels on the same content. For example,: *kusai mono ni futa wo suru/shita (toiu) hanashi, itsuwa, kotowaza, tsūhou* (talk, anecdote, proverb, report about covering smelly things or in which smelly things is to be covered). We focus here on the possibility of “Labelling” by the HN. The study has two primary goals. The first is to investigate the effect of the HN. The second is to examine the expressive function and effect of the whole CC from a typological point of view, considering *mono* (thing) oriented expressions and *koto* (affair) oriented expressions.
In this study we think that, depending on its nature, the effect of the HN can be viewed in at least two ways. First, as the two elements (the HN and the supplement) are combined, they exert mutual influence on each other: the supplement gives content to the HN and the HN casts some meaning on the supplement. In this thesis, this mutual influence is called “imi no huka (cast of meaning).” Second, in addition to “cast of meaning,” the HN classifies the content of the supplement into one of the three categories mentioned above. This is called here “tokuchoutzuke (characterization).” The possibility of “characterization” will be investigated from three aspects: 1. the semantic relationship between the HN and the supplement; 2. predicates occur with the HN and the HN functions in the sentence; 3. the semantics of the HN.

Chapters 3, 4 and 5 discuss the “characterization” of CCs by HNs into the three groups mentioned above (“language activity nouns,” “mental and emotional nouns,” and “kotogara (affair) nouns”). This “characterization” is examined from each of the three aspects presented in the final section of Chapter 2.

Chapter 6 is divided into two sections according to the two goals of this study. The first section is a summary of the findings of Chapters 3, 4 and 5 regarding the possibility of “characterization” by the HN. These findings are presented in order of the three aspects of investigation. The possibility of “characterization” is considered weak or non-existent in several cases. These include: “relational supplement” or “tokushuka no kakawari (relation of specialization)”; when the HN is used with functional verbs, as in meirei wo kudasu (give order), kyoka ga deru (obtain permission), die Frage aufwerfen (ask question), and das Erlaubnis geben (give permission); or when it is accompanied by “de (in)” as in choushi de (in a way) expressing manner in Japanese and by a preposition in German as in mit der Drohung (while threatening/ with the threat). Outside of these cases, the possibility of “characterization” by the HN is considered strong. In the second section of Chapter 6, the “koto-effect” is further discussed. In this study, the “koto-effect” is advocated to be an effect brought by “general nouns” in Japanese to convert CCs which are mono (thing) oriented expressions, into koto (affair) oriented expressions.