A study on the adnominal clause constructions in Japanese

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This study deals with the constructions of adnominal clauses in modern Japanese. Since this study aims at giving a comprehensive treatment of them in accordance with the research history, I shall view how the constructions should respectively be located in the system of the complex sentences. The outline of this work is shown by the numbering system using chapter, followed by section, as below.

In Chapter 1, I shall state the fundamental attitude of this study. Grammatical categories ‘verb’ ‘adjective’ ‘noun’ are considered as continuum. In the syntactical condition as an adnominal, a predicate verb of the clause loses some characters as verb and approaches to an adjective.

To discuss the constructions of adnominal clauses, the argument needs to be gone through by divided to several parts. Hitherto, much of the studies of adnominal clauses has been devoted to the relationships within adnominal clauses and modified nouns. These discussions consider the adnominal clauses to be just modifiers of nouns. But the complex of adnominal clauses and modified nouns can be also discussed having respect to main clauses as a kind of subordinate clause. From this point of view, this work adapts the adverbial clauses which is constructed by adnominal forms as a type of adnominal clauses.

The classifications of adnominal clauses and complex sentences of this study will be deduced in ‘framework for the classification’ of Chapter 2.
In 2.1, I deal with Hideo Teramura's 'Inner - relationship' and 'outer - relationship' and Keiichiro Okutsu's 'Identical noun - adnominal modification' and 'Additive noun - adnominal modification', which are suggested in 1970's. After reconfirming them to be an epoch in the research history, I shall point out there is not any necessity to stick to these kinds of dichotomy. For this consideration, I shall adopt the concept of 'linguistic category' and treat types of adnominal clauses as having 'prototype (or central member)' and 'peripheral member'. This enables to distinguish 'relative clause' and 'content clause' as prototypes of 'inner-' and 'outer-' from the others. Furthermore, to consider the adverbial clauses with adnominal forms as the prototype of the rest, it allows an exhaustive handling of adnominal clause forms.

I consider the adnominal clauses construction as a type of complex sentences, and concern myself in 2.2 with deducing a classification which able to account their relationships. Among the recent literature in Japanese linguistics, I refer to Takashi Masuoka's and Hisashi Noda's. Especially the latter concerns with a wider range of 'simple sentence - complex sentence - text' continuum. It is important to take such a viewpoint of continuity between 'subordinate clause' and 'coordinate clause'. For this viewpoint, I shall refer to the studies of linguistic typology as well as traditional Japanese studies mainly on Yoshio Yamada's.

There are two kinds of complex sentences in Japanese - 'co-ordinate clause' and 'subordinate clause'. The latter has 3 subclasses - 'relative clause', 'adverbial clause' and 'complement clause'. In Chapter 3, I shall classify complex sentences and adnominal clauses based on the argument in previous chapters.

Variants in each subclass of subordinate clauses may be reasonably classified into following subgroups, depending on their similarities in semantic structure: 'complement clause' can be grouped in one; 'relative clause' and 'adverbial clause' can be considered as same group that can be reclassify into two.

I shall elaborate the breakdown of 3 types of adnominal clauses in Chapter 4. To show each 'prototype' and 'peripheral member', I refer researches post-1980's.

A predicate of 'relative clause' typically keeps features as a verb. From this point of view, so-called "short-circuit" of relative clause can be considered to be a marginal type. Heretofore, 'short-circuit' has been treated by listing its cogitable types and construing the formation processes of 'short-circuit'. In this study, I shall argue the principle which enable this phenomenon in relative clause construction.

'Adverbial clauses' can be classified by syntactic or semantic criterion. The connection of relative clauses and modified nouns are the point of argument
from the syntactic view. One is normal modification and another is so-called 'relative relationships' (ex. 'before/after doing something'). Semantically, it can be divided into the type of 'time and space', and types that are more abstract ones of 'cause and effect relation' or 'conjunctive expression'. They are reasonable to consider the former is central and the latter is peripheral.

'Content clauses' can be classified by the kind of modified nouns. I shall classify groups of 'abstract nouns', 'formal nouns', 'nouns of perception' and 'quasi-adnominal particles' in here. Some scholars treat 'nouns of perception' type as 'quasi-' or 'secondary' type of relative clauses, but this study considers them as kind of 'contents', that can be classified as 'content clauses'.

Among these, adverbial clauses with modified nouns following suffixes can be taken as grammaticalization of conjunctive forms. Similarly, modified nouns with following suffixes of content clauses can be taken as grammaticalization of sentence end expressions. For example, formal noun 'KOTO' has some expressions like 'KOTO-DA/ KOTO-GA DEKIRU/ KOTO-NI NARU etc.' But other expressions like 'MONO-DA' 'TOKORO-DA', are doubtful to be thought as extensions of content clause structure. Because considering the original meaning of them are modified nouns, they only have usages of sentence end expressions but not usages as content clauses.

In Chapter 4, I shall examine examples between 3 types of adnominal clauses. In order to treat them appropriately, this study considers the relationships between them are not clear-cut. And I shall call border area of them as 'boundaries'.

On the boundary between 'relative clause – adverbial clause', usages of modified noun like 'TOKI' needs to be judged the type it belongs to. Considering semantic focus, relative clauses have its focus on modified nouns, and adverbial clauses, on main clauses.

On the boundary between 'adverbial clause – content clause', a part of 'nouns of perception' comes under. This gives the account of adnominal clauses express contents of modified nouns, and also explains situation about perceptions.

On the boundary between 'relative clause – content clause', Teramura once reexamined "short-circuit' of relative clause', and picked out the types which can be considered to be on boundary between 'Inner-' and 'Outer-'. I shall show some types, for example, forms like '(SURU) YUTORI', '(SURU) YOYUU', that agree with this examination.