The purpose of this thesis is to deepen the understanding of the usage of Japanese focus particles from the viewpoint of a Chinese native speaker learning Japanese. After going through the previous studies, I have attempted to reveal the semantic features of the three Japanese focus particles: dake, bakari, sika, and of synonymous Chinese scope adverbs: zhī (只) and jīng (净). In order to achieve this goal I have analyzed a vast amount of corpus, taken from both Japanese and Chinese language materials.

A summary of the matters studied in this thesis is as follows.

1. The basic semantic function of dake, bakari and sika is restriction. Consequently, all three of them are similar in expressing that "of X, P could be said, but of others excluding X, P could not be said." The emphasis, however, falls on "of X, P could be said" in the case of dake and bakari whereas on "of others excluding X, P could not be said in the case of sika.

2. The main semantic feature of dake is to focus on one particular part of the whole. This especially is the case, when dake follows nouns or

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quantifier nouns. However when a verb is followed by dake, what is generally expressed is a negative evaluation of the verb which is evaluated as having lesser importance.

3. Since sika is used only in negative sentences of the form "sika...nai" what is expressed is generally a negative assessment, or a negative deviation from some criteria. Another characteristic of sika-sentence is the expression of this negative assessment is commonly done in relation with some other event to which the sika-sentence could be an exclamation, an expression of dissatisfaction, etc.

4. Bakari principally expresses homogeneity. It expresses that a certain range is filled with one particular item of things and that other items are excluded from this range. A derivative usage of this is the expression of a state or a property as something which keeps on developing or strengthening, disabling other states or properties from coming into being.

5. Chinese scope adverbs zhi and jing differ from dake, bakari and sika in that they are basically placed immediately in front of the verb. Another difference is that what is focused is generally decided not by the sentence structure, but by the context.

6. Zhi functions not only as an adverb, but also as a conjunctive. Therefore in the case of a sentence containing zhi, both what is focused by zhi and what is compared with it have to be contextually explicit. This is an outstanding difference from Japanese restrictive focus particles, since in Japanese "X" is always explicit, whereas "other than X" could be implicit.

7. Both zhi and jing are said to be used in order to restrict the range and to express that there is no more. However, jing differs from zhi by carrying the nuance that "the range is already full with the particular item." Another difference is that jing has a feature of evaluation, usually negative, which zhi does not share.

8. Although dake, bakari, sika and zhi, jing are said to be synonymous, they do not correspond directly as their respective syntactic properties are not the same. Consequently, it is not necessarily the case that zhi or jing have to be used in order to translate dake, bakari, or sika into Chinese. Other different adverbs or non-adverbial words are used sometimes, but on other times no explicit translation is given at all.