

Abstract

1. Examination of Spoken Dialogues to Enable Realistic Linguistic Study:

The Case of *Doo*-type Multi-unit Questions in *the Corpus of Spontaneous Japanese*

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This presentation argues that examination of spoken dialogues is highly beneficial in enabling realistic linguistic study. The argument is illustrated in three aspects that the study can take into consideration actual usage, temporality and sequentiality, and each of them is exemplified by the analysis of *doo*-type multi-unit questions in *the Corpus of Spontaneous Japanese*.

Actual usage sets the basis of valid study that is free from arbitrary theorization. For instance, though *Kuchoo wa doo desu ka (How about speaking tone?)*, a question uttered in a sequence to ask how a participant have felt in making a speech, may seem understandable, the actual data shows that the addressed participant has much trouble in understanding what is asked and cannot decide what to answer until a clarifying utterance follows. Accumulation of such actual usage will contribute to valid study.

Temporality is a significant factor as well. When we see a multi-unit question *Aayuu niku tte doo nano, ii niku ja nai desho (How is that kind of meat, it isn't good, is it?)*, the second question may look like a mere clarification of what is asked by the first question. When we take temporality into consideration, however, we will notice that the multi-unit question is delivered with many pauses as in (1).

(1) aayuu niku toka tte doo nan- (0.5 sec.) no (0.3 sec.) ii (1.2 sec.) niku (micropause) ja nai desho

It illustrates that the delivery is delayed as much as possible, which would allow the recipient to take over the turn before the second question is delivered. This fact reveals the speaker's hesitation to deliver the second question which may imply a problematic assumption.

Sequentiality provides the precise characterization of utterances. For instance, a question *Are wa juugo-hun-kan no wa tsukare mashita (Did you get tired in the 15-minute interview?)* should be characterized as a persistent attempt, rather than a mere question, to elicit a response that the recipient got tired, to consider that the question is asked after a similar question is denied. By considering the position in a sequence like this, we can acquire the precise characterization of utterances.