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SOME SIMILAR POINTS OF JAPANESE AND UYGHUR LANGUAGES

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ABSTRACT

In this paper, we describe the similarities as well as differences between Japanese and Uyghur grammar. Being Altaic languages, these two languages share quite a lot of syntactic characteristics in common. We will try to show the similarities between two languages through the particle “mo” in Japan and suffix “ya” in Uyghur. Typically Japanese and Uyghur particles and suffixes are studied in comparison linguistics.

Keywords: Japanese, Uyghur, particle/suffix “mo” and “ya”

JAPONCA VE UYGURCANIN BENZER NOKTALARI

ÖZET

Biz bu makalede Japonca ve Uyğurca arasındaki benzer ve farklı özellikleri inceleyeceğiz. Her ikisi de Altay dili olan Japonca ve Uyğurcanın pek çok söz dizimsel ortak özellikleri vardır. Biz makalemizde bu iki dilin benzerliklerini Japoncadaki “mo” ilgeci ile Uyğurcadaki “ya” ekini kıyaslayarak ortaya koymaya çalışacağız. Makalemizde aynı şekilde dilbilimsel karşılaştırma da yapılmıştır.

Anahtar Kelimeler: Japonca, Uyğurca, “mo” ilgeci, “ya” eki.

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Introduction

Japanese and Uyghur are *Subject-Object-Verb* languages. Thus, in a sentence, the subject comes first, the object next, and the verb last.

Example

Subject + Object + Verb

Japanese: Okosan ga pan o kaimashita. / My mother bought bread.

Uyghur: Annam nan setivaldi.

Subject and Predicate

The predicate is the core of both the Japanese and Uyghur sentence. It comes at the end, and it must be a verb or verbal form. In Japanese and Uyghur, a verbal form is a noun plus copula or a verbal adjective.

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Examples

J: *John san wa Nihongo o hanashimasu.*/ John speaks Japanese

U: *John Yapon tilini sözliyeleydu.*

In Japanese and Uyghur the predicate must be at the end of the sentence.

Gender

Japanese and Uyghur do not have gender. There are no special endings to show masculine, feminine, or neuter forms.

Articles

Japanese and Uyghur do not use *articles* before nouns.

The Dependency Structure of Sentences

In Japanese, the dependency structure of a sentence is usually represented by the relationship between phrasal units called “bunsetsu” and it is said that Japanese dependencies have the following rules:¹

- i. Dependencies are directed from left to right.
- ii. Dependencies do not cross.
- iii. A bunsetsu depends on only one bunsetsu

Observing the dependency structure of sentence in Uyghur, we can also find the following characteristics that are very similar to the Japanese dependency rules above:

- i. Dependency relation of a word to another is always from left to right.
- ii. Dependency links between the words of sentence do not cross.
- iii. The dependent word could link to only one head word.

So Japanese and Uyghur are agglutinative languages and they have many syntactical and morphological similarities. There are also morphological differences between the two languages. For example, Uyghur has no verbal conjugations, but Japanese grammarians say that Japanese verbs do conjugate.

In this paper, we will discuss the similarities and differences of the Japanese and Uyghur particle “mo” and suffix “ya”

1. The Japanese particle mo and Uyghur mu ((too; also; (not) ~either)) indicate that a proposition about the preceding element X is also true when another similar proposition is true.

A. Subject

J: *Watashi mo gakusei da / desu* (I’m a student too)

U: *Men mu oquğuçi*

B. Topic (subject)+Direct Object

J: *Watashi wa supeingo mo hanasu/ hanashimasu.* (I speak Sapanish too.)

U: *Men ispançini mu sözliyeleyen.*

¹ Watanabe Yasuyoshi, et al. 2000, p. 21; Kiyotaka Uchimoto, et al. 1999, p. 13.

C. Topic (subject)+Indirect Object

J: *Watashi wa Murayama-san ni mo purezento o ageru/ agemasu*

(I will give a present to Mr. Murayama, too)

U: *Men Murayama ependimgi mu sovğa berimen.*

Formation:

(i) Noun mo

J: *watashi mo* (I, too/ me (as direct object), too).

U: *Men mu.*

(ii) Noun (Particle)

J: *Nihon (ni) mo* (in/to Japan, too)

U: *Yapondi mu.*

(iii) Noun Particle

J: *Sensei ni mo* (to/for the teacher, too(indirect object))

U: *Oqutquçinimu*

J: *Furansu kara mo* (from France, too)

U: *Fransiyedinmu*

J: *Iギリス de mo* (in England too)

U: *Engliyedimu*

J: *Tomodachi to mo* (with my friend, too)

U: *Dost bilenmu.*

Examples

(a) J: *Hato-san wa Nihon e itta. Ruisu-san mo (Nihon e) itta.*

(Mr. Hart went to Japan. Mr. Lewis also went to Japan)

U: *Hart ependim Yaponğa ketti. Lewis ependim mu Yaponğa ketti.*

(b) J: *Hayashi-san wa tenisu o shimasu. (Kare wa) gorufu mo shimasu.*

(Mr. Hayashi plays tennis. He plays golf, too.)

U: *Hayaşi ependim pey top oynaydu. ve ğoluf mu oynaydu.*

(c) J: *Kono machi de wa atarashi sakana ga kaemasen. Tonari no machi de mo (atarashii sakana ga) kaemasen.*

(You can't buy fresh fish in this town. You can't buy it in the next town, either)

U: *Siz bu yezidin yeñi beliq setivalalmaysiz. Yenidiki yezidin mu ohşaşla setivalalmaysiz.*

Notes

1. In general in both Japanese and Uyghur, when the element X mo and mu appears in a sentence, a related sentence with the element Y (plus particle if necessary) in place of X like (2) is

presupposed.

(1) *J: Watashi wa Nyuyoku e mo itta.* (I went to New York, too)

U: Men Neyoruqqa mu barğan.

(2) *J: Watashi wa Bosuton e itta.* (I went to Boston)

U: Men Bostonğa barğan.

Thus, when X mo and mu appear in a sentence, X mo and mu are always the element under focus in that sentence.

2. There are cases in which X mo is used, although it does not exactly replace the element Y in the presupposed sentence. For example, (3b) can be spoken after (3a)

(3) a. *J: Watashini no ie wa ima ga semai.*

(The living room of my house is small)

U: Meniñ öyumniñ yataq oyi kiçik.

b. *J: Sore ni daidokoro mo fubenda*

(On top that, the kitchen is inconvenient, too)

U: Baştiki u aşxani mu qolaysiz

In this case, the speaker implies that his house is inconvenient when he says (3a), and this implication is the presupposition of (3b), where the speaker elaborates on the inconvenience.

2. Japanese mo and Uyghur mu, a marker which indicates emphasis. (even; as many/much/long...as; (not) even (one);(not) any.

A. Topic (subject) +Noun

J: Gurei-san wa konna muzukashi kanji mo yomeru / yomemasu

(Mr. Gray can read even difficult *kanji* like this)

U: Grey endim hetta muşundaq qeyin xetlerni mu oquyalaydu.

J: Harisu-san wa konna yasashii kanji mo yomenai / yomemasen.

(Mr. Harris cannot read even easy *kanji* like this.)

U: Haris endim hetta muşundaq asan xetni mu oquyalmaydu.

B. Topic (subject) +Quantifier +Predicate (affirmative)

J: Watashi wa kanji o hassen mo shitte iru /imasu

(I know as many as eight thousand *kanji*.)

U: Men sekkizmiñdin mu oşuq xetni bilimen.

C. Topic (subject) + One Counter+ Predicate (negative)

J: Watashi wa kanji o hito tsu mo shiranai / shirimasen.

(I don't know even one *kanji*.)

U: Men Qanjidin bir mu xetni bilmeymen.

D. Topic (subject) + WH-word+ Predicate (negative)

J: Watashi wa nani mo tabenakatta / tabemasendeshita.

(I didn't eat anything)

U: Men hiçnimi mu yimidim.

E. Topic (subject) + Vmasu

J: Nanshi wa watashi no hanashi o kiki mo shinai / shimasen

(Nancy doesn't even listen to me.)

U: Nansi meniñ sözümni hetta añlap mu qoymidi.

Formation

Quantifier Japanese mo and Uyghur mu

J: goju mo (as many as fifty)

J: hyakunin mo (as many as a hundred people)

U: Eliktin mu köprek.

U: Yüzdin mu köprek adem.

One Counter Japanese mo and Uyghur mu

J: hitori mo (not) even one person)

J: hitosu mo (not) even one~)

U: Bir ademmü

U: Birsı mu

WH-word Japanese mo and Uyghur mu

J: nani mo (not) anything)

J: dare mo (not) anybody)

U: Hichnımi mu

U: Hichkim mu

Vmasu

mo shinai,

J: hanashi mo shinai (don't even talk)

J: tabe mo shinai

U: Sözleşkili mu

U: Yigili mu

Examples

(a) *J: Kyo wa kuruma ga judai mo ureta. (As many as ten cars sold today.)*

U: Bugün ondin mu köprek maşına sétildi.

(b) *J: Sono pati ni wa onna no ko wa hitori mo konakatta. (No girl came to the party.)*

U: Bu olturuşqa bir mu qız kelmeptu.

(c) *J: Dare mo sono koto o shirimasen. (Nobody knows about it.)*

U: Bu işni hiçkim mu bilmeydu.

Besides

In Japanese mo, *Nanimo* (nothing, anything), *daremo* (no one, nobody) and Uyghur mu

Hiçnimimu (nothing, anything), *hiçkimmu* (no one, nobody) are used only in negative sentences. Other WH-words with **mo** and **mu** can be used in both affirmative sentences and negative sentences.

(1) J: *itsu**mo*** (always; anytime) J: *doko**mo*** (everywhere)

U: *herqandaq çağdi**mu***. U: *herqandaq yerdi**mu***.

3. Japanese **mo** and Uyghur **mu** adv. s.o.or s.t. is longer in the same state that he or it was in some time.

A. Topic (subject) + Predicate (affirmative)

J: *Watashi wa **mo** hirugohan o tabeta / tabemashita*

(I have already eaten my lunch)

U: *Men **mu** çüşlük tamaqni yep boldum.*

B. Topic (subject) + Predicate (negative)

J: *Hirusan wa **mo** nihongo o benkyoshite inai / imasen*

(Mr. Hill is not studying Japanese any longer)

U: *Hill endim Yaponçini ançi **mu** uzun ügenmidi.*

Examples

(a) A: J: **Mo** shukudai o shimashita ka (Have you done your homework yet (or already)?)

U: *Tapşuruqñiz tügidi **mu**?*

B: J: *Hai, **mo** shimashita* (Yes, I've already done it.)

U: *He..e, tapruşuqum **mu** tuğidi.*

(b) J: *Watashi wa **mo** sake o nomimasen.*

U: *Men emdi haraq **mu** içmeymen.*

(c) J: *Haruo-kun wa **mo** daijobudes.* (Haruo is al right now.)

U: *Haruo **mu** yaxşı.*

4. Japanese **mo~mo** and Uyghur **mu~mu** str, (both~ and~; neither ~nor). The repeated use of a particle meaning 'also' to list elements belonging to the same part of speech.

A. Noun + Noun

J: *Tanaka-san **mo** Nakayama-san **mo** depato ni tsutomete iru / imasu*

(Both Mr. Tanaka and Mr. Nakayama are working for a department store.)

U: *Tanaqa endim **mu**, Naqayama endim **mu** soda-sariyida işleydu.*

B. Noun + Prt + Noun + Prt

J: *Kyoto e wa basu de **mo** densha de **mo** ikeru / ikemasu*

(We can go to Kyoto either by bus or train)

U: *Qyotoğa aptobus bilen **mu**, poyiz bilen **mu** barğili bolidu.*

C. Adj (i) stem + Adj (i) stem

J: Kono Uchi wa hiroku mo semaku mo nai / arimasen

(This house is neither big nor small)

U: Bu oy çoñ mu emes, kiçik mu emes.

Formation

(i) N(prt) mo N(prt) mo (N(prt) mo)

J: sensei mo gakusei mo (both teachers and students)

U: Oqutquçilarmu, oquğuçilarmu.

(ii) Adj (i) stem ku mo Adj (i) stem ku mo Neg

J: okiku mo chisaiku mo nai (s.t. is neither big nor small)

U: Çoñ mu emes, kiçik mu emes.

(iii) {Adj (na) stem / N} de mo {Adj (na) stem / N} de mo Neg

J: benride mo fubende mo nai (s.t. is neither convenient nor inconvenient)

U: Qolayliq mu emes, qolaysiz mu emes.

J: sensei de mo gakusei de mo nai (s.o. is neither a teacher nor a student)

U: Oqutquçidi mu, oquğuçidi mu yoq.

Examples

(a) J: Nihonjin mo amerikajin mo yoku hataruku.

(Both Japanese and Americans work hard.)

U: Yaponlar mu, Amerkiliqlar mu tiriçip işleydu.

(b) J: Yamakawa-san wa sake mo tabako mo yarimasen.

(Mr. Yamakawa neither drinks nor smokes.)

U: Yamaqava endim haraq mu içmeydu, tamaqi mu çekmeydu.

(c) J: Ototo ni mo imoto ni mo hon o katte yarimashta.

(I bought books for both my younger brother and younger sister)

U: Men ukamği mu, siñlimği mu her ikkilisige kitap setivaldim.

(d) J: Kazue wa bijin de mo fubijin de mo nai.

(Kazue is neither beautiful nor ugly.)

U: Kazue çirayliq mu emes, set mu emes.

(e) J: Kono tatemono wa kireide mo rippade mo arimasen.

(This building is neither pretty nor magnificent.)

U. Bu bina çirayliq mu emes, körkem mu emes.

In Japanese and Uyghur the particles “mo” and “mu” have similar grammatical rules in sentences. But there are some differences. The Japanese language never uses question marks in the

question sentence. But modern Japanese language is sometimes employ ka as a question marker. A sentence becomes a question by adding the particle ka the end. You can think of ka as the question marker. Also question sentences never end with the particle mo.

According to *Divanu Lugatit-Turk*, the Uyghur particle mu at the end of sentences makes a statement into a question, also not using a question mark. However, modern Uyghur must use a question mark in these sentences.

Example

bu atmu (Is this a horse?)

bu at seniñ mu (Is this your horse?)

bu it mu (Is is a dog?)

bardiñ mu (Did you go?)

keldiñ mu (Did you come?)²

When Uyghur uses the particle mu at the end of a sentence, it becomes a question sentence. Also the particle mu describes possibility.

Incidentally, Uyghur particle mu is mo in the Kashgar and Hotan dialects.

5. The Japanese suffix ya, when added to noun, means to the place or shop where that thing is sold, or the person or shopkeeper who sells it.

Example

niku / meat _____ niku ya / butcher's shop

hon / book _____ hon ya / bookshop, clerk

kamera / camera _____ kamera ya / camera shop, clerk, owner

Also Uyghur a suffix ya attached to names of shops, inns and restaurants or persons engaged in certain occupations.

Examples

ğukkan ya /shop's satirach ya /babber's

ğulçi ya / florist's qasap ya / butcher's

oqutquçi ya /teacher's diqqan ya /farmer's

The Japanese suffix ya is sometimes used to downgrade a person. This use, however, is very restricted. Examples follow:

hazukashigari-ya (a shy person)

ibari-ya (a haughty person)

kodori-ya (an affected person)

But in Uyghur the suffix ya is used to downgrade and upgrade a person and sometimes used for question sentences. This is very common. Examples follow:

² Mahmud al-Kashgari, *Divanu Lughatit – Turk*, p.345

● Some Similar Points of Japanese and Uyghur Languages

U oğri ya (he is a thief)

U tolimu esil adem ya (he is very excellent person)

Siz oquğuçimu ya? (are you a student?)

The Uyghur suffix ya is only used in Kashgar and Hotan dialects. But it is not used in modern Uyghur literary language.

In both Japanese and Uyghur ya is a coordinate conjunction that is used to list two or more items (nouns or noun phrase) in an inexhaustive fashion. In the Uyghur suffix ya changes to **lar** /**ler**

Examples

(a) *J: Yamamoto-san ya Sumisu-san ga tenisu o shite iru.*

(Mr. Yamamoto, Mr. Smith and others are playing tennis)

U: Yamamoto, Simid endimler ve başqillar pey top oynavatidu.

(b) *J: Boku wa biru ya wain o nonda.*

(I drank beer, wine and things like that)

U: Men pive, şarap ve başqa nersillerni içtim.

But in Uyghur, the suffix ya sometimes expresses many possibilities in the sentence.

Examples

U: Siz şopurmu ya qassapmu? (Are you a driver or a butcher?)

When the Uyghur suffix ya ends a sentence, it becomes question. If it is comes at the beginning of the sentence it becomes an exclamation.

Example:

U: Nime iş qildiñiz-ya ? (What have you done?)

U: Ya Allah! (My god!)

The Japanese and Uyghur suffix ya have many similarities and differences.

6. Conclusion

In this paper, we have analyzed two agglutinative languages, Japanese, Uyghur, which have many syntactical and morphological similarities and differences. And we can understand some similar points of these two languages through the comparison of particles “mo” and “ya”.

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