

Semantic of Case Particles *Ni, De, E, and O* as Locative Marker

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Abstract

This study discusses kakujoshi *ni, de, e, and o* as markers of location in Japanese sentences. How do the semantic difference of the particle as a locative marker, whether the particles can replace each other in their use, and what is the meaning of the sentence if there is a dropping of the locative marker case particles. This research uses descriptive qualitative methodology and uses note taking technique. The conclusion from this research is that although the particles *ni, de, e, and o* are locative markers in sentences, the meaning is different. The particle *ni* is marker of existence, purpose, and direction, and the verbs that follow are *henka doushi* and *joutai doushi*. "De" particle as a locative marker for the activities carried out and mostly followed by *dousa doushi*. Particle "e" is a marker of purpose and direction and is followed by *henka doushi*. Particle "o" as a marker of starting point and place that is passed and followed by *henka doushi* and *dousa doushi*. There are some particles which substitute one another such as "ni" and "e" if they have a meaning of direction and purpose. There are "ni" and "de" particles which can substitute each other depending on the context, some cannot substitute because they have different meanings. "Ni" and "o" particles can substitute each other but the meaning that will appear is different and the sentence afterwards will be different. "De" and "o" particles can substitute one another if all activities are carried out there. Particles of cases that experience direction and purpose often experience impregnation, in addition to the case of locative marker cases which have the meaning of existence can be eliminated, but there is a sign ", (comma)" instead of particles of the case. Particles of starting point markers can also be obscured because the meaning of the whole sentence can be known from the meanings of nouns and verbs that contain the case particles.

Keywords: Doushi; Joshi; Kakujoushi; Particle Dropping

Introduction

The category of word or in Japanese *tango* (単語) according to function is *hinshi*(品詞) 'part of speech'. According to *gakkou bunpou* (basic Japanese grammar studies in school), *tango* is divided into ten categories: *meishi* (名詞) 'noun', *doushi*(動詞) 'verb', *keiyoushi*(形容詞) 'adjective-I', *keiyoudoushi* (形容詞) 'adjective-na', *fukushi* (副詞) 'adverb', *rentaishi* (連体詞) 'noun-delimiting conjunction', *kandoushi* (感動詞) 'interjection', *setsuzokushi*(接続詞) 'conjunction', *jodoushi* (助動詞) 'verb-assisting word', *joshi* (助詞) 'particle'. In morphological studies there is *tango* which belongs to the class of *jiritsugo* (自立語) and *fuzokugo* (付属語). From the above categories of part of speech, noun, verb, adjective, interjection, and conjunction are part of the *jiritsugo* that could stand alone, while *jodoushi* and *joshi* are *fuzokugo* that could not stand alone.

Joshi or particles are parts of speech that have no meaning when separated from other words. *Joshi* do not conjugate and only serve to connect *jiritsugo* in the formation of Japanese sentences and also determine the meaning of the word. The categories of *joshi* according to *nihongo kyouiku* are *kakujoshi* (格助詞), *toritatejosh* (*i* 取り立て助詞), *juntaijoshi*(準体助

詞), *heiretsujoshi* (並列助詞), *setsuzokujoshi* (接続助詞), *kandoujoshi* (感動助詞), *shuujoshi* (週助詞). In this research, the author focuses only on *kakujoshi*.

A sentence can be formed by combining a verb or adjective that becomes a predicate with some nominal phrase (Iori, 2002:16).

1. 父/は/結婚/記念日/に/レストラン/で/母/に/指輪/を/贈りました
Chichi/ wa/ kekkon/ kinenbi/ ni/ resutoran/ de/ haha/ ni/ yubiwa/ o/ okurimashita

father/ par(top)/ wedding/ anniversary/ par(time)/ restaurant/ par(place)/ mother/
par(dative)/ ring/ par(accusative)/ give past tense

'Dad gave mom a ring at the restaurant on the wedding anniversary'.

That sentence is combined from the noun 父 'father', nominal phrase 結婚記念日 'wedding anniversary', noun レストラン 'restaurant', noun 母 'mother', noun 指輪 'ring', past tense verb 贈りました 'gave', particles *ni* に, *de* で, *o* を attached to the noun are case particle *kakujoshi* 格助詞. In a sentence there are components that must be present in the sentence structure. Iori (2005:63) divides the components into two: obligatory components (必須補語 *hissu hogo*), such as subject, predicate, object, and complementary components. The second one is (副次補語 *fukuji hogo*), such as description of place and time. In the example sentence above, the obligatory components are 父が *chichi ga* 'father', 母に *haha ni* 'for mother', 指輪を *yubiwa o* 'ring', while 結婚記念日 'on the anniversary', レストランで 'at the restaurant' are complementary components indicating place and time.

In the examples above, it can be seen that the particle *ni* is attached to nouns that have different semantic functions, *haha ni* is an indirect object marker, while *kekkon kinenbi ni* is an indirect object marker as a time marker. Looking at the example above, it is possible to make the simple conclusion that a particle can have more than one semantic function. Each case particle has a specific semantic function. Iori (2005:61) describes the case particles are *ga* が, *o* を, *ni* に, *e* へ, *de* で, *kara* から, *made* まで, *to* と; and zero (without particle where there is a particle dropping in the sentence).

In a sentence, the core of the sentence is the predicate. Predicates can be filled with verbs, nouns, and adjectives. In understanding the meaning of particles in Japanese, verbs have an important function. There are various types of verb classifications in Japanese. Yoshikawa (1989:56-57), verbs in Japanese are divided based on their syntactic function, semantics, and the nature of the verb towards human will.

1. Based on syntactic function, in Japanese verbs are divided into transitive and intransitive verbs. Intransitive verbs (自動詞 *jidoushi*) are verbs that do not use the particle を (*o*) as an object marker. Example: ドアが開きます。 *Doa ga akimasu*. 'Door open'. Transitive verbs (他動詞 *tadoushi*) are verbs that use the particle を

- (o) as an object marker. Example: 私は新聞を読みます。 *Watashi wa shinbun o yomimasu*. 'I read the newspaper'.
2. Based on semantic function, Japanese verbs are divided into dynamic, transformational and stative verbs. Dynamic verbs (動作動詞 *dousa doushi*) or in other words 継続動詞 *keizoku doushi* are verbs that are indicated by actions or events with movement as a characteristic. Example: 田中さんはレストランで夕食を食べます。 *Tanaka san wa restaurant de yuushoku o tabemasu*. 'Mr Tanaka has dinner at the restaurant'. The transformation verb (変化動詞 *henka doushi*) or in other words 瞬間動詞 *shunkan doushi* is a verb that is indicated by movement towards a change in circumstances in the future. Example: 早く食べないとアイスクリームが溶けるよ。 *Hayaku tabenai to aisukuriimu ga tokeru yo*. 'If you don't eat it quickly, the ice cream will melt, you know'. Stative verbs (状態動詞 *joutai doushi*) are verbs without movement in a static state and taking place in the present state. Example: 机の上に辞書があります。 *Tsukue no ue ni jisho ga arimasu*. 'There is a dictionary on the table '.
 3. Based on the nature of verbs regarding human will, they are divided into volitional verbs and non-volitional verbs. Volitional verbs (意志動詞 *ishi doushi*) are verbs that indicate actions that depend on human will. Example: 私はテレビを見ます。 *Watashi wa terebi o mimasu*. 'I watch television'. Non Volitional verbs (無意志動詞 *mushi doushi*) are verbs that indicate actions that occur outside human will. Example: 暑いときにのどがかわきます。 *Atsui toki ni nodo ga kawakimasu*. 'When it's hot you feel thirsty'.

In previous research on the title "Peran Semantis Partikel Kasus Ni, Ga, dan O Sebagai Penanda Objek" by (Roslina, 2013). This research discusses the semantic function of the case particles ni, ga, and o and the substitution of these three particles. The results of this research are that these three particles can mark objects. Objects marked with the ni particle are indirect objects and the verbs used are mostly intransitive. The case particle ga is an object marker when the verbs and adjectives used function to indicate the speaker's state, desires or feelings. The case particle o is used as a direct object marker and the verbs used are mostly transitive verbs. These three particles can replace each other in certain contexts which remain grammatically acceptable but experience a slight shift in meaning. Apart from that, there is research entitled "格助詞「に」と「へ」の使い分けについて" by (郭潔・林伸一, 2012). This research discusses the differences in the use of case particles *ni* and *e* among native Japanese speakers using a questionnaire distribution technique distributed to all ages and genders.

The results of this research are that the particles *ni* and *e* have the same meaning, the direction of the goal. Native Japanese speakers use the particle *ni* more often than the particle *e*, but not all conditions for the particles *ni* and *e* can be substituted. They cannot be substituted for each other when they have the meaning of the target actor, for the

target actor uses the *ni* case particle as the marker. They cannot be substituted for each other when the *ni* particle has the meaning 'putting into' because the *e* particle does not have the meaning of something from outside to inside. Meanwhile 'put into' is a verb that puts something from the outside to inside.

In previous research, the *ni* and *o* particles function as object markers, but there are also other functions, such as locative markers. In this research, the *ni* and *e* particles are as locative markers, but there are conditions where they can and cannot be substituted for each other. I am interested in what condition it can or cannot be substituted. In previous research about *ni* and *e* particles have same meaning as direction of goal. For basic learners, it could make confuse how, when, and what condition to use it. With this background, the author is interested in researching how the case particles に, で, へ, and を are different when as locative markers, whether they can be substituted for each other, and whether their deletion can affect the meaning of the sentence.

Method

This study uses the listening method. The listening method is used to obtain data by listening to language use. This method is not only oral language use, but also written language use (Mahsun, 2005). The basic technique of this method is tapping technique. The tapping technique is the basic technique in the listening method because in essence listening is realized by tapping. Then, use the note-taking technique by noting down Japanese sentences containing *kakujoshi* に, で, へ, and を. Then it is classified as limited only as a locative marker. The data sources used were the comic Chibi Shikaku Chan volume 1 in 2017, scenario Suki Na Hito Ga Iru Koto, and website HiNative. These sources were chosen because they cover many of the sentence constructions needed in this research.

Finding

Semantic Function

Based on the data obtained, the author classified the case markers as *ni*, *de*, *e*, and *o* and their use in Japanese sentences. Then discuss the semantic function of case particles *ni*, *de*, *e*, and *o* in general and their specificities when marking location.

Case particle of 'Ni'

存在場所 marker of existence.

Example: 200 円の近くにしか子の空っぽの財布も落ちていたけど。

Nihyakuen no chikaku ni shikako no karappo no saifu mo ochiteitakedo.
(Jun, 2017)

Nihyakuen no chikaku ni shikako no karappo no saifu mo ochiteitakedo.

200 yen/ par/ near/ par/ Shikako/ par/ empty/ par/ wallet/ par/ fell

'Shikako's empty wallet also fell near the 200 yen'

In this sentence, the *ni* case particle is attached to the noun 'near the 200 yen' and the verb that follows it is *ochiteita* which is the past form of the verb *ochiru* 'to fall' which is included in the *henka doushi* or *shunkan doushi*, because this change does not take a long time. The verb 'fall' occurs in a short time. *Nihyakuen no chikaku ni* means 'near the 200 yen' which marks the location of the place.

到着点 marker of destination

Example: 朝学校に着いたらいきなり。。。。

Asa gakkou ni tsuitara ikinari...

(Jun, 2017)

Asa gakkou ni tsuitara ikinari...

Morning/ school/ par/ after arrived/ suddenly...

'The morning after I arrived at school, suddenly...'

In this sentence, the *ni* particle attached is 'school' and the verb after it is *tsuitara* which is the conditional form of the verb *tsuku* 'arrive'. The *tsuku* verb is a group of *henka doushi* or *shunkan doushi*, because activities do not require a certain time. The verb *tsuku* 'arrive' is also a verb indicating the destination of a place.

移動の方向 marker of movement direction

Example: 普通は交番に持ってくけどな。

Futsuu wa kouban ni mottekukedona.

(Jun, 2017)

Futsuu wa kouban ni mottekukedona.

Usually/ par/ post/ par/ go bring.

'Usually, it's taken to the post anyway'

In the sentence above, the *ni* particle attached is *kouban* 'post' and the verb after it is *motteku* which is an abbreviation of *motteiku*. The verb *motteiku* is a compound verb which means 'to go with', which is an indicator of directional movement. The verb *motteiku* is a group of *shunkan doushi*, because the change that occurs is "from not going to carrying to going to carrying" which occurs in a short time.

Case particle of 'de'

場所 place

Example: 今日学校でながざわ君とふじみず君がケンカしたんだよ。

Kyou gakkou de Nagazawakun to Fujimizukun ga kenka shitandayo.

(Jun, 2017)

Kyou gakkou de Nagazawakun to Fujimizukun ga kenka shitandayo.

Today/ school/ par/ Nagazawa/ par/ Fujimizu/par/ fight.

'Today Fujimizu and Nagazawa had a fight at school, you know.'

The function of *de* particle only has one meaning as a location marker. The particle *de* is attached to the noun 'school' and the verb that follows in the sentence is *kenka shita* which means 'fight (past)'. The verb 'fight' is a group of *dousa doushi* or *keizoku doushi* verbs because it expresses an activity that requires a certain amount of time. The time when it starts and when it ends will be clear.

Case particle of 'e'

到着点 purpose marker

Example: 自分が出した年賀状が自分のところへ届く。。。。

Jibun no dashita nengajou ga jibun no tokoro e todoku...

(Jun, 2017)

Jibun no dashita nengajou ga jibun no tokoro e todoku...

Himself/ par/ issued/ new year card/ par/ himself/ place/ par/ arrive

'The new year card I sent arrive at my place...'

In the sentence above, the particle *e* is attached to the words *jibun no tokoro* 'my place' and the verb that follows is *todoku* 'arrive' which is a group of *henka doushi* verbs. The *e* particle indicates the purpose of sending the New Year card.

方向 direction

Example: 近所のラーメン屋へ行こう。

Kinjo no ramenya e ikou.

(Jun, 2017)

Kinjo no ramenya e ikou.

Around/ par/ ramen shop/ par/ let's go

'Let's go to the ramen shop around here.'

The function of the particle *e* above is attached to the word *ramen ya* 'ramen shop' and the verb that follows it is *ikou* which is an invitation form of the verb *iku* 'go'. The verb *iku* is in the *henka doushi* group. The *e* particle is a guide to the place that want to go.

Case particle of 'o'

離れえる対象 starting point

Example: 家を出ようと思ったら。。。。

ie o deyou to omottara...

(Jun, 2017)

ie o deyou to omottara...

Home/ par/ going out/ intending...

'If you intend to leave the house...'

In the sentence above, the particle *o* is attached to the word *ie* 'home' and the verb after it is *deyou* which is a form of the verb 'go out'. The verb *deru* is included in the *henka doushi* group because it is done only for a short time.

通過する場所 place that it passed

Example: パーティーを楽しんでおいで。

Paatii o tanoshindeoide.

(Jun, 2017)

Paatii o tanoshindeoide.

Party/ par/ enjoy

'Please enjoy the party'

In the sentence above, the particle *o* is attached to the word 'party' and the verb after it is *tanoshinde* whose basic form is *tanoshimu* 'fun', but the sentence above has the meaning that the subject experiencing the loss passes through the party. The word 'party' indicates the place where things will pass. If the *o* particle is replaced with the *ni* particle it becomes *paatii ni tanoshindeoide*, it has almost the same meaning, the subject is at the party, enjoying it, while the *o* particle, the subject is just passing through the party. Examples of other verbs that use the *o* particle are 散歩する *sanpo suru* 'to walk', 渡る *wataru* 'to cross', 歩く *aruku* 'to walk', and others that have the nuance of passing. These verbs are included in the dynamic verb group because they express activity.

Particle Substitution

'Wo' and 'Ni' Particles

The function of the *o* case particle as a marker of transfer movement and the *ni* case particle as a destination marker sometimes has problems in its use. Consider the following example:

a. 山に登る。

Yama ni noboru.

b. 山を登って、川を渡って、友達に会いに行きました。

Yama o nobotte, kawa o watatte, tomodachi ni ai ni ikimashita.

[リー, 2021]

In the sentence above the *ni* and *o* particles are attached to the noun *yama* 'mountain' and the verb after it is the same, *noboru* 'to rise', but in the sentence after it, it is different. In sentence a, it means 'climbing the mountain'. In this sentence, there is a nuance that achieving the goal. In sentence b, it has the meaning 'climbing the mountain, then across the river, and go to meet friend'. In this sentence the case particle *o* expresses the meaning of transfer movement 'when passing over a mountain'. This sentence has the nuance that when the activity process is carried out, other conditions arise.

'Ni' and 'E' Particles

When the case particles *ni* and *e* function as markers of passing places and markers of destination, they can be substituted for each other.

私たちは駅にバスで行きました。 *Watashitachi wa eki ni basu de ikimashita.*

私たちは駅へバスで行きました。 *Watashitachi wa eki e basu de ikimashita.*

(Luoba, 2020)

The sentence above has the meaning 'we go to the station by bus'. The particles *ni* and *e* are attached to the noun *eki* 'station', the meaning of both sentences is to go towards, but depending on the verb that follows, the particles *e* and *ni* cannot be substituted for each other. Like the verbs 入る *hairu* 'enter' and 乗る *noru* 'go up'. These two verbs can only use the *ni* particle. お風呂に入る *ofuro ni hairu* 'go to the bathroom', バスに乗る *basu ni noru* 'take the bus'. The *ni* particle for this clause has the meaning of marking a purpose of an object, not marking a direction.

'Ni' and 'De' Particles

In Japanese, case particles marking the place of existence and the place where activities are carried out are different. In the sentence:

田中さんはあの部屋にいる。

Tanaka san wa ano heya ni iru

Tanaka/ par/ the/ room/ par/ there. 'Tanaka is in that room'.

This sentence cannot use the case particle *de*, because it does not express the activity being carried out, it only expresses existence. In the sentence:

田中さんはあの部屋で仕事をしています。

Tanaka san wa ano heya de shigoto o shiteimasu.

(3A Corporation, 2012)

Tanaka/ par/ the/ room/ par/ working/ par/ is doing. 'Tanaka is working in that room'.

This sentence expresses that there is an activity being carried out, 'work', therefore it cannot use the *ni* particle but use the *de* particle.

'De' and 'Wo' Particles

The case particle *o* as a marker for transfer movement can be substituted with the particle *de*, if all activities are carried out in that place. In the sentence:

公園 {を/で} ジョギングしています。

Kouen o/de joggingu shiteimasu

(Mi_hua_hua, 2023)

Kouen o/de joggingu shiteimasu

park/ par/ jogging.

'Jogging in the park.'

In this sentence, both particles can be used because the verb jogging is a verb that indicates a place to be passed. It has the meaning of going around the park. You can also use *de* particles because jogging is in the park. You cannot use the *de* particle if it does not have the meaning of the activity being carried out, as in the example 橋を渡る *hashi o wataru* 'crossing the bridge'. The verb 'cross' is a verb that indicates a place to be passed which has the meaning of passing by and no activity being carried out.

Dropping of Locative Marker Case Particles

- a. 面接官、シュガークラフト人形に目を留め、「この人形は？」

Mensetsukan, shugaakurafuto ningyou ni me o tome, "kono ningyou wa?"

(しのぶ, 2016)

Mensetsukan, shugaakurafuto ningyou ni me o tome, "kono ningyou wa?"

Interview building, / sugar craft/ doll/ par/ eyes/ par/ stop, "this/ doll/ par?"

'In the interview hall, by looking at the sugar doll, "this doll?"'

In the sentence above, it can be seen that in the noun 'interview building' there is a dropping of the locative marker case particle. If you look at the meaning of the whole

sentence, it is that there is a state of activity. If you look at the previous explanation, the case particles that indicate activity are the case particles *ni* and *de*, but in this sentence, there is static activity which is explained by the *me o tome* 'seeing'. The verb *tome* which means 'stop' is a type of stative verb. Therefore, in the sentence above, the locative marker case particle that is dropping is the particle *ni*. The dropping of the particle in this case is replaced with a pause sign ", (comma)" to understand the meaning function of 'interview building'.

b. お風呂上りはすっぴんに見えるナチュラルメイク、。。。

Ofuro agari wa suppin ni mieru nachurarumeiku...

(しのぶ, 2016)

Ofuro agari wa suppin ni mieru nachurarumeiku...

Bath/ go up/ par/ without makeup/ par/ look/ natural makeup...

'Come out of the bathroom, use natural makeup that looks like no makeup'

In the sentence above, it can be seen that in the *ofuro agari* 'get out of the bathroom' case particles are released. The meaning of the whole sentence is to express the condition of the subject who is away from the location. *Ofuro agari*, the locative marker case particle *o* is dropped. The case particle *o* indicates that the subject is moving away from the location, the bathroom. The *agari* verb is *henka doushi* because it is done without a long time.

c. 窓の外、海が見えてくる。

Mado no soto, umi ga mietekuru.

(しのぶ, 2016)

Mado no soto, umi ga mietekuru.

Window/ par/ outside, sea/ par/ looks coming

'Outside the window you can see the sea'

The sentence above expresses that the word *mado no soto* 'outside the window' is a locative nominal phrase and the case particle is dropped. For overall meaning, the verb that appears is one of the verbs of *joutai doushi*. The case particle attached to the verb *joutai doushi* is *ni*. Therefore, the sentence above is dropping the case particle *ni* as a locative marker.

d. じゃあ次、店行こうっか。

Jaa tsugi, mise ikoukka.

(しのぶ, 2016)

Jaa tsugi, mise ikoukka.

OK/ next, shop/ let's go.

'Okay, let's just go to the shop next, shall we?'

The sentence above expresses that there are no particles in it, but if you see it more deeply, there are actually particles that are dropping. In the *mise ikoukka* phrase 'just go to the shop, right?' there is a dropping particle of the locative marker case particle. The verb *ikoukka* is an invitation form of the verb *iku* 'go'. The verb *iku* is one of the *henka doushi*. *Mise ikoukka* means an invitation that has a direction. The case particles that express themselves as locative markers of direction are the particles *e* and *ni*. Therefore, the dropping case particle above can be filled with *e* or *ni* case particles. Because these two particles can substitute for each other if they have a directional meaning.

Conclusion

From the discussion above, it can be concluded that the case particles *ni*, *de*, *e*, and *o* have a semantic function as locative markers, but each case particle which functions as a locative marker has its own differences. The case particle *ni* as a locative marker has three meanings, as existence which is followed by *joutai doushi* and *henka doushi*, the meaning of goal which is followed by *henka doushi* and *renyoukei* form of the verb (*~masu*), and has the meaning of direction which is followed by *henka doushi*. The *de* particle is a locative marker for the activity being carried out and is mostly followed by *dousa doushi*, but in the data the author collected, it found the *de* particle followed by *joutai doushi* as in the sentence 今日は春の寄席が市民会館であるんだった *kyou wa haru no yose ga shiminkaikan de arundatta* 'The spring show was held at the Civic Center today.' The verb *arundatta*, whose basic form is *aru* 'there is', is the *joutai doushi*. *Joutai doushi* usually uses the particle *ni*, but in the context of this sentence the word *yose* 'performance' is a noun that indicates an activity carried out. The *e* particle as a marker of goal and direction, is attached to *henka doushi*. The particle *o* as the starting point and marker of the verb to be passed is attached to *henka doushi* and *dousa doushi*.

There are several particles that substitute for each other, such as *ni* and *e*, if they have the meaning of direction and goal, but if they only have the meaning of goal, it can only use the *ni* particle. The particles *ni* and *de* in some contexts can be substituted grammatically, but have different meanings. The *de* particle has a real activity to do, while the *ni* only express existence. The particles *ni* and *o* can be substituted for each other, but the meaning that appears will be different and the sentence that follows will be different. The particles *de* and *o* can substitute for each other if all activities are carried out in that place, but cannot substitute for each other if the verb that appears after them only has the meaning of the place that is passed, such as 'around and through' and no real activity is carried out. Locative marker particles which have the meaning of indicating direction and destination, the particles *ni* and *e* are often dropped, because the verb in the sentence already represents that there is a place to go. Apart from the discharge which has the meaning of direction, the *ni* particle which has the meaning of indicating a state also dropped, but there is a sign ', (comma)' as a substitute for the dropping of the *ni* particle which is a marker of existence followed by *joutai doushi*. The particle *o* also dropped which has the meaning of a place that is the starting point as seen from the verbs and nouns in the sentence. Even though there is no case particle *o* as a locative marker, the overall meaning of the noun and verb can be known.

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