The Function of Nominalizing Particle NO as a Modifier and a Nominalizer in Japanese Sentences

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Abstract

The particle “no” could become a modifier, nominalizer, and feminine marker in Japanese sentences. This study investigated the function of a particle “no” as a modifier and a nominalizer in the sentence. This study aims to elaborate on the nominalization process in Japanese sentences grammatically, by making the nominalizing particle (juntaijoshi) “no” as a marker. The data had been collected thoroughly and carefully presented in words without formulation or sign from the news published in NHK. The data then were analyzed using a lingual factor attached by the nominalizing particle “no” and its function in the sentence. The result showed that the nominalizing particle “no” serves as a modifier when it attached to a noun or noun phrase, and serves as a nominalizer when attached to the verbal clause. As a modifier, the particle “no” provides additional meaning to the main noun, so the structure will consist of the additional noun, the nominalizing particle “no”, and the main noun. The additional noun could be composed of more than one noun. On the other hand, the nominalizing particle “no” as a nominalizer could change the form of the clause, from a verbal clause to a noun phrase. Therefore, the form could become a topic, a subject and an object in Japanese sentence with the structure that consists of a verbal clause, the nominalizing particle “no”, and particle marker for a topic, subject or object.

Keywords: Juntaijoshi; Modifier; Nominalizer; Nominalizing particle

1. Introduction

Linguistics shows the fact that nominalization is not only a rhetorical strategy that frequently used in many languages, but it has an important role in the interaction of languages in East Asia and Southeast Asia, including Japan. In Japanese, nominalization is widely used as a predicate structure at the end of a sentence (Horie, 2012). Kridalaksana (2009) stated that nominalization itself is a process of the forming nouns from other word classes with a certain affix, such as research conducted by Yap, Grunow-Hårsta, & Wrona (2011); Kornfilt & Whitman (2011); Hara, Kim, Sakai, & Tamura (2013); and Zainuddin (2016). Some studies showed that adding an affix, such as free morpheme or bound morpheme could provide different structures and different meanings. The words that attached by an affix which were categorized as a verb, adjective, and adverb then transform its morphology into a noun. This transformation process is universal to all languages, including the Japanese.

Nominalization (meishika) in the Japanese can be applied by adding particle (joshi), pronominal, or nominalized clauses in word, phrase, or clause. Based on the previous study, there are different terms in the utterance which refer to the same nominalization marker. Yap, Grunow-Hårsta, & Wrona (2011) used the term case marker, Seraku (2012) used the term of a particle, Ishihara (2013) used the term of pronominal and complementizer, and Hara et al. (2013) used the term of nominalized clauses. However, this study refers to the term used by Shibatani et al. (2017), namely the nominalizing particle (juntaijoshi) no. Juntaijoshi starting in the late sixteenth century in the case of central dialects, which began to use the particle no to mark the use of grammatical nominalizations. Shibatani et al. (2017) claimed that it is actually a marker of the NP-use of nominalizations and that nominalization itself obtains independently...
from the juntaijoshi. The definition of the nominalization according to Shibatani et al. (2017) is as follows:

Nominalization is a metonymic process that yields construction, including both word and phrasal units, associated with a denotation comprised of substantive or entity concepts that are metonymically evoked by the nominalization structure, such as evens, fact, propositions, and resultant product (event nominalization), and event participants (argument nominalization), or other concepts which are closely associated with the base form.

It can be said that a product from nominalization is like a noun based on its relation with entity concept denotation or an example of simple formula, such as Noun \( \rightarrow \) Verb.

The nominalization marker can be studied from a lexical perspective and a grammatical perspective. Lexical perspective means the morphological level, while grammatical perspective means the syntactic level. The example of the use of nominalizing particle no in the morphological level is by adding the suffix ~sha to the word shussekisha ‘attendee’ and higaisha ‘victim’. Meanwhile, in syntactic level, nominalizing particle no is shown in the sentence Hanako ga katte kita no wo minna de tabeta ‘We ate all together what Hanako bought and came’ (Shibatani et al., 2017). Those examples showed nominalization in word and sentence levels of Japanese. In this research, the researcher focused on nominalization process in sentence, particularly the use of nominalizing particle no. This issue is chosen because it is often found in the Japanese sentence. Besides, the researcher aims to develop research conducted by Puspitasari (2011) about the function of no da in the sentence, but it focuses on one of its factors, nominalizing particle no.

Previous research conducted by Ishihara (2013) also indicates that no in the pattern of no da at the end of sentence serves as phrase nowning or the attached clause. Therefore, the researcher is interested in developing research related to the function of nominalizing particle no.

Seraku (2012) conducted similar research about two types of nominalization particle no in Japanese as an outcome of semantic tree growth, namely 1 participant nominalization and 2 situation nominalization. These two types of nominalization could be written in the sentence 1 Akai no wo Tom ga nagutta ‘Tom hit the red one’ and 2 Mary ga kireina no wo Tom ga shitteiru ‘Tom knows that Mary is beautiful’. Seraku’s study showed that no is assigned a single lexical entry, and the participant/situation divide boils down to an outcome of semantic tree growth, more specifically, a parser’s choice of what type term it copies. In this account, incrementally is a key notion, as the participant/situation distinction arises when processing no. Besides, previous research about nominalization was conducted by Ishihara (2013) in which the topic is the nominalization in the Japanese Predicate Doubling Construction (PDC). This research examines the status of koto and no in the construction of predicate multiplication in the sentence of Japanese, as viewed in the sentence Taro wa ringo wo muita koto / no wa muita ‘As for Taro’s peeling the apple, he did peel it (but he didn’t eat it)’. The research shows the result that koto and no have lost their syntactic status as nominals. This is an example of a nominal element losing its syntactic features through grammaticalization, though still retaining features necessary for the morphophonological purpose. It is claimed that construction is derived via movement of vP or TP (sign from koto and no in PDC) and copy spell-out, which in turn suggests
that *koto* and *no* are inserted for a morphophonological reason.

Different from research conducted by Seraku (2012) and Ishihara (2013), this study focuses on an issue of grammatical structure, nominalizing particle *no* in the Japanese sentence. This research aims to analyze the nominalization structure using a syntactic argument, while that sentence can be acceptable in terms of meaning. To analyze the nominalization structure, this study used the theory by Shibatani et al. (2017) about nominal based nominalization and verbal based nominalization. Nominalization in noun also used the theory as stated by Shibatani & Chung (2018). Besides, nominalization in verb used the theory by Morita (2013) about the type of verb classified into five groups, namely *shikou doushi* ‘verb related to thought’, *chikaku doushi* ‘verb related to five senses’, *idou doushi* ‘verb related to displacement’, *inyou doushi* ‘verb related to excerpt’, and *henka doushi* ‘verb related to change’. This theory was used to analyze the verb attached in nominalizing particle *no* based on the current phenomenon of the Japanese.

The use of nominalizing particle *no* attached to the verb, can show people (*hito*), object (*mono*), and matter (*koto*) (Nagara, Hirota, & Nakanishi, 1987). The example of nominalizing particle *no* in the sentence is shown below.

1. 僕は太郎が本を買ったのを知っている。 (Ishihara, 2013)
   
   *Boku/ wa/ Taroo/ ga/ hon/ wo/ katta/ no/ wo/ shitte iru.*
   
   ‘I know that Taro bought a book’

2. 君が作ったのを見せた。 (Ishihara, 2013)
   
   *Kimi/ ga/ tsukutta/ no/ wo/ miseta.*
   
   ‘Show me what you have made.’

In nominalizing particle *no*, sentence (1) shows matter (*koto*), and sentence (2) shows object (*mono*). Characteristic owned by the nominalizing particle *no* is an event stated in the main clause and subordinate clause "at the same time" and "in the same place". Grammatically, the nominalization process has two main functions, namely clause nominalization or referential function and function to modify or restrictive function (Shibatani et al., 2017). These two examples have clause nominalization functions or referential functions, namely (1) *Taro ga hon wo katta* ‘Taro bought a book’ and (2) *Kimi ga tsukutta* ‘You have made’. Besides, the verb is attached to nominalizing particle *no* in sentences (1) and (2) belongs to *chikakudoushi* ‘verb related to five senses'. This language phenomenon is analyzed by the researcher related to the grammatical function of nominalizing particle *no* and its lingual aspect.

It is expected that the results about nominalizing particle *no* can explain grammatical relation to detect and explain anomalous sentences in terms of shape and meaning. Besides, it is expected to be useful for non-native Japanese language speakers in using nominalizing particle *no* appropriately following the grammatical principle of the Japanese.

2. Methods

This research used a qualitative approach, a research procedure which results in descriptive data in written or spoken words from people and behavior to be observed; or research which intends to understand a phenomenon of what is experienced by research subject, namely behavior, perception, motivation, action, and so on holistically and descriptively in words and language of a specific, natural context by making use of several scientific methods (Moleong, 2012). This research used three methods and respective techniques, namely 1) Method and technique for data provision; 2) Study
method and technique; 3) Method for presenting analysis result.

According to Sudaryanto (1993), data provision is about providing the data which is true and valid. Obtaining data used a listening method, by listening to the use of the language while taking notes. That technique was applied by accessing the online sources from NHK (2020) website. NHK stands for Nippon Hoso Kyokai as Japanese news media which has been established since Year 25 of Showa or June 1, 1950. NHK is also famous worldwide with its brand Japan Broadcasting Corporation or known as the NHK World channel. The data collected by listening to the use of language, and by taking notes the nominalizing particle no in the sentences from the sources. Because of many sentences have nominalizing particle no, it was sorted based on the definition stated by Shibatani et al. (2017).

A study in language research was defined as data determined based on certain approaches through certain tests or techniques (Djajasudarma, 2006). In studying research data, it used the sharing method in which the tool was part of the related language, using a technique for a direct factor. The direct element-sharing technique was to divide elements that directly shape the lingual unit intended (Sudaryanto, 1993). The technique was applied by dividing the lingual element attached by nominalizing particle no and studying syntactic function from the lingual element attached. The researcher used [ ] for limiting word or nominalization process, such as [sensei] 'teacher' to be explained in terms of sentence internal structure, namely word, phrase, and clause to be written into [sensei]noun.

This research used an informal presentation method, namely formulation with common words (Sudaryanto, 1993). The result of data analysis was a lingual factor attached by nominalizing particle no and its syntax function in the sentence, which has been performed thoroughly and carefully presented in words without formulation or sign.

3. Result and Discussion
The structure of the nominalization particle no in Japanese sentence is classified into two, which is attached to noun and verb. This classification is referred to as Nominal-based Nominalization and Verbal-based Nominalization (Shibatani et al., 2017). In the data analysis, this study used the theory as stated by Shibatani & Chung (2018) about nominalization in noun word class, and theory stated by Morita (2013) about verb type in the Japanese. Analysis in the use of nominalizing particle no in Japanese language sentence is shown below.

3.1 Nominal based Nominalization
Nominal based nominalization is defined in which the nominalization process occurs not only in the word class besides noun, but in noun word class itself. It is shown in some data below.

(3) 1番になった aのは大阪 bの堺市 cに住む33歳 dの高校 dの先生で、
「周りの人に少しでも服を分けることができるようにしたいです」
と話していました。(NHK, 2020)
Ichiban/ ninatta/ a/no/ wa/ oosaka/ b/no/ sakaishi/ ni/ sumu/ 33 sai/ c/no/ koukou/ d/no/ sensei/ de,/ (mawari/ no/ hito/ ni/ sukoshi/ demo/ fuku/ wo/ wakeru/ koto/ ga/ dekiri/ youni/ shitai/ desu)/ to/ hanashite/ imashita.

First/ to become/ a/nominalizing particle/ particle/ Osaka/ b/nominalizing particle/ Sakai city/ particle/ to live/ 33 years/ c/nominalizing particle/ Senior High School/ teacher/ particle/ around/ d/nominalizing particle/ people/ few/ although/ wealth/ particle/ to share/ matter/ particle/ able/ so that/ to wish to do/ copula/ particle/ to state/ just.
The first is a Senior High School teacher who is 33 years old, lives in Sakai City, Osaka said, "I expect to share wealth although it is not much to people around me".

Sentence (3) has four uses of nominalizing particle no, but what is discussed first is what is attached to noun class word, namely (3)b (3)c and (3)d. Structure in the use of nominalizing particle no attached to the noun is as follows:

(3)b 大阪の堺市… (NHK, 2020)
[[Osaka

no]Nominalization
[Sakaishi]Nominal Phrase
'Sakai City, Osaka'

(3)c 33歳の高校の先生… (NHK, 2020)
[[33 sai

no]Nominalization [[koukou

no]Nominalization [sensei]Nominal Phrase
'A 33-year-old Senior High School teacher'

Data (3)b (3)c and (3)d show that nominalizing particle no attached to noun Osaka ‘Osaka’, 33 sai ‘33 years old’, and koukou ‘Senior High School' serves as a modifier from the main noun, namely Sakaishi ‘Sakai City’ and Sensei ‘teacher'. Use of the nominalizing particle no provides additional meaning in the main noun, it also changes the internal structure from a single word into a noun phrase. Noun appears as a modifier in data (3)b (3)c and (3)d before the main noun. It is shown insentence (4) below.

(4) 今年、「東京オリンピック」と「東京パラリンピック」があります。日本で夏のオリンピックとパラリンピックを開くのは2回目です。 (NHK, 2020)
Kotoshi/ Tokyo/orinpikku/ to/ Tokyo/pararinppikku/ ga/ arimasu. Nihon/ de/natsu/no/orinpikku/to/pararinppikku/wo/hiraku/no/wa/nikaimie/desu.


'This year, Japan organized Tokyo Olympiad and Paralympiad. It was the second time when Olympiad and Paralympiad in summer were opened in Japan.'

There are two uses of nominalizing particle no in sentence (4), but what will be discussed first is data (4)a. Structure in the use of nominalizing particle no attached to the noun is as follows:

(4)a 夏のオリンピックとパラリンピック… (NHK, 2020)
[[Natsu no]Nominalization [Orinppikku to pararinppikku]Nominal Phrase
'Olympiad and Paralympiad in summer'

Data (4)a show that nominalizing particle no is attached to noun natsu ‘in summer’ serves as a modifier from noun phrase orinppikku to pararinppikku ‘olympiad and paralympiad'. Use of the nominalizing particle no provides additional meaning about when Olympiad and Paralympiad were held in Japan. Nominalizing particle no can be used in sequential order for two modifiers insentence (5).

(5) 4人の中の一人は職人になって、定年まで働くことができるので嬉しいです。 (NHK, 2020)
Yonnin/no/ naka/ hitori/ wa/shokuin/ ninatte,/ teinen/ made/hataraku/ koto/ ga/ dekiru/ node/ ureshii/desu.

4 people/ nominalizing particle/ in/ nominalizing particle/ one person/ worker/ to be/ pension/ until/ to work/ things/ able/ because/ happy/ copula
'One of four people stated their happiness to be staff and to work until a pension.'

Use of the nominalizing particle no in sentence (5) serves as a modifier from the main noun, namely hitori 'one person'. A modifier is in a noun naka 'in' and yonnin 'four people' to provide additional meaning to the main noun. The modifier structure appears first before the main noun and changes the internal structure from a single word into a noun phrase. Structure of the nominalizing particle no in data (5)4 (5)b.

(5)4 (5)b 4人の中の一人… (NHK, 2020)

Based on data analysis as explained above, it can be concluded that nominalizing particle no attached to noun serves as a modifier of the main noun. Besides, it changes the internal structure from a single word into a noun phrase. The word which serves as a modifier is not limited to one word, but it can be more than one word. The data collected from the news in NHK (2020) about the use of nominalizing particle no as modifier are shown below.

Table 1. Nominalizing particle no as modifier

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Modifier</th>
<th>Main Noun</th>
<th>Noun Phrase</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Osaka no</td>
<td>Sakaishi</td>
<td>Osaka no Sakaishi</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>'Osaka'</td>
<td>'Sakai City'</td>
<td>'Sakai City, Osaka'</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Natsu no</td>
<td>Orinpikku to Pararinpikku</td>
<td>Natsu no Orinpikku to Pararinpikku</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>'Summer'</td>
<td>'Olympiad and Paralympiad'</td>
<td>'Olympiad and Paralympiad in summer'</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>33 sai no koukou no</td>
<td>Sensei</td>
<td>33 sai no koukou no sensei</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>'A 33-year-old Senior High School'</td>
<td>'Teacher'</td>
<td>'A 33-year-old Senior High School teacher'</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4 nin no naka no</td>
<td>Hitori</td>
<td>4 nin no naka no hitori</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>'In four people'</td>
<td>'One person'</td>
<td>'One of four people'</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hyougoken Nishinomiyashi no</td>
<td>Nishinomiya Jinja</td>
<td>Hyougken Nishinomiyashi no</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>'Nishinomiya City of Hyogo Prefektur'</td>
<td>'Nishinomiya Temple'</td>
<td>'Nishinomiya Temple in Nishinomiya City of Hyogo Prefecture'</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>14 nenmae no</td>
<td>Koutsujikou</td>
<td>14 nenmae no koutsujikou</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>'14 years ago'</td>
<td>'Traffic accident'</td>
<td>'Traffic accident 14 years ago'</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Momokuro no</td>
<td>Konsato</td>
<td>Momokuro no konsato</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>'Momokuro'</td>
<td>'Concert'</td>
<td>'Momokuro Concert'</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

3.2 Verbal based Nominalization

Verbal based nominalization is defined in which the nominalization process occurs in a verb, verbal phrase, or verbal clause which changes into a noun or noun phrase. The use of the nominalizing particle no attached to the verb is shown insentence (3) of data (3)a.

(3)a 1番になったのは…と話ししていました。（NHK, 2020)
Nominalizing particle *no* in data (3) is used for nominalizing verbal clause *Icban ni natta* ‘the first’. A verbal clause is attached by nominalizing particle *no* and changes internal structure into a noun phrase. Noun phrase occupies syntactic function as a topic in the sentence because it is marked by particle *wa*. Verbal clause nominalized has verb *naru* ‘to be (the first)’ which belongs to the verb of *henka doushi* ‘verb related to change’. A predicate in data (3) *hanashite imashita* ‘has spoken' shows verb which states that a Senior High School teacher is made the first reference from the news article in NHK (2020). The data are in line with the result by Kaneyasu (2018) which stated that the construction of *no wa* is frequently found in news reports or newspaper editorials which serve to nominalize phrases or clauses. It is shown in data (4) below.

(4) *…パラリンピックを開くのは2回目です。（NHK, 2020）*

[[...pararinpikku wo hiraku]Nominalization no]Nominal Phrase wa... 'It is the second time... paralympiad is opened.'

Nominalizing particle *no* in data (4) is used for nominalizing verbal clause *…pararinpikku wo hiraku* ‘…paralimpiade is opened’. A verbal clause is attached by nominalizing particle *no* and changes internal structure into a noun phrase. Noun phrase occupies syntactic function as a topic in a sentence because it is marked by particle *wa*. Verbal clause nominalized has verb *hiraku* ‘to open’ which belongs to verb of *henka doushi* ‘verb related to change’. A predicate in data (4) is a noun phrase *nikai me desu* ‘the second time'. Use of the nominalizing particle *no* in sentence (6) below.

(6) *…豚が死んでいるのが見つかりました。（NHK, 2020）*

[[...buta ga shinde iru]Nominalization no]Nominal Phrase ga
'Dead pig has been found...' Use of the nominalizing particle *no* serves as a nominalizer, besides particles that mark the topic and subject in the sentence, while it can be followed by a particle which marks object *wo* as shown in sentence (7).

(7) *14年前の交通事故で父親を亡くした谷村さん（14）は「ももくろ」のコンサートはいつも招待の手紙が届くのを楽しみにしています。（NHK, 2020）*

14nen/ mae/ a/ koutsu jikou/ de/ chichi oya/ wo/ nakushita/ tanimura/ san/ (14)/ wa/ [momokuro]/ b/ no/ konsato/ wa/ isumo/ shoutai/ [no]/ tegami/ ga/ todoku/ c/ d/ wo/ tanoshimi/ ni/ shimasu.

'Tanimura (14) who lost his father in a traffic accident 14 years ago always waits for an invitation letter for Momokuro concert.'

Sentence (7) has four uses of nominalizing particle *no*, but what will be discussed is the structure of data nominalization (7)*d* below.

(7)*d*  …招待の手紙が届くのを楽しみにしています。(NHK, 2020)

Nominalizing particle *no* in data (7)*d* is used for nominalizing verbal clause

...shoutai no tegami ga todoku ‘...to wait for the invitation letter’. A verbal clause is nominalized by nominalizing particle *no* and changed the internal structure into a noun phrase. Noun phrase occupies syntactic function as an object in a sentence marked by particle *wo*. Meanwhile, the predicate in data (7)*d* tanoshimi ni shiteimasu 'to wait for..' which belongs to the verb of chikaku doushi ‘verb related to five senses’. The data are in line with an opinion by Hosokawa (2003) about chikaku doushi which is attached in general to the construction of sentence *no wo*.

Data analysis shows that nominalizing particle *no* attached to verbal clause serve as nominalizer, and change internal structure in the sentence from verbal clause to a noun phrase. It is intended to make verbal clause occupy syntactic function as topic, subject, and object in the sentence. Data found by the researcher in a news from NHK (2020) about the use of nominalizing particle *no* as nominalizer are shown below.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Verbal Clause</th>
<th>Nominalizer</th>
<th>Particle</th>
<th>Function</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Ichiban ni natta…</td>
<td><em>No</em></td>
<td><em>Wa</em></td>
<td>(Topic Marker)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>'The first…'</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>...pararinpikku wo hiraku</td>
<td><em>No</em></td>
<td><em>Wa</em></td>
<td>(Topic Marker)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>‘… Paralympiad is opened’</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>...buta ga shinde iru</td>
<td><em>No</em></td>
<td><em>Ga</em></td>
<td>(Subject Marker)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>‘…dead pig’</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>...oyoide iru</td>
<td><em>No</em></td>
<td><em>Ga</em></td>
<td>(Subject Marker)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>‘to be swimming..’</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>...shoutai no tegami ga todoku</td>
<td><em>No</em></td>
<td><em>Wa</em></td>
<td>(Object Marker)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>‘...to wait for invitation letter …'</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>...hi ga dete iru</td>
<td><em>No</em></td>
<td><em>Wo</em></td>
<td>(Object Marker)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>‘…fire comes’</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

4. Conclusion

Based on data elaboration about the use of nominalizing particle *no* above, it can be concluded that change in structure and meaning from word, phrase, or clause occurs in the nominalization process by...
particle no. The changes are caused by nominalizing particle no with function as modifier and nominalizer. It serves as a modifier when nominalizing particle no is attached to a noun. So it can provide additional meaning to the main noun and changing the internal structure from word to phrase. Meanwhile, function as nominalizer is when nominalizing particle no is attached to verb, so it changes internal structure from verbal clause to noun phrase to occupy the position as a topic, subject, and object in the Japanese sentence. For further research with similar topic, it can investigate the use of nominalizing particle no in discourse level of Japanese.

References


