

THE TRIMORPHEMIC STRUCTURE OF JAPANESE DEICTIC EXPRESSIONS WITHIN A TWO-DIMENSIONAL REFERENCE SYSTEM

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Background: The morphological structure of Japanese demonstratives, such as *kore* ‘this one’, *sore* ‘that one’, *are* ‘that one (over there)’, is known to reveal apparent complexity (Leu, 2015), being part of so-called *ko-/so-/a-/do-* paradigm (Iwasaki, 2013; Hoji, 1991), including a number of other deictic expressions, as in (1):

- (1) a. *kore* ‘this one’ - *sore* ‘that one’ - *are* ‘that one (over there)’ - *dore* ‘which one’
 b. *kono* ‘this N’ - *sono* ‘that N’ - *ano* ‘that N (over there)’ - *dono* ‘which N’
 c. *koko* ‘here’ - *soko* ‘there’ - *asoko* ‘over there’ - *doko* ‘where’ etc.

This *ko-/so-/a-* paradigm is based on a systematic morphological pattern observed with deictic expressions, where the first element, *ko-/so-/a-* indicates in its spatial dimension a distance from Speaker/Hearer, as in (2), and the second element *-re/-no/-chira/-nna* etc., specify the ontological domain of the modifyee (object, place, direction etc.), as in (3) (Iwasaki, 2013).

(2) *ko-* proximal to Speaker; *so-* proximal to Hearer; *a-* distal from Hearer and Speaker

- (3) a. *kono* = *ko-no* = near Speaker - **Gen** = ‘this N’
 b. *sochira* = *so-chira* = near Hearer-**direction** = ‘that way’

Proposal: I propose that the morphological complexity of deictic expressions in Japanese is yet more fine-grained, revealing a trimorphemic structure, with *k-/s-* referring to Speaker/Hearer, *a-/o-* referring to a distance from both Speaker and Hearer (+/Distal) and *-re/-no/-chira* etc. - object, place, direction etc.

Analyse: The demonstratives paradigm would be incomplete without another element, *kare* ‘he’, normally used for a third person singular masculin referent. According to Hoji (1991), *kare* is related to Japanese demonstratives. According to Obana (2003), *kare* is normally used for referents distant from Speaker, which is crucially different from *are*, used to refer distant objects both from Speaker and Hearer. Thus, *kare* can be represented through a two-dimensionnel reference system (+/- Speaker and +/- distance): as distal and referring to Speaker, in contrast with *kore* (proximal and referring to Speaker), *are* (distant and not referring to Speaker (exclusively)) and *sore* (proximal and not referring to Speaker). Thus, if we reconsider *kare* as a part of demonstratives paradigm (*kore - kare - sore - are*), as in (4):

(4)

	Speaker (+/-)	Distance (+/-)	
<i>ko-</i>	+	-	near Speaker
<i>so-</i>	-	-	near Hearer
<i>a-</i>	-	+	far (from Speaker and Hearer)
<i>ka-</i>	+	+	far from Speaker

we can notice that *kare* completes the two referents’ system: +/-Speaker (exclusively) and +/- Distal, with *k-* [+Speaker]; *s-* [-Speaker]; *a-* [+Distal]; *o-* [-Distal] being morphemic.

According to my analysis, *kare* is trimorphemic: *kare* = *k - a - re*, where *k-* is marked [+Speaker], *a-* is marked [+Distal], *-re* is marked [+Objet].

Conclusion: I argue that Japanese deictic expressions, normally considered as bimorphemic, are trimorphemic, morphologically marked within a two dimensional reference system of +/-Speaker and +/-Distal. I propose to extend the traditional paradigm *ko-/so-/a-* to *k-s-o-a-* (*kare*). The proposal of morphological complexity of Japanese deictic expressions is significant both for the concrete analyse of Japanese demonstratives, and to more general analysis of a morphosemantic structure of deictic expressions in other languages potentially revealing a similar level of complexity.

References: Hoji, H. (1991). *Kare*. In *Interdisciplinary Approaches to Language* (pp.287-304). Springer Netherlands. Iwasaki, Shoichi (2013). *Japanese: Revised Edition* (Vol. 17). John Benjamins Publishing. Leu, Thomas (2015). *The Architecture of Determiners*. Oxford and New York: Oxford University Press Postal. Obana, Y. (2003). The use of *kano/kanojo* in Japanese society today. *New Zealand Journal of Asian Studies*, 5, 139-155.