Favorable and Unfavorable Effects: A Typology of Benefactive and Adversative Constructions in Japanese, Korean, and Ainu

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The present paper attempts a conceptual analysis of Japanese, Korean, and Ainu benefactive and adversative constructions, demonstrating that their differences are identifiable as different stages in the grammatical development in which the speaker-oriented notion of *(un)favorableness* is extended to second- and third-person entities. It is well known that some Japanese, Korean, and Ainu verbs with the sense ‘give’ are used to form certain benefactive constructions as illustrated in (1). Although their constructional meanings hardly manifest themselves in the English translations, the speaker obviously assumes a recipient (someone who is listened to) to receive a benefit or *favorable effect* from an agent (another one who listens) in sentences like (1a-c).

Japanese has another comparable construction with the verb *morau* ‘get/receive’ as exemplified in (2a), which differs in that the subject refers to the recipient, not the agent. The so-called adversative passive instantiated in (2b) amounts to a negative counterpart of the construction, in which the recipient receives an *unfavorable* rather than favorable effect.

Korean and Ainu seemingly lack equivalents to the Japanese *-te morau* construction and adversative passive (Hwang et al. 1988), where the recipient is coded in the subject. On the other hand, the so-called possessor raising construction, illustrated in (3a), could be viewed as a Korean counterpart of the *-te morau* construction and adversative passive, in which the “raised” object, not the subject, refers to the recipient of the relevant favorable or unfavorable effect. Although notions like “inalienability,” “affectedness,” and “entailment” somehow condition the acceptable uses (Kim 1999; Cho 2003; Bak 2004), an *unfavorable effect* (as in (3a-b)) or *favorable effect* (as in (3c)) on the first object entity (the recipient) seems to best characterize the constructional meaning.

Ainu has developed special pronominal prefixes (*enci=*, *unci=*) in some dialects, which are confined to the benefactive or adversative passive with a first person patient. Prefixed to verbs like *omap* ‘love,’ *otuwasi* ‘praise,’ *ere* ‘feed,’ *kore* ‘give,’ and *eiwanke* ‘employ,’ *enci=* (singular) and *unci=* (plural) depict the speaker(s) as having a *favorable effect* of the events encoded in the verbs. Likewise, they describe the speaker(s) as having an *unfavorable effect* of the encoded events when attached to verbs like *emina* ‘laugh at,’ *omante* ‘pack off,’ *eukoitak* ‘speak (ill) of,’ *mososo* ‘(disturb and) awake,’ *rayke* ‘kill,’ and *kikkik* ‘hit.’

Japanese and Korean have full-fledged benefactive and adversative constructions where any person (1-3) can be the agent and recipient; nevertheless, they differ in that the relevant recipient is typically encoded by the subject in Japanese but by the object in Korean. In contrast, the Ainu counterparts, the *V wa kore* construction ‘(do) me/us’ and *enci/unci* passive ‘I/We get (done),’ have very limited applicability in terms of person; the recipient must be the first person.

The present paper argues that the morphosyntactic and semantic-functional differences among those constructions reflect the degree of “de-subjectification” (Nakamura 2009) that each language has achieved (cf. “subjectivity” Langacker 1991). It further points out that the constructional differences could correlate with Talmy’s (1985) typological distinction between “verb-framed and satellite-framed languages.”
DATA and REFERENCES

(1) a. kii-te-ageta\(^1\) / kii-te-kureta\(^2\).
   listen-and-gave listen-and-gave
   ‘I listened (to you [him])/You listened (to him)/He listened (to her).’
   ‘He [You] listened to me/He listened to you [her].’

b. deur-eo jueossda.
   listen-and gave
   ‘I listened (to you [him])/You listened (to me [him])/He listened (to me [you/her]).’

c. inu wa i=kore.
   listen and me[us]=give
   ‘(Please) listen (to me [us])/*He [She/They] listened (to me [us]).’

(2) a. kii-te-moratta.
   listen-and-got
   ‘I [You/He] had myself [yourself/himself] listened to.’

b. (katteni CD-o motidas-are-te) kik-areta.
   without:permission CD-ACC take:out-PASS-and listen-PASS:PAST
   ‘I [You/He] had a CD (taken out and) heard (without permission).’

   Mary-NOM John-ACC face-ACC glaring
   ‘Mary glared at John’s face.’

   Vampire-nom John-ACC blood-ACC sucked
   ‘The vampire sucked John’s blood.’

c. hyeolgwan-i maghin hwanja-reul hyelgwan-eul ddulheo ju-gi.... (cf. Bak 2004)
   blood-vessel-NOM clogged patient-ACC blood-vessel-ACC bore-and give-ing
   ‘Unclogging the blood vessel of the patient who is suffering from clogged blood vessel....’

REFERENCES


