Reviews of "Studies in English Linguistics: A Festschrift for
Akira Ota on the Occasion of His Eightieth Birthday"
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Studies in English Linguistics: A Festschrift for Akira Ota on
the Occasion of His Eightieth Birthday is a monumental
collection of 90 articles from linguistics scholars and
researchers, throughout Japan and elsewhere. The articles
making up the volume were contributed by friends and students
of Professor Ota, including a large number of well-established
researchers. All of the articles are written in English.

The decision to honor Professor Ota with a volume of this
magnitude is easy to understand. Professor Ota's
contributions to the field of linguistics in Japan have been
both numerous and diverse. His on-going list of research
achievements -- including 87 publications listed at the
beginning of the volume -- spans a wide range of approaches to
language, from the philological and structural to the
generative, logical and pragmatic. His major works include
Phonemics of American English (1959), Tense and Aspect of
Present-Day American English (1963), About English Linguistics
and English Education (1977), and Semantics of Negation: A
Prolegomena to Semantics (1982). These larger solo works are
accompanied by a large number of shorter articles and co-
authored works. In addition to his own research, Professor
Ota has also made a lasting contribution to all linguists in
Japan, present and future, by contributing to the founding of
the English Linguistic Society of Japan in 1983. The founding
of this society has helped to bring linguists together from
across the country, and has helped to fuel the continuing
energetic growth of linguistics in Japan. Finally, Professor
Ota has contributed to the field by editing a number of works,
including the 15 volume Outline of English Linguistics, the 12
volume New Selections in English Grammar, and English
Linguistics: Journal of the English Linguistic Society of
Japan. Without a doubt, the current state of linguistics in
Japan owes a great debt to Professor Ota’s lifetime commitment
to the field.

In addition to honoring Professor Ota, Studies in English
Linguistics serves additionally to give a broad overview of
the areas in which linguists in and from Japan are working.
The book is organized into two parts, one on synchronic
studies and one on diachronic studies, with each part further
broken down into subsections. In the former are sections on
Phonetics and Phonology (5 papers), Morphology (4), Syntax
(34), Semantics and Pragmatics (14), Lexicon (4),
Sociolinguistics (3), and Japanese Studies (12). The latter
part contains sections on Phonology (4) and Syntax (10).
Contributors to the volume approach the study of language from
a wide range of different perspectives. This diversity of
approaches to language is by itself a tribute to the breadth
of influence that Professor Ota has had on the development of
the field of linguistics in Japan. The high quality of the
majority of the papers is a further tribute to the depth of
his influence.

The heterogeneity of Studies in English Linguistics shows
up not only in the many sub-disciplines of linguistics that
are addressed, but also in the diversity of topics taken up
within these sub-disciplines. The papers cover a considerable
range of empirical domains: syllable structure, stress,
second language acquisition and sound alternations in
Phonetics and Phonology; word formation, argument structure
and the interaction of morphology with syntax in Morphology;
quantifier scope, Case theory, predicate–argument structure,
binding phenomena, complement selection, inversions, ellipsis,
negative polarity items, resultatives and raising in Syntax;
aspect, lexical semantics, distributivity, principles of
conversation, and quantification in Semantics and Pragmatics;
cognitive structures, and information in learners'
dictionaries and corpuses in Lexicon; contact situations and
linguistic variation in Sociolinguistics; Case, comparative
discourse, null VPs, particles and speech errors in Japanese
Studies; sound changes in Diachronic Phonology; word order,
genitive NPs, existential sentences, that–trace effects, verb
second, lexical studies and variation in Diachronic Syntax;
and many other areas. The papers range from the narrowly
technical to the metatheoretical, some focusing on describing
unusual phenomena, others on refining current theory, and
still others on defending one theoretical approach to a
linguistic phenomenon against proposed alternatives. The
length of this review as well as limitations of the reviewer
preclude commenting individually on all of the contributions
or addressing specific arguments in detail. I have therefore
chosen to briefly comment on a wide selection of papers,
highlighting the aims of the papers and the approaches taken
within them. My goal in doing so is to convey a sense for the
scope of topics covered.

SYNCHRONIC STUDIES
PHONETICS AND PHONOLOGY

Haruko Miyakoda's "How to Deal with Problematic Onsets:
A Government Approach" argues that the apparently exceptional
behavior of certain consonant clusters in processes of open
syllable lengthening, gemination and reduplication can be
naturally accounted for within a theory of Government
Phonology. Miyakoda argues that the initial consonants of the
problematic clusters should be analyzed as segments of a rhyme
rather than as segments of an onset. When these clusters
occur string initially, Miyakoda proposes that they are
included in a rhyme with a phonetically null nucleus. This
proposal is both empirically substantiated and theoretically
justified, following from independently derived constraints on Government Phonology and on sonority restrictions in onsets.

MORPHOLOGY

Yoshiko Morita's "Out-Prefixation and Lexical Conceptual Structure" examines a group of lexical processes which change the argument structure of a predicate, including out-prefixation (Mary outlasted John), the way-construction (Bill belched his way out of the restaurant), resultative formation (Charlie laughed himself silly), the jump into-construction (Willy jumped into Harriet's arms), and verb-forming suffixation (-ize, -ify, -en). Morita argues that a single type of LCS formation rule which embeds a base verb's LCS into a causative LCS can account for each of these constructions, extending ideas of Kageyama (1994) and Carrier and Randall (1993).

Saeko Urushibara's "Facets of the English Past Participle" examines differences between passive and perfective uses of the English past participle, claiming that perfect participles have to appear with have, while passive participles can appear alone. Urushibara argues based upon these differences that passive past participles are stored directly in the lexicon in their participial form (e.g. give + EN → given), while perfect past participles are derived after spell-out under string adjacency with have (e.g. have + give → have given). Urushibara contrasts these cases with the case of present participles, which she argues involve affixation under structural adjacency in Morphological Structure after spellout (e.g. ing + give → giving).

SYNTAX

Shuji Chiba's paper "Negative Polarity Items and the Negative Complementizer" presents an overview of the question of how negative polarity items are licensed, in particular examining the arguments for treating NPIs as licensed by negative complementizers. He challenges this hypothesis by examining in detail data proposed by Culicover (1991) as perhaps the strongest piece of evidence in favor of the analysis, the contrast in (1) below.

(1)  a. Robin didn't say/denied that anything interesting happened
    b. That anything interesting happened, Robin *didn't say/denied.

Chiba does call into question the validity of Culicover's argument, concluding that the contrast in (1) does not force one to accept that NPIs are licensed by negative complementizers.

Brent de Chene's "Notes on Focus and Quantifier Scope in English" contains an excellent reanalysis of quantifier scope interactions. De Chene makes explicit the dependence of scope inversion on focus and intonation. As distinct from previous studies which have made a similar connection, de Chene further
analyses the phonological details of the intonation patterns needed to obtain scope inversion and methodically steps through a wide range of cases which sharpen the connections between Topic and Focus on the one hand and the scope of Universal and Existential quantifiers on the other. He uses the fine-grained data that he generates to argue for six syntactic positions, each associated with a particular combination of Topic/Focus and Universal/Existential quantification. Though the proposal he makes is best seen as a picture of how things work rather than a final analysis, it is a picture that brings much into focus that has too often been left a blur.

Joseph Emonds' "Stating Syntactic Co-Occurrence" argues that all selectional restrictions should be analyzed as purely syntactic. This bucks the trend, growing since Grimshaw (1979), of treating semantic selection as a necessary and potentially sufficient mechanism for accounting for co-occurrence restrictions that obtain between a head and its arguments. Emonds circumvents problems for previous syntactic analyses of subcategorization by modifying the classical analysis so that only cognitive/syntactic features of the lexical head of a sister can be subcategorized for, in essence expanding subcategorization to cover what was classically treated as the separate relation of selection. Emonds proceeds by determining first what essential role semantic selection plays in theories which posit such a device. He then shows for a few core cases how that essential role can be replaced by general interpretive principles combined with his extended view of subcategorization, making relational semantic information in lexical entries superfluous.

Masayuki Ikeuchi's "Economy and Chain Uniformity" proposes a minimalist analysis of argument/adjunct asymmetries in wh-island violations, super-raising violations, and superiority. Ikeuchi's analysis explains these phenomena in terms of the interaction of a novel principle of economy with a condition on well-formed chains, with chain well-formedness defined in terms of chain uniformity with respect to L/θ-relatedness. Notably, the analysis does not make use of *-marking of traces or of intermediate trace deletion.

Akira Ikeya's "Predicate-Argument Structure of English Adjectives" argues that aside from a limited set of exceptions, adjectives are one-place predicates. Modification of these predicates is argued to be possible along three dimensions -- a thematic dimension (e.g. good at basketball), a comparative/contrastive dimension (e.g. good for a short Japanese), and a degree dimension (e.g. very good). Ikeya argues that such modifiers are not adjectival arguments, but that they rather specify contextual factors which combine with a 'preproperty' in Bartsch's (1986/87) sense to yield an intension.

Toshiaki Inada and Noriko Terazu Imanishi's "Complement Selection and Inversion in Embedded Clauses" examines the
range of variation found in complement selection and inversion in embedded clauses in several English dialects. Inada and Imanishi thoroughly refute a CP recursion analysis of inversion which tries to correlate inversion with adjunction, and further argue against an analysis in which inversion is dependent on the strength of syntactically selected features in CP. They suggest instead that the possibility of embedded inversion correlates with the possibility of a clause bearing the illocutionary force of a direct question or exclamation.

Masaru Kajita's "Some Foundational Postulates for the Dynamic Theories of Language" outlines the basic tenets of a dynamic theory of language development. The central characteristic which distinguishes a dynamic theory from the instantaneous learning model is the assumption that grammar develops in stages, with successive stages of grammar constrained by the current stage of the grammar as well as by the data available to the child at that stage. Kajita elucidates the types of explanation possible within a dynamic theory, arguing that dynamic theories are better equipped than the instantaneous learning model for explaining the uniformity and diversity of adult grammars under a single model.

Yasuhiro Kato's "Negation and Formal Features" is concerned with accounting for the interaction of NPIs and negation in matrix clauses. Kato argues that sentences are universally marked for polarity, and that NPIs can only occur within a sentence marked +Negative Polarity. He shows how his proposal can account for the core cases used by Rizzi (1991) and Haegeman and Zanuttini (1991) to argue for NPI licensing as Spec-head agreement at S-structure, and uses Japanese data to suggest that the Spec-head agreement analysis should be replaced by his own Checking theory based upon feature movement.

Heizo Nakajima's "A Generativist View of the Cognitive Analysis of Raising" defends a generativist view of raising constructions against a cognitive grammar perspective. Nakajima uses raising constructions to examine the relation between linguistic competence and other cognitive capacities, arguing that the best explanation of the raising facts is one in which linguistic competence is taken to be separate from competence in other cognitive domains. Nakajima's insightful discussion and fair-handed treatment of the issues involved helps add to the forcefulness of his argument.

Tsuguyo Kono's "A Derivative Nominal Construction in English" argues that NPs of the form a plan of John's devising are derivative upon double genitives of the form a plan of John's. Kono argues within the dynamic framework of Kajita that the former class of NP came into being as a result of a violation of one-to-one correspondence between meaning and form in the latter. He shows that this analysis accounts for the overlapping properties of the two constructions while leaving room for their divergences as well.
Keiko Murasugi's "Some Notes on Argument Structure in Noun Phrases" argues that when/then and where/there are NPs which are potentially ambiguous between acting as arguments and acting as adjuncts. Murasugi argues in support of Grimshaw (1990) that the NPs in question can all be arguments of verbs but not of nouns, the latter accepting only PP arguments. As adjuncts, in contrast, they can modify either verbs or nouns. Where/there is argued to differ from when/then in being a potential argument of an event predicate. The analysis proposed, employing in addition independently required restrictions on adjunct WH phrases, elegantly derives an intricate pattern of acceptability judgments for occurrences of these NPs in single and multiple WH questions.

Masaru Nakamura's "On Resultative Constructions" argues that resultative interpretation derives from two sources: (i) conflation of a lexical semantic structure with [x CAUSE [y BECOME z]], and (ii) unaccusatives having the basic semantic structure [____ INCH [y BECOME z]]. Nakamura shows that this analysis distinguishes possible and impossible resultatives using independently established semantic structures and rules.

Yukio Otsu's "'Binding Phenomena' in Acquisition and Modularity of Knowledge" provides experimental evidence showing that coreference anaphora and binding anaphora are distinct phenomena, supporting the analysis of Grodzinsky and Reinhart (1993). Starting from the observation that children acquire coreference anaphora later than they acquire bound variable anaphora, Otsu shows a strong correlation in 3 and 4 year old children between acquisition of adult rules of coreference anaphora for pronouns and the possibility of obtaining a strict identity interpretation of a pronoun in VP ellipsis. He further shows that children having acquired the adult pattern for coreference anaphora are also capable of generating a sloppy identity interpretation for pronouns in VP ellipsis.

Takeru Suzuki's "Nominal/Verbal Concepts and Quantification: Towards a Minimal Theory of Functional Categories" proposes a theoretical reduction of syntactic functional categories to a single type, a Q which can combine recursively with either nominal or verbal heads. Merger with such a Q is argued to be interpretationally driven rather than feature driven. Suzuki further argues that the properties that distinguish Determiners, Quantifiers, Tense, Modals, and Aspect from each other derive not from distinctions in Q, but rather from distinctions in the expressions that Q merges with, with the domain of quantification of a given Q determined, for example, by the elements in its Spec and head positions.

Shigeo Tonoike's "Defective Paradigms and Case Theory" presents a Minimalist analysis of defective case paradigms like (2), noted in Postal (1993).

(2) a. John, who I assure you to be the best...
    b. *I assure you John to be the best
Tonoike argues that examples like (2a) can be accounted for by base-generating operators in A'-positions, and allowing such operators to form chains at LF with occurrences of PRO in A-positions. He accounts for the impossibility of passivization of the embedded subject by revising the shortest link requirement, arguing indirectly for the abolition of Agr as a node.

Takao Yagi's "Even and its Japanese Analog Sae: A Case Study on What Lies Beyond LF" uses distinctions between even and sae to argue that there is linguistic variation in levels of interpretation beyond LF, contradicting one of the central tenets of Chomsky's (1995) model of minimalist syntax. Yagi's argument is based on two empirical observations: (i) that the scope of even is essentially unbounded while that of sae is highly restricted; and (ii) that the focus of sae can be extended to a constituent containing that to which sae is attached, whereas a similar extension is impossible with even. Yagi argues that analyses of these phenomena which apply at the level of LF fail to account for the full range of usage of these particles, and proposes alternative analyses which

SEMANTICS AND PRAGMATICS

Yo Matsumoto's "Scales, Implicatures, and In Fact, If Not, and Let Alone Constructions" argues that the three constructions mentioned in the title are not valid diagnostic tools for identifying Horn scales, the scales that license Quantity implicatures. Though the scales that can be used in these constructions overlap with the Horn scales (cf. use of the Horn scale <hot, warm> in It's warm, in fact/if not hot; It isn't even warm, let alone hot), Matsumoto shows in detail that the conditions that restrict the use of scales in Quantity implicatures do not restrict the use of scales in these constructions, and that the restrictions that do obtain in the three constructions are construction specific.

*** Minoru Nakau’s “The ‘Actional’ Passive is No More” argues cogently that passive sentences are not cognitively synonymous with their active counterparts. This conclusion is based upon six arguments which together make it clear that passives are more complex than their corresponding actives. The lack of cognitive synonymy between active-passive pairs of sentences Nakau attributes to the syntactic and semantic nature of passive be, argued to be a main verb syntactically and a true predicate semantically.

Yuji Nishiyama's "Attributive Use and Non-referential NPs" argues persuasively that Donnellan's (1966) division of definite NPs into two classes -- those used referentially and those used attributively -- is insufficient. Nishiyama shows that definite NPs which are used specificationally, such as the definite description in Donnellan's classical example in (3), fall under neither of the two classes defined by Donnellan himself.

(3) Who is the man drinking a martini?
Nishiyama proposes that the definite description in (3) is interpreted as a one-place predicate involving a variable, and that this interpretation cannot be taken as a sub-case of either of the uses of NPs argued for by Donnellan.

Minoru Ohtsuki's "Categorization in Color Symbolism: Arbor Symbolica" proposes a model for enumerating the various symbolic meanings associable with color terms. The model consists of two parts. The first is a core of Initial Meanings (IMs), e.g. BLOOD, FIRE and the CONSPICUOUSNESS OF THE COLOR ITSELF for "red", derived from a limited number of operations applied to the color term. The second part consists of operations, again limited in number, which embed the output of other operations. The symbolism of sleep by the word "black" can be broken down in this model into a series of such embeddings of an initial IM: DARKNESS is a typical state that is black; NIGHT is a typical time involving darkness; SLEEP is a typical act involving night.

LEXICON
Shosuke Haraguchi's "Cognitive Structures and the Lexicon" examines the question of what role the mental lexicon plays in language. Haraguchi argues both against the traditional view, according to which the lexicon contains only language particular information on lexical items, and against the opposing extreme which sees lexical properties of a lexical item as largely determined by the language-independent meaning which the lexical item is used to convey. He proposes instead that the lexicon contains both universal semantic properties and language-particular properties, the former deriving from core cognitive meaning, and the latter rooted in culture.

SOCIOLINGUISTICS
Kenjiro Matsuda's "Variable Zero-Marking of the Accusative Case in Tokyo Japanese" statistically analyzes 13 factors which have been argued to influence the -o marking/zero marking alternation for accusative case. Matsuda concludes from this analysis that of the 13, only linguistic form of the object NP, adjacency between the object NP and the verb, speaker's sex and area of residence, and stylistic factors are needed to model the alternation. Matsuda further argues that the alternation is not functionally motivated, with overt marking appearing when not needed and disappearing when they would be most useful to a hearer.

JAPANESE STUDIES
Kunihiko Imai's "On the 'Over-Explicitness' of Some Japanese Utterances" compares the use of implicature in English and Japanese. Imai notes the relative abundance of the use of implicature in English in communicating ideas which in Japanese would require a more explicit style. These differences show up clearly in free indirect speech, irony and
jokes, where the implicature dependent message of an English utterance would be unrecoverable from a direct Japanese translation. Imai suggests that the differences between the two languages lie not in the structure of the languages themselves but rather in the people who use them.

Kazuko Inoue's "Reanalysis of the Japanese Case Particle Ni" examines occurrences of the case particle ni in O- and Ni-causatives, direct and indirect passives, and Ni-Ga potential sentences. Inoue argues that accounting for these separate uses of ni requires adopting multiple analyses of the case particle, with the ni in Ni-causatives and Ni-Ga potential sentences treated as inherent case markers, that in O-causatives as a morphological case alternation with accusative o, and that in indirect passives as structurally determined morphological case assignment. The analyses of ni are made within a broader analysis of case in Japanese which incorporates Marantz's (1992) case realization hierarchy within the framework of the "Principles and Parameters" approach.

Yasuo Ishii's "On Null VP's in Japanese" compares comparative deletion (CD) in English and Japanese, arguing that the superficially similar processes are structurally distinct. In contrast to English, where comparative markers attach to prenominal adjectives or quantifiers, Ishii argues that in Japanese, null comparative markers attach to predicates. Adopting Kikuchi's (1989) view that CD involves operator movement, Ishii goes on to show that differences between CD constructions in English and Japanese can be reduced to a difference in syntactic category of the operators involved -- DP in English and VP in Japanese.

Masahito Kawamori's "Epistemic Functions of Japanese Sentence Final Particles" provides a situation semantic analysis of -yo, -ne, and -yone. Kawamori argues that these particles are all indexical, in that their interpretation makes ineliminable reference to the speaker and hearer. Using this analysis together with simple conditions on knowledge and belief taken from epistemic logic, Kawamori shows how the proposed semantics can help to resolve the reference of zero pronouns through simple reasoning.

Naoki Nakajima's "Agentive De in Japanese: A Dynamic Approach" argues that Agentive NP-de (Taroo to Hanako-de tukue-o heya-ni hakonda) was dynamically derived from predicative NQP-de ((Taro to Hanako-ga) huta-ri-de tukue-o heya-ni hakonda, NQP = Numeral Quantifier Phrase) on the model of the subject NQP-de (Huta-ri-ga tukue-o heya-ni hakonda). Nakajima argues persuasively for the existence of two distinct positions which can be occupied by NP/NQP-de, outlining the basic characteristics of the distinct types of -de marked expressions in the process. He further argues that observed parallelisms in the behavior of Agentive NP-de on the one hand and predicative NQP-de and subject NQP-ga on the other can be
explained as a consequence of the model-dependent extension analysis given.

DIACHRONIC STUDIES
PHONOLOGY

Toshio Nakao's "The Old English Diphthongs Revisited" addresses the question of whether the digraphs <ea, eo (io)> represent both short and long diphthongs in Old English, or whether they represent short monophthongs [æ,e(i)] accompanied by <a, o>. Nakao gives evidence from typology, phonology, and metrics in support of the former position. After summarizing the historical changes that have occurred in English diphthongs from Old English to Present-day English, he then proposes two conditions -- the Vowel Saliency Condition and the Syllabism Condition -- as causes of these changes.

Norio Yamada's "Optimality Theory and English Historical Phonology" offers an OT theoretic account of diachronic processes of consonant deletion and epenthesis, and of consonantal and vocalic changes in Old English. Yamada shows that the observed changes can be accounted for as a direct result of the reranking of adjacent constraints (including adjacent constraint packages), suggesting that adjacency is a necessary condition on constraint reordering in diachronic change, and further shows that a single change in ranking order can account for apparently heterogeneous changes in gemination, degemination and vowel syncope.

SYNTAX

Masatomo Ukaji's "A History of Whether" traces the history of whether from the multifarious uses of Old English (OE) hwæ∂er to more restricted uses of its Modern English form. Ukaji posits its use as a declinable pronoun as the initial stage, and characterizes the processes and mechanisms of grammatical change which extended its use to an indeclinable pronoun, an indefinite pronoun, three types of conjunction, and an adverbal. He argues that the stripping of inflectional endings characterizing the transition from OE to Middle English was a necessary condition for grammaticalization of whether as a conjunction as well as for its use as an indefinite, and that the loss of whether as a conjunction introducing independent questions resulted from its becoming a non-integral part of a sentence.

Yoshihiko Watanabe's "On the Historical Development of the Complementation of the Adjective Glad and its Theoretical Implications" argues that the most basic subcategorization feature of an adjective is universally [+__#]. Watanabe bases this conclusion on a study of the development of complement selection for the word glad, arguing that the genesis of more complex subcategorization features for adjectives arise out of the reanalysis of adjuncts as complements. Watanabe concludes from this that subcategorization of adjectives differs universally from that of verbs. Complex subcategorization
features for adjectives, he argues, are derivative on a single most basic subcategorization feature and are only introduced into a language dynamically under restricted conditions. With verbs, in contrast, several distinct subcategorization features are argued to be basic and hence invariant among languages.

CONCLUSION
The diversity of topics covered in this volume make it a valuable reference book. The book will be useful for beginning students trying to find where their interests lie, for advanced students and researchers exploring any of the myriad topics addressed, and for anybody interested in gaining a broad perspective on the great variety of linguistic work which is being actively pursued by researchers connected to Japan. The 35,000 yen price tag will no doubt limit the number of copies sold to private individuals. However, for a department concerned with helping maintain the tradition of linguistic research in Japan to which Professor Ota has devoted his entire career, this volume will be a great asset.

References