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Abstract: Supplemental words and joint words in Japanese are collectively called joint words, which are one of the constituent elements of words. The scope of the ending words can be divided into two categories: 1) pure suffix words, which do not have the function of words; 2) words that can be used as suffix words, that is, the suffix words have the function of words. So how to judge whether the ending word has the function of a word? This article will take “げ”, “そう”, and “さ” as examples to discuss whether it has the function of a word, so as to provide some reference for judging the scope of the ending word.

Keywords: Suffix words; Conjunctive form; Modification; Function of words; Degree of combination

DOI: 10.47297/wspiedWSP2516-250003.20200404

1. Introduction

Makoto Tokie believes that the grammatical function of Japanese suffixes is to give different parts of speech to the original words while adding meaning, and he also proposed that some suffixes have the function of words. The following are three example sentences related to “げ”, “そう” and “さ” mentioned by Mr Tokie Seki in the “Japanese Texts and French Spoken Discourse”.

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We will start with the continuation of “げ”, “そう” and “さ” to analyze the modification relationship of the sentence to determine whether the three suffixes have the function of words.

2. Differences in Connection

The grammatical usage of “げ”, “そう” and “さ” as suffixes seems to be easily overlooked. In fact, these three words not only appear frequently in conversational texts, but are also used a lot in the text. Let’s first look at its explanation in the dictionary:

“げ” “Jieweyu” adjective の language stem, verb combination form, noun に付いて, adjective verb の語干に作る. 主にその様子を表す。

①かわいげがある. /Lovable
⑤楽しげに歌を歌っている. /Sing happily
⑥Use ありげに近づく. / Come in as if something is wrong

“そう” “Auxiliary Verbs” Adjectives, adjective verbs, verbs are used together in the form of に付いて, adjectives of verbs are に作る. そういう事、わけ、様子だ。

⑦食べたそうに見ている. / Staring eagerly, wanting to eat
⑧うれいそうな顔 /Beautiful expression
⑨少しも楽しくなさそうな様子. /As if not interested at all

“さ” “Jieweyu” adjectives, adjectives の語干に付け, nouns を作る. State, 気気持ち, nature, その Attribute そのもの, その Attribute を持つこと, その Attribute の度などを表す。

⑩この詩には明るさがある. (This poem gives people a sense of clarity)
⑪その人の願願さには関かされる. (That person’s boldness is surprising)
⑫かれの仕事のやり方には真面目さがない. He doesn’t have the energy to work seriously

It can be seen from the above that in the continuation: “さ” is preceded by adjectives and adjective stems; “そう” is preceded by adjectives, adjectives and verbs; and “げ” is followed by adjective stems. It can also be used in conjunction with verbs and nouns, and this kind of continuation occurs frequently.

Makoto Tokie believes that for ①, instead of understanding “雲いたげ” as a word, it is better to regard “わたしに何か雲いた” as a whole, which can also explain his Theories about suffixes. Similarly, in ②, we can also regard “地に次き” as a whole, and then connect “そう” to the following item. If understood in this way, the sentence before the suffix is used as a whole to modify the suffix, then the “げ” and “そう” of ① and ② have the functions of words. Is it true? In addition, we also found that in addition to adjectives before “げ”, there will also be cases where verbs are combined with forms and nouns, and “そう” will also be followed by adjective stems, for example:

①成人げ/Like an adult
②子Forげ/Like a child
③事ありげ/what’s the matter
④It means ありげ/looks very worried
⑤高そう/tall look
⑥寒そう/I feel very cold
⑦痛しそう/sorrowful look

3. “げ” and “そう” Followed by Verbs and Adjectives Respectively

Next, let’s compare the two cases of “げ” with a verb and adjective, and the two cases of “そう” with a verb and adjective, to see if they have word functions the difference.

◎The verb concatenated form に接する example

a 太郎は次郎にいわくありげに話す。
b スカートのすそが地に次きそうだ。

◎Adjective に接する例

A 太郎は次郎に楽しげに話す.
B スカートのすそが寒そうに揺すれる。

a, A modification relationship is as follows: a 太郎は次郎にいわくありげに話す。

A 太郎は次郎に楽しげに話す。

It can be seen that in a, “いわく” and “あり” form a subject-predicate relationship, and then “いわくあり” as a whole continues with “げ”。As Tokie Seki said, “げ” here should have the function of a word. In contrast, “げ” in A is followed by “楽し”, “楽し” and “げ” form a combined modification with the latter term “語す”, and then form a modified relationship with the previous term. From the perspective of the modification relationship of sentence structure, it is the modification relationship of “楽しげ=語す”。 “楽し” and “げ” form a unity and cannot be considered separately. Such a qualifier without the preceding clause does not have the function of a word. In other words, “げ” itself does not have the function of a word, because the preceding word has the function of a word.

Next, let’s look at the modification relationship diagram of b and B example sentences:

b スカートのすそが地に届きそうだ。

B スカートのすそが寒そうに揺すれる。

In the example b, “地に” and “日場” constitute a combined modification relationship, and then “地に次き” and “スカートのすそが” form a whole to modify “そうだ”。Corresponding to this, B is the first word formed by “寒” and “そう”，and “寒そう” and “揺すれる” form a modifier-modified relationship. From this we can conclude that both “スカートのすそが” and “地に” in case b are related to “揺すれる”，while “スカートのすそが” in case B skips “寒そう” directly modified “揺すれる”, the diagram showing the difference between the two is as follows:

4. Does “げ” and “さ” Have Word Functions?

Let’s continue to look at the case of the consecutive verbs before “げ”. When the consecutive verbs before “げ” are used, they often appear in the form of the consecutive verb “あり”, as in the examples ⑮ and ⑯. In such cases, “あり” “The corresponding subject must appear at the same time as “あり”, and when “げ” is preceded by an adjective, the preceding item does not require a modifier and can be used alone. Such as ⑰, ⑱. In other words, when the verb conjunctive form follows “げ”, the component that serves as the subject of “あり” will usually exist at the same time. Compared with the combination of the activator conjunctive form and “げ”, the conjugation degree of “あり” and the previous noun will be higher. For this reason, can we regard words like “いわくあり” as a compound word followed by the form of “げ”. Under this understanding, is it just a special case to think that “げ” here has the function of a word?

Let’s look at another case of “げ”. The stem of “たい” is added between the verb and “げ”, which means that the verb is used in conjunction with the form followed by “たげ”. Before that, let’s first look at the situation of “たい”.

c リンゴを食べたい

As shown above, “たい” has the function of a word. It can be seen that the previous example of “げ” is considered to have the function of a word. In fact, it is not that “げ” has the function of a word, but the combination of “た” and “げ” The function of a word. It can also be represented by an embedded structure:
It can be seen that d, D embedded structure, obviously D is more reasonable. In summary, the author does not agree with the view that “げ” has the function of a word because it is not universal. In addition, because there is “さ” in the second example, which is also considered to have the function of a word, like “た+げ”, “さ” also does not have the function of a word, but is combined with “た” to form “たさ” Only then has the function of words.

Let’s look at the following structure diagram:

Is this embedded structure reasonable? Can you understand the meaning of “よ” just by hearing it? The answer is no, and it is unreasonable from the perspective of language as the main body. In other words, when we hear a syllable like “ヨサ”, we first think of “良さ”. From this point of view, is the following embedded structure more reasonable?

In addition, three-syllable and four-syllable adjectives such as “うれし” and “すばらし” use stems. Because of their strong independence, we would think that they can express meaning when used alone, but in actual use, “うれし”、「すばらし」

There are few cases where they exist independently, but “うれし” and “すばらし” are followed by “さ” or other suffixes to form a modified relationship. “うれしさ” and “すばらしさ” also have the function of words.
5. Summary

Under what circumstances will the suffix have the function of a word: When the suffix is used in the form of the preceding verb, the suffix must form a modified relationship with the preceding sentence, that is, have the function of being used as a word. “げ” in this article is a special case and cannot be regarded as having the function of a word; and when a noun, adjective, or adjective is attached to a suffix, it will first form a whole with the preceding word. The suffix is an element of the word, that is, the suffix itself does not act as a function used by a word.

Works Cited