

Matela, Jiří

Subject in modern Japanese : summary

In: Matela, Jiří. *Podmět v moderní japonštině*. Vydání první Brno: Filozofická fakulta, Masarykova univerzita, 2017, pp. 253-254

ISBN 978-80-210-8671-5; ISBN 978-80-210-8672-2 (online : pdf)

Stable URL (handle): <https://hdl.handle.net/11222.digilib/137124>

Access Date: 06. 03. 2024

Version: 20220831

Terms of use: Digital Library of the Faculty of Arts, Masaryk University provides access to digitized documents strictly for personal use, unless otherwise specified.

SUMMARY

Subject in Modern Japanese

The aim of the present study is to evaluate the functionality of the descriptive category subject in modern Japanese. In the first chapters I briefly review the origin and evolution of the concept of subject in modern linguistics, especially within syntactic and typological research. I introduce multi-level approaches to sentence structure analysis and selected typological theories.

In the following chapter an outline of how subjecthood is approached in Japanese Linguistics is presented. In chapter 4 I introduce the theoretical background of my own theory, including the notion of linguistic categorization, meaning, sentence and construction. On cognitive and typological grounds, I also define basic word classes. The first four chapters provide relevant theoretical background for analyzing subject as a linguistic category whose central members are both prototypical agents and prototypical topics.

Chapters 5 and 6 represent a constructional analysis of [NP *ga*] and [NP *wa*], describing them in terms of schemas. The analysis is based on cognitive approach to grammar and goes from form to content (function). [NP *ga*] is classified as nominative – the participant of the basic domain

of conceptualization which is construed by the speaker as the most salient participant of the predication scope. I associate it with the role of subject within precessual constructions and with the role of object within ontological constructions. For [NP *wa*] a category of topos is set and defined as the entity with nominal profile which is introduced to the scene of utterance as a prominent element against the conceptual base. This general schema allows the topos to function as the sentence topic or to receive a contrastive focus (*toritate*) etc. In the analysis, I take account of the conceptual motivations, subjective and objective construal, and I try to address both notorious and peripheral constructions with an integrated apparatus. Since at the level of sentence, no single form corresponds to the subject prototype, I consider implementation of the category into the description of Japanese an *ad hoc* step (and for typological reasons, I associate subject in my description with the nominative case, i.e. with the construction [NP *ga*]).