

ABSTRACT

Insufficiently explored and/or understood aspects of the IHRCs of Japanese

Alexander Grosu and Koji Hoshi

The overarching goal of our presentation is to explore and shed novel light on a number of aspects of Japanese IHRCs, which aspects, in our view, have been insufficiently explored and/or understood in earlier literature. We have the following interrelated goals:

[1] To address certain phenomena for which questionable analyses have been proposed due to the potentially obfuscating effect of factors of two kinds (acting separately or in tandem): (i) homophony between IHRCs and either sentential complements or adverbial clauses, and (ii) the pragmatic restrictions subsumed by Kuroda's 'Relevancy Condition.'

The phenomena in question include: (a) The (in)sensitivity of these IHRCs to the Complex NP Constraint, (b) the (in)felicity of proper names and other definite descriptions as internal heads, (c) the (in)appropriateness of IHRCs as answers to direct wh-questions. In arguing for specific views on these phenomena, we will also propose a novel technique for distinguishing IHRCs from other homophonous constructions.

[2] To meet past challenges to the view that Japanese IHRCs are invariably definite/maximalizing, by (partly) tracing incorrect impressions to the contrary to the fact that the internal head is quantificationally independent of the entire IHRC.

[3] To investigate the (in)sensitivity of IHRCs with respect to adverbial islands.

[4] To point out important issues for further research with respect to the IHRCs of both Japanese and other languages.