

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*]).