

Japanese Aspects and Counterfactuals

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This talk presents a formal analysis of the Japanese aspectual morpheme *-tei* and its relationship to counterfactual expressions involving *-tara* and *-reba*. I will argue, following our former analysis in Igarashi and Gunji (1998) and revising it, that verbs and the affix *te* can take at most two aspectual VIEWS, which gives at most four combinations of aspectual views. I will show that three of them, except for the progressive view, have similarity in that they take the entire event as a whole in what I call the DEGENERATE form, which is argued to give the appropriate view suitable for counterfactuals.