

## The Origin of the Constraint on Case Particles in the Standard Japanese

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In the standard present-day Japanese, especially in its written form, non-case-marked noun phrases are generally not permitted. Nominative *ga* and accusative *o* are, therefore, obligatory for marking objects and subjects, except for cases where topic or contrast markers are attached.

In the dialects of the Kansai area, such constraint has been observed to be absent since the classical Japanese till the present-day. Dialects in the Yedo (present Tokyo), on the other hand, had the tendency to faithfully add case particles. Given the historical process of the genesis of Standard Japanese, the constraint on case particles should have originated in the Yedo Japanese, one of the eastern dialects.