

Ontogeny of an addressee honorific
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The importance of context is indisputable in linguistic approaches that examine language in use. It is not completely clear, however, what contextual factors are relevant and how they can be represented in grammatical constructions. In this paper, I discuss examples of grammatical constructions in Japanese that illustrate that the two types of “frames” proposed by Fillmore in his theory of Frame Semantics (e.g. 1977, 1982) are indeed crucial in incorporating relevant contextual information into a grammatical construction. The two ‘frames’ are: (1) what may be called a ‘cognitive frame’, which is evoked by lexical meanings and which contains cognitively profiled roles/elements, and (2) an ‘interactional frame’, which represents the conceptualization of the discourse situation between the speaker and the addressee – from knowledge of deictic categories to knowledge of discourse genres. The first type of frames, the ‘cognitive frame’, has received more focus in frame semantics research, but I will argue that both are necessary in descriptions of constructions and that the interaction of the two types of frames is a crucial part of construal.

One of the Japanese examples that I focus on is the non-subject honorific construction. Variations in the use of a productive form of non-subject honorific construction, *o* - Verb (stem) – *suru*, have often been regarded as grammatical deviations produced by speakers who lack the appropriate linguistic and social training. Examining attested discourse data of nonsubject honorifics, I argue that the nonsubject honorific construction in Japanese is undergoing a change and is becoming an addressee honorific. This change reflects a cognitive reorganization from the elements of the sentence to the speech context. Building upon a previous argument that non-subject honorifics are subject to a pragmatic condition of benefit transfer between the subject and nonsubject referents (Matsumoto 1997), and on the observation that speakers tend to present their actions as benefiting the addressee (Tsujimura, 1992), I suggest that the targeted referents of nonsubject honorification are reorganized to the two participants of the discourse: the speaker and the addressee. The variations in the *o*-Verb (stem) - *suru* form, therefore, can be more systematically explained from the constructional and frame semantics perspectives.

Crucial to discovering a system in these seemingly deviant variations is the concepts of frames, especially the combination of ‘cognitive frames’ and ‘interactional frames’. The advantage of using both types of frames to describe the *o*-V-*suru* construction is the capability of illustrating the relation between the contextual participants and the event participants, and how these two interact. The diagrams may be formalized, but what is important is that notions available in Frame Semantics and Construction Grammar well accommodate a systematic account of contextually dependent constructions, such as honorifics, including their variations and change. The findings in this light support Ostman’s proposal (2000) to extend the notion of construction and patterns to the level of discourse. The observations in this paper suggests that Frame Semantics and Construction Grammar provide the solid basis for further research in grammar and variations, an area in which current is greatly needed.