

## Postpredicate Elements: Field Scientists' Explorations in Japanese Everyday Talk

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Japanese, a 'predicate-final language', actually exhibits various types of elements occurring after the predicates and their associated elements (e.g., final particles), as illustrated in:

(1)

subarashii hon ga presento saretasoo desu kodomotachi kara  
wonderful book GA present do:PASS:PAST I.hear COP child:PL from  
'I hear (she) was given a wonderful book, from (her) children.'  
(Inoue 1976:176; romanization, glosses, and translation are mine)

(2) Talking about a custom in which Buddhist temples charge a fee for naming dead people with Buddhist names.

hen da yo ne are mo ne  
strange COP FP FP that also FP  
'Strange, that also is'

(3) Discussing the difficulty of M's being accepted into a graduate program.

H: demo wakannai jan.  
but understand:not FP  
'But (you) don't know'

M: un wanan[nai ne]  
mhm understand:not FP  
'mhm, don't know'

H: [sonna koto] itteta tte sa o.  
such thing say:STAT:PAST even.though FP  
'even though (you) are saying such a thing'

This phenomenon has been studied under various headings as postposing, right dislocation, and more recently increment, which have all been given various functional characterization as afterthought, repair, and defocusing. This presentation takes the form of a data session. Together with the workshop participants, I would like to examine a sample of postpredicate elements from everyday talk. We will see that it is actually rather difficult to even pin down the exact target of investigation. I hope this exercise will provide us an opportunity to observe the various factors and issues one faces in analyzing spoken language and to consider approaches one might take to deal with the phenomenon. This is part of an attempt to understand the grammar of spoken Japanese in particular and of human language in general.