

**Constructicon building in Japanese FrameNet:
What it reveals about English and Japanese frames and constructions**

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This paper discusses similarities and differences between English and Japanese frames and constructions, based on the author's work on the Japanese FrameNet project, which uses corpus approaches, Frame Semantics, and Construction Grammar for developing a lexicon and a "constructicon", a registry of constructions, of Japanese. It focuses on the question of the kinds of problems that arise when building a FrameNet for a language totally unrelated to English. The paper argues that in spite of the fact that existing frames originally defined for describing English words can also describe the meaning and uses of most of Japanese words, existing frames assume perspectives and lexical aspects (*aktionsart*) of English words rather than those of Japanese words (cf. Ohara 2012a), suggesting that frame definitions and frame-to-frame relations of Japanese may be different from those of English. As for the Japanese constructicon, building on a pilot study (Ohara 2012b), the paper points out the possibility that "purely syntactic constructions" may be missing in Japanese, unlike in English (cf. Fillmore et al. 2012: 12).

Pertaining to frames for Japanese words, there have only been a very few occasions in which semantic frames specific to Japanese have to be defined. Furthermore, differences in semantic frames needed for describing Japanese and English words do not have much to do with differences in individual frames (cf. Boas 2005, Ohara 2009). Rather they have more to do with differences in how to divide our background knowledge into different semantic frames. We have found out that many of the existing semantic frames, which were originally defined for analyzing the semantics of English words, pertain to the transitive perspective rather than the intransitive perspective. On the other hand, there are many Japanese words which incorporate the intransitive perspective (e.g. (1b)). In other words, many existing frames assume perspectives and lexical aspects specific to English words, which are not necessarily the same as those of Japanese words.

With respect to constructions in Japanese, we have identified three types of multiword expressions which cannot be annotated with our existing lexicon-building practices in the FrameNet style but which can be dealt with in the constructicon-building procedure. They are: complex particles (e.g. (2a)), complex auxiliaries (e.g. (2b)) and clause-level constructions (e.g. (2c)). As for the current debate on whether or not to allow purely syntactic constructions, so far we have not been able to identify "semantically null constructions" for Japanese, although English is said to have such constructions (Fillmore et al. 2012: 12).

In conclusion, the paper argues that English and Japanese frames assume different perspectives and lexical aspects, suggesting that the organization of frames for Japanese may be different from that of English. The paper points out that one of the types of constructions identified for English, namely, "constructions without meanings", may be lacking in Japanese. Finally, the paper will discuss implications of lexicon building and construction building in the Japanese FrameNet project to Frame Semantics and Construction Grammar.