

Person marking and its evolution in the history of Japanese

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Structure

1. Data
2. Heine and Song (2011): On the grammaticalization of personal pronouns
3. Proposal based on linguistic signs (Keller 1998)
4. Conclusions

Person markers in Japanese

1. Originally person markers
2. Derived from nouns
3. Derived from demonstratives
4. Designate first and second persons at the same time
5. Many have disappeared

Examples

koko ‘here’

- * *ここ*には弓場なくてあしかりぬべし。（蜻蛉日記 , 81/9, 974-995)
- * ‘There is no archery ground *here*. This is a problem’.

koko ‘I’

- * Speaker-designator
- * 「むかし、**ここ**は見給ひしは、おぼえさせ給ふや」と問へば。。。 (蜻蛉日記) (974-995)
- * [The author] asked: “Do you remember if you have seen **me** before? “

ware 'I'

- * Speaker-designator
- * われ、はかなくて死ぬるなめり。 (蜻蛉日記)
(974-995)
- * I may die soon when I lose my vigour and become enervated .
- * More frequent than *koko* 'I'

ware ‘you’

- * Hearer-designator
- * **われ**が乾糠の八蔵なれば、 ‘おれは丹波の与作
じゃ。
- * (近松・小室節 18c)
- * If **you**’re Hachizo of Hinuka, I will be Yosaku of Tanba.
- * Pejorative usage

konata ‘this direction’

- * *こなた*塞がりたりけり。(蜻蛉日記 974-995)
- * *This direction* is closed.

konata ‘I’

- * Speaker-designator
- * これも旅の歌には、**こなた**を思ひて読みけりと見ゆ。（十六夜日記 1279）
- * He appeared to have composed his travel poems thinking of **me**’.

konata 'you'

- * Hearer-designator
- * おせん殿には、**こなた**といふつはものあり。
- * (好色五人女 1686)
- * For Osen, there is a brave man like **you**.
- * Showing respect

anata ‘distant place’

- * Designating distant place
- * 川のあなたは絵にかきたるやうに見えたり。
(蜻蛉日記 974-995)
- * **The other side** of the river looks like a picture.

anata ‘that person’

- * Third-person designator
- * いなや、この萩窪の君の **あなた** への給ふことに従はず、（萩窪 10c）
- * Oh, you do not obey what Lady Ogikubo, said **that honourable person**... .

anata ‘you’

- * Referring to the 2nd person with respect (18c~)
 - * 1751-64 / 1764-72 ~
- * Referring to the 2nd person without respect (19c~)
 - * 1804-18~
- * Not used as the hearer-designator

Summary

- * Person markers shift from one personal category to another

	①	②	③
<i>ware</i>	I	→ pejorative you	
<i>koko</i>	this place	→ I	
<i>konata</i>	this direction	→ I	
<i>anata</i>	that place	→ that honourable person	→ honourable you

Heine and Song (2011)

Grammaticalization

- * Change to personal pronouns is part of grammaticalization
 - * Use of linguistic forms that are concrete, easily accessible, and/or clearly delineated to less concrete, less easily assessable and less clearly delineated meaning contents
 - * Unidirectionality
 - * Referential (concrete) → non-referential (non-concrete)

How did third/second/first personal pronouns arise?

- * Third person pronouns

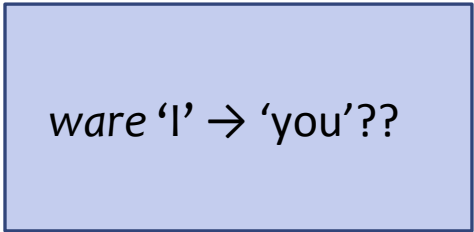
- * Spatial deixis (demonstratives) *anata* 'over there → third person'
- * Nominal concepts
- * Intensifiers

- * Second person pronouns

- * Third person pronouns *anata* 'third person → 'you''
- * Intensifiers
- * Nominal concepts
- * Spatial deixis
- * Plurification



Source concepts



ware 'I' → 'you'??

* First person pronouns

* Singular

* Spatial deixis

konata 'this direction' '→ 'I'

* Nominal concepts


* Intensifiers

* Plural

* Nominal concepts

konata 'I' →
'you' ???

Problems with grammaticalization

- * Canonical property of grammaticalization
 1. Extension - characterized by the bridging stage
 2. Unidirectionality
 - * ☹ Referential → non-referential
 - * Proposing
 - * Grammaticalization in a wide sense (GWS)
 - * Criteria are only partially met
 - * Grammaticalization in a narrow sense (GNS)
 - * All criteria are met
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Heine and Song (2011: 621)

- * “What the notion GWS exactly means with reference to a more general understanding of grammaticalization is an issue that is beyond the scope of the present paper and requires much further research”

Proposal

Linguistic signs

Keller (1998)

- * Intrapersonal shifts correspond with the development of semiotic communication encoded in linguistic signs (Keller 1998)
- * A linguistic sign is characterized by three components relevant to communication
 - * Symptomatic (“Indexical” for Peirce)
 - * Iconic
 - * symbolic

Symptom → Icon → Symbol ←unidirectional

Symptoms

- * The simplest and most archaic signs used for communication
- * Given rise to by causal inferences
 - * Blushing is a symptom of embracement
 - * Not intentionally used
 - * Part for whole, cause-effect, means-to-end
 - * Use of *koko* and *konata*

Icons

- * Icons are employed by the sign user to influence the addressee in communication
- * Associative inference
- * Typically impulsive, ad-hoc
- * I am pointing to my glasses to my friend who has left her own glasses in my room and is now getting into her car outside my house
 - * I am creating an iconic sign by imitation as well as the message: “You have left your glasses in my room
- * Use of *ware* and *konata* for 1st and 2nd persons

Symbols

- * When association becomes habitual, they become rule-based, and hence symbolic
- * Interpretations of expressions become more restricted, economical
- * Use of *anata* as 2nd person

Summary

symptomatic	iconic	symbolic
<i>Koko</i> <i>konata</i>	<i>ware</i> 'you' <i>konata</i> 'you'	<i>anata</i>
causal (part-to-whole)	ad-hoc compulsive prone to disappear	rule-based, stable

Conclusions

- * Intrapersonal shifts from one person category to another is ‘unidirectional’.
- * These shifts can be explained more naturally when we use the concept of linguistic signs as proposed by Keller (1998) in order to grasp the way our ancestors communicated.
 - * Symptomatic signs
 - * Iconic signs
 - * Symbolic signs

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- * ご清聴ありがとうございました。
 - * Thank you very much for your kind attention!

References

- * Heine, B. & Kyung-An Song (2011) On the grammaticalization of personal pronouns. *Journal of Linguistics* 47, 587-630.
- * Keller, R. (1998 [1994]) *A theory of linguistic signs*. Oxford: Oxford University Press.