2. Tense and aspect

NOTE: John runs should be included in (80), p. 364.

SQ1. What is ‘TENSE’?
→ the time of an event or a state relative to the time of SPEECH

What tenses are there in JPN?
→ past (-ta) & nonpast (-ru)

SQ1. What is ‘ASPECT’?
→ ways of viewing the internal temporal constituency

What aspects are important in JPN?
→ various; e.g. ‘progressive’ (V-te iru ‘is ...ing’).

Types of aspect

Lexical ~: a property inherent to the verb (or VP)
  e.g. ringo-o taberu (see below)

Grammatical ~: a property of a specific verb form
  e.g. tabete-iru ‘progressive’ & ‘resultative’

*Eat an apple* differs from *sit* in that there is a natural **endpoint** to *eating an apple*. There is a time at which the *eating (of an apple)* is finished. By contrast, it makes **no** sense to say that someone **finished sitting**.

How else do we express aspect?
→ in COMPOUNDS with aspectual verbs
  e.g. furu-dasu (unexpectedly) / furu-hajimeru ‘start raining’
  kaki-owaru / kaite-shimau ‘finish writing’

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SQ2. What does V-(r)u indicate other than non-past events & states?
→ (1) habitual events
  (2) instructions/procedures

What does -ta indicate?
→ Past events, states, & habits.

SQ2. What does VERB-ta indicate?
→ (1) PRESENT PERFECT ‘have (already) done…’, which focuses on the present state resulting from a past event.

**NOTE:** In classical JPN, there were 2 ways to indicate PAST tense (-ki, -keri) & 4 ways to indicate PERFECT aspect (-tsu, -nu, -tari, -ri). They all converged as –ta in modern JPN.

SQ3. It is actually common nowadays to say -te (i)na-i ‘haven’t done,’ instead of -na-kat-ta ‘didn’t do,’ in response to a question with an adverb indicating a specific past time like *kinoo* ‘yesterday’ and *kyonen* ‘last year.’

[TV interviewer asking people on the street]
A: Kinoo-no senkyo iki-mashi-ta-ka?
   ‘Did you go to yesterday’s election?’
NOTE: The -ta expressing ‘future completed state’ (p. 368) is analyzed in traditional Japanese studies as kakusei '(sudden) realization.' The verb need not be repeated.

a. **Atta!** ‘There it is/they are!; I found it/them!’
b. **Ita!** ‘There you are/he is!; I found you/him’
c. **A, basu kita!** ‘Oh, here comes the bus!; the bus is coming!’

SQ4. What are the ‘three additional functions’ of -ta?
→ (1) to express ‘future complete state’
→ (2) when recalling uncertain things
→ (3) blunt commands

**2.2. Aspect**

**2.2.1. Grammatical aspect**

SQ5. What does VERB-te-iru indicate?
→ (1) progressive ‘be …ing’
→ (2) resultative ‘have …ed’
→ (3) habitual ‘do…’

What is the difference between (a) & (b)?
(a) **Watashi-wa maiasa 5-mairu hashiru.** (=85)
(b) **Watashi-wa maiasa 5-mairu hashitte-iru.** (=100a)

→ **V-te-iru** sounds temporary, & **V-ru** sounds more permanent
Cf. (c) **Watashi-wa konogoro (OR saikin) 5-mairu**
   { ?hashiru / hashitte-iru }.
BTW

SQ8. What does each of the following sentences mean?
   a. Mado-ga shimatte-iru
   b. Mado-ga shimete-aru.
   c. Mado-o shimete-iru.

p. 375

SQ9. Read the explanation on te-shimau ‘finish …ing’ on p. 375.
Is the following a counterexample? (Be sure NOT to confuse it with the other te-shimau meaning ‘regrettably.’)

Kyoo-wa moo hashitte-shimatta / hashit-chatta.

p. 375

2.2.2. Lexical aspect

What are the 4 classes of verbs/VPs in English based on the aspectual properties? Give an example of each, and describe the characteristics of each class.

→

(118), p. 375 を見る！

pp. 375-376

Classification of Eng Vs/VPs Based on the Aspectual Properties

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>English Classification of Vs/VPs</th>
<th>States (have a car)</th>
<th>Activities: swim, drive a car</th>
<th>Accomplishments: build a house, draw a circle, eat an apple</th>
<th>Achievements: arrive, die, find</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Progressive</td>
<td>×</td>
<td>○</td>
<td>○</td>
<td>×</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>for an hour</td>
<td>○</td>
<td>○</td>
<td>×</td>
<td>×</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>in an hour</td>
<td>×</td>
<td>×</td>
<td>○</td>
<td>○</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>begin / finish …ing</td>
<td>×</td>
<td>○</td>
<td>○</td>
<td>×</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

p. 377

(1) What are the 4 classes of verbs in JPN based on the aspectual properties? Give an example of each.
(2) How do they compare with the classification of verbs in English?

→

Classification of JPN Verbs Based on the Aspectual Properties

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Stative (States)</th>
<th>Continuative (Activities)</th>
<th>Instantaneous / change of state (Achievements)</th>
<th>Type 4</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>aru, dekiru, iru ‘need’</td>
<td>yomu, furu, hataraku</td>
<td>tsuku ‘arrive,’ shinu, okiru</td>
<td>sobieru ‘tower,’ sugureru ‘excel’</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>No endpoint</td>
<td>No endpoint</td>
<td>ENDPOINT</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

+ te iru × Progressive Resultative MUST be in te iru

(123)-(132), pp. 377-379 を見る！

p. 379

What is the function of te-iru that is common in both progressive and resultative types?
→ It presents ‘a state of affairs as existing in a homogeneous, unchanging fashion over a given interval of time’ (Jacobson 1992).

Can you express the meaning ‘accomplishment’ in JPN?
→ Yes; e.g. 300-peeji no hon o kaku, ie o tateru

(136)-(137), p. 381 を見る！

What are the common transitive-intransitive verb pairs?

→

(138)-(141), pp. 381-382 を見る！
W.r.t. the morphologically-related t.v.-i.v. pairs, there is an overwhelming tendency for t.v.+te iru to be interpreted as **progressive**, and for i.v.+te iru to be interpreted as **resultative**.

(142)-(144), p. 382 を見る！

W.r.t. the morphologically-related t.v.-i.v. pairs, what thematic role does the subject of i.v. bear? e.g. Denki-ga tsuku.

→ Theme (=entity that undergoes change of state or location).

p. 383

W.r.t. the morphologically-related t.v.-i.v. pairs, what thematic role does the subject of t.v. bear? e.g. Ken ga denki-o tsukeru.

→ Agent (=intentional entity that brings about the action denoted by the verb).

W. What do examples (145)-(148) on p. 383 illustrate?

→ Some instances of t.v.+te-iru express resultative; and some instances of i.v.+te-iru express both resultative & progressive.

(145)-(148), p. 383 を見る！

p. 384

The aspectual properties of Vs & VPs, together with the notion of agentivity, play a significant role in accounting for the distribution of the semantic interpretations of the te-iru construction.

REVIEW: **Stative** verbs do **NOT** appear in te-iru.

What do Stative PREDICATES consist of?

→ Stative verbs (=verbs that refer to static situations):
   e.g. dekiru ‘can do,’ iru ‘need’
   Adjectives: e.g. oishii, hoshii, VERB-tai
   Adjectival nouns: e.g. joozu, kiree

 Tsujimura (2007), Ch. 6 (2), 7 of 9

p. 385

Why are (152) & (153) well-formed despite the fact that dekiru & wakaru appear in te-iru?

→ They can be classified as **Achievement** verbs, as well as **Stative** verbs

  dekiru: ① ‘is competent’; ② ‘become competent; be made’
  wakaru: ① ‘understand’; ② ‘come to understand; get (it)’

  dekite-iru: ③ ‘S/he became competent, and the result is still in effect’
  wakatte-iru: ③ ‘S/he got it, and the result is still in effect.’

What are the 3 interpretations of sentences like (a) and (b)?

HINT: Try adding different adverbs like moo ‘already,’ maeni ‘before,’ & saikin yoku ‘often recently.’

a. Ken-wa koko ni kite-iru.
   b. Mari-wa daigaku ni itte-iru.

(1) Resultative
(2) Past experience/record
(3) Habitual

NOT Progressive.

Cf. Ima mukatte-iru (tokoro/tochuu da).
‘S/he’s on her/his way.’

(155)-(160), pp. 385-387 を見る！

Tsujimura (2007), Ch. 6 (2), 8 of 9
What are the major semantic properties expressed by stative predicates?

**By Stative verbs, adjectives, & adjectival nouns:**

1. Competence; e.g. *dekiru, hanaseru*
2. Non-intentional perception; e.g. *wakaru, mieru, kikoeru*
3. Possession or need; e.g. *aru, nai, iru* ‘need’

**By adjectives & adjectival nouns:**
4. Psychological state; e.g. *hoshii, suki, kowai* ‘scared’

What is ‘Ga/Ni Conversion’ (Kuno 1973)?
→ Substitution of *ni* (Dat) for *ga* (Nom) for the subject NP.

Why are sentences (163) & (164), pp. 388 bad?
→

SQ6. (1) Can all [NP-*ga* NP-*ga* Stative Predicate] be converted to [NP-*ni* NP-*ga* Stative Predicate]? → No, just some.

SQ7. [To JPN speakers] Which sounds more natural, (a) or (b)?
Is (c) better or worse than your choice above?

Anata- (*a ga / b ni*) sonna koto-*ga* deki-*ru*-no?
c. Anata-*wa* sonna koto-*ga* deki-*ru*-no?
‘Can you do such a thing?’

Exercises