

言語学

(1) 日本語の表現は、英語の表現に比べて一般にコンテキストへの依存度が高いと主張されることがある。そのような主張の根拠と考えられる現象の例を複数挙げるとともに、それらが実際に根拠になりうるか否かについて論じなさい。

(2) 次の英文を読んで、後の問いに答えなさい。なお表記は一部簡略化している。

A cross-linguistic investigation of the issues that are raised in connection with the establishment of nouns as a word class in its own right reveals that languages can be divided into three types:

1. languages without a major word class of nouns;
2. languages in which nouns cannot be distinguished from other word classes (verbs, adjectives);
3. languages with a distinct class of nouns.

There is some controversy over the question whether there really are languages without noun, but experts seem to agree that in Cayuga, Tuscarora, Mohawk, and other Iroquoian¹⁾ languages nouns are at best a minor word class. Sasse (1993) has argued that Cayuga does not have nouns but only verbs, which can be divided into two subcategories. The first group consists of a small number of uninflected and monomorphemic²⁾ forms which Sasse calls *Simplizia*. To this subcategory belong a number of animal names, a few loanwords, and words of unknown origin that are used for objects: *twe:twe:t* ‘duck’, *ka’ka* ‘crow’ etc.

The second subcategory contains a large group of roots³⁾ (*Wurzeln*) that occur with at least one pronominal prefix and an aspect suffix. Sasse (1993:206) distinguishes between two kinds of roots: R1 and R2 roots. R1 roots normally only appear with one pronominal prefix (usually the third person singular non-human form) and a stative aspect⁴⁾ suffix. They are largely used to refer to discrete physical objects, e.g.: *ka-nhoh-a* ‘it is a door’ (*/-nhoh-/* ‘[be a] door’), *ka-nyot-a* ‘it is a spoon’ (*/-nyot-/* ‘[be a] spoon’). R2 roots, on the other hand, can occur with all pronominal, tense, aspect, and mood affixes as well as with other kinds of affixes, e.g. *ha-hyato-ha* ‘he writes it (down)’ (*/-hyato-/* ‘write down’), *a-k-a:tkeh* ‘I stood up’ (*/-a:tkeh-/* ‘stand up’), *o-yanr-e* ‘it is good’ (*/-yanr-/* ‘be good’).

In short, in Sasse’s view speakers of Cayuga commonly refer to an object by means of a phrase whose nucleus consists of a R1 root, which is basically a verbal predicate. The only difference between R1 and R2 roots is that the former occur with a subset of the person and tense/aspect/mood affixes that can appear on R2 roots. Sasse concludes that Cayuga does not have a lexical category that can be characterized as noun. (中略)

Samoan also seems to have only one major word class, but it differs from Cayuga and Tuscarora in that its members are extremely flexible; they may be used as a verb, a noun, or an adjective. Consider, for instance, the following citation from Mosel and Hovdhaugen (1992: 73,74,77):

“Many, perhaps the majority of, roots can be found in the function of verb phrase and NP⁵⁾ nuclei and are, accordingly, classified as nouns and as verbs. This does not mean that a noun can be used as a verb or a verb as a noun or that we have two homophonous⁶⁾ words, one being a noun and the other being a

verb. Rather, it means that in Samoan the categorization of full words is not given a priori in the lexicon. It is only their actual occurrence in a particular environment which gives them the status of a verb or a noun. What is given in the lexicon, is not a particular word class assignment, but the potential to be used in certain syntactic environments as a noun or a verb.”

“Although certain full words seem to be used more as verb or more as an NP nucleus for semantic reasons, there are no lexical or grammatical constraints on why a particular word cannot be used in the one or the other function.”

“Most Samoan equivalents of English adjectives, particularly the typical ones, are full words which function not only as attributes, but also as a noun or verb phrase nucleus, e.g. *lelei* ‘(be) good’, *leaga* ‘(be) bad’.”

¹⁾ Iroquoian 「イロコイ語族の」 ²⁾ monomorphemic 「一形態素から成る」 ³⁾ root 「語根」 ⁴⁾ stative aspect 「状態相」 ⁵⁾ NP 「名詞句」 ⁶⁾ homophonous 「同音の」

(a) Cayuga 語と Samoa 語には、名詞という語類に関してどのような違いがあるか。本文に基づいて説明せよ。

(b) 日本語と英語は、本文中の 1~3 のどのタイプに分類されると考えるか、根拠とともに書け。