

ADVERBS OF THE DEGREE IN JAPANESE LANGUAGE AND THEIR CLASSIFICATION

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Abstract. This article discusses the existing classification of comparative adverbs in Japanese language and provides a classification of the adverbs of degree according to their intensity. There is given an explanation of the use and differences of adverbs using examples from Japanese literature.

Keywords: adverb, classification of adverbs, adverbs of degree, degree of intensity of adverbs, comparative degree, superlative degree.

I. INTRODUCTION

An adverb is a category of lexical-semantic types of words endowed with rich, diverse meanings. Adverbs are significant unchangeable words that perform an adverbial function, characterizing the quality, the degree of manifestation of a sign, action, state.

An adverb in Japanese is a class of lexically significant, syntactically independent, morphologically unchangeable words that have a generalized categorical-grammatical meaning of a static feature and characterize a feature expressed by a verb or an adjective, or have a generalized categorical meaning of a specific verbal characteristic of a sentence as a whole, some of its components and, finally, the generalized categorical meaning of the exponent of the syntactic connection of sentences or their parts [1].

Professor Haruo Shirane defines the adverb (副詞) as unchangeable significant words that define such changeable words as verbs, adjectives, and adjective verbs. There are three numerous groups of adverbs - 1) adverbial adverbs, 2) degree adverbs and 3) related adverbs [2].

Of these three groups, our research will take a closer look at the adverbs of degree.

Degree adverbs (程度の副詞) in Japanese answer the questions "How much? To what extent?". Adverbs of degree can specify not only the action expressed by a verb, but also the quality expressed by an adjective or a feature expressed by an adverb: 今年は雪がととても深い。 [6] "This year the snow is very deep."

とてもすらすら読める。 [6] "I can read it very easily."

Adverbs of degree, in addition, can clarify nouns with the meaning of quality, direction or time. Such adverbs, however, are relatively few; these are words such as やや *yaya*、少し *sukoshi*、もっと *motto*、ずっと *zutto*、なかなか *nakanaka*, etc.

あなたはずいぶん子供たちだね。 [10] "You are still such a child."

Nouns with the meaning of quality can subordinate adverbs to the degree in a sentence only with a subsequent link. Nouns expressing direction or time subordinate adverbs to degrees, regardless of whether these nouns are followed by a bundle or some case indicator.

もっと後の席に座りましょう。[10] “Let's sit further away (from the stage)”.

II. MAIN PART

There are several variations for classifying Japanese adverbs. For example, Professor Chino Naoko has classified the degree adverbs according to the way they are used in speech. She divided them into 5 groups [9]:

1. Adverbs of degree that reinforce the statement. This group is divided in turn into 3 subgroups. There she included such degree adverbs as 大いに ooini “to a large extent”, きわめて kiwamete “sorely”, ごく goku “extremely, very”, 実に jitsu ni “really”, ずいぶん zuibun “pretty, decent”, たいそう taisou “very”, 大変 taiheng “very”, とても totemo “very”, 非常に hijyou ni “very, extremely”, ずっと zutto “much”, ぐっと gutto “much, more, absolutely”, はなはだ hanahada “very, extremely”, やたら yataru “thoughtlessly, without restraining”.

2. Adverbs of degree, softening the degree of utterance. This group includes adverbs such as かなり kanari “rather, comparatively”, 相当 shoutou “considerably”, だいぶ daibu “rather”, なかなか nakanaka “pretty, very”, よほど yokho “very, much”.

3. Adverbs expressing the growth of the degree. These are adverbs such as ますます issou “more and more”, さらに sarani “further, additionally”, なお nao “more”, なおさら naosara “still more”, ますます masumasu “more and more”, もっと motto “more”, よけい yokei “unnecessarily, in addition”.

4. Adverbs of degree expressing choice. For example, いっしょ issou “rather, sooner”, かって kaette “opposite, vice versa”, しろ muschiro “rather, better”.

5. Degree adverbs using こ ko ・ そ so ・ あ a ・ ど do, or qualitative demonstrative adverb pronouns. For example, こんなに konnani (そんなに sonnani, あんなに annani) “so, such”, どんなに donnani “how”, こう kou (そう sou, ああ aa) “so”, どれほど dorehodo “how much”, いかん ikani “how”.

But, having examined all the existing classifications of adverbs of degree in Japanese, we found that no one before us had classified according to the degree of intensity of adverbs. Based on the classification of degree adverbs in general linguistics, we have grouped the degree adverbs into comparative and superlative degrees. And already within each group, we distributed the adverbs of the degree according to their intensity. Thus, we divided the comparative degree into 5 subgroups (from weak to strong):

1. 割合 wariiai, 比較的 hikakuteki, まあまあ maamaa

2. よけい yokei, いっそ isso, もっと motto
3. いっそう issou、なお nao、ますます masumasu
4. なおさら naosara、さらに sarani
5. ずっと zutto, ぐっと gutto.

Adverbs of the superlative degree we also divided into 5 subgroups (from weak to strong):

1. かなり kanari, 相当 soutou, だいぶ daibu, なかなか nakanaka, ずいぶん zuibun
2. とても totemo、よほど yohodo、たいそう taisou、大変 taihen、非常に hijyouni
3. 大いに ooini, きわめて kiwamete, ごく goku, 実に jitsuni
4. さんざん sanzan, はなはだ hanahada, やたら yatara, すごく sugoku
5. 最も motto, 一番 ichiban, 最高に saikouni.

We based our classification on examples from Japanese fiction and Japanese grammar books. Further, we show and explain the differences in the intensity of adverbs and methods of use by examples.

III. RESULTS AND DISCUSSIONS

We defined the comparative degree of an adverb as adverbs of a comparative degree, because in a sentence they express a comparison. Let us dwell on each of these adverbs in detail and try to show the difference between them using examples from Japanese fiction.

In the first subgroup, we defined such adverbs as 割合 wariai, 比較的 hikakuteki, まあまあ maamaa, because compared to other adverbs they have a lower degree.

The adverb 割合 is translated “comparatively” and is used when comparing the state of the object at the time of the utterance with its previous state or the speaker's assumptions.

父は割合元気だ。 [8] “Dad is comparatively better (fine).”

The adverb 比較的 also translates as “comparatively, relatively”. As well as 割合 is used when comparing the state of the object at the time of the utterance with its previous state or the speaker's assumptions. But it is used more often in official speech.

解決は比較的容易である。 [4] “The solution is comparatively easy.”

The degree adverb まあまあ translates as “comparatively”. Used in colloquial speech when the quality of the object is better than average.

「この映画どうだった？」 「まあまあ面白かったよ。」 [7] “Well, how do you like this movie?” “It was pretty interesting”.

In the second subgroup, we included adverbs of the degree よけい yokei, いっそ isso, もっと motto. Their degree is slightly higher than that of comparative degree adverbs of the first subgroup.

The adverb of the degree よけい translates as “even more, more”.

登校拒否の子供に学校へ行くように注意すると、よけい学校へ行きたがらなくなるそうだ。 [9] “If you pay attention to children who refuse to go to school, they won't want to go there even more”.

The degree adverb いっそ translates as “rather, sooner”. In the second part of the sentence, there is a strong desire or determination.

卒業してもいい仕事がないのなら、いっそ今すぐ大学をやめて仕事を探そうか。 [8] “Since even after graduation there is no good job, maybe I should quit my studies at the university right now and go look for a job?”

The degree adverb もっと translates as “more”. It is more conversational.

もっと勉強しなければならない。 [8] “Need to learn more”.

The third subgroup includes the adverbs いっそう issou、なお nao、ますます masumasu. They express a higher degree of comparison.

The degree adverb いっそう translates as “even more”.

この二、三日、いっそう寒さが増している。 [3] "These two or three days, the heat just got worse."

The degree adverb なお also translates as “even more”.

祖父においてもなお精力的に仕事を続ける。 [4] "Even as an old man, he continues to work harder."

The adverb ますます translates as “more and more”.

喫煙者に対する批判がますます高まっている。 [7] "Criticism regarding smokers is growing more and more."

The fourth subgroup includes the adverbs なおさら naosara and さらに sarani. Their degree is the highest among comparative adverbs.

The adverb なおさら translates as "even more, still more."

新婚旅行に行けば、結婚費用はなおさら多くなる。 [2] "If you go on your honeymoon, your wedding expenses will be much higher."

The adverb さらに translates as "even more, beyond that." This adverb is more often used in writing.

このままでも十分おいしいのだが、クリームを入れるとさらにおいしくなる。 [7] "It's already tasty enough, but adding cream will make it much tastier."

The last fifth subgroup includes the adverbs ずっと zutto and ぐっと gutto.

The degree adverb ずっと translates as “much”. Expresses a significant difference in objects.

このカメラのほうが本田さんのより、ずっと性能がいい。 [7] "This camera is much better in performance than the Mr.Honda's one."

The adverb of the degree ぐっと translates as "much, suddenly, immediately" and expresses a big difference in the state of the object now from the state before.

あのピアニストの演奏は、最近ぐっと音色が美しくなった。 [10] "That

pianist's performance has become much more beautiful in tone lately."

Next, consider adverbs of the superlative degree.

The first subgroup includes adverbs of the degree **かなり** kanari, 相当 soutou, **だいぶ** daibu, **なかなか** nakanaka, **ずいぶん** zuibun.

The adverb of degree **かなり** is objective, indicates one's own assessment of the degree, it is used when waiting for approval from the interlocutor. It translates as "rather, comparatively".

彼は高校時代1年間イギリスに留学していたから、英語がかなりできるはずだ。[7] "He studied abroad in England for a year in high school, so he should be able to speak English quite well."

The adverb **相当** is stylistically universal and translates as "pretty". It is used when you judge something by any one part. It is often followed by expressions of assessment and assumptions.

田中さんは、帰宅途中に酔っ払いに絡まれて、相当ひどい目にあっらしい。[4] "Mr. Tanaka seems to have been quite terrible because he was entangled in drunkenness on his way home."

The adverb of the degree **大分** is colloquial and translates as "much, very, considerably". It is used when one speaks objectively and calmly about an event without hinting at certain feelings.

引越しの日が近づいて、家の中も大分片付いた。[6] "As the day of the move approached, the house became quite clean."

The adverb **なかなか** translates as "quite". It is often used to express something good when the results are actually higher than expected or anticipated.

子供が書いた絵ですが、なかなか上手ですね。[10] "It's a picture written by a child, but it's pretty good."

The adverb of the degree **ずいぶん** translates as "a lot" and is often used for simple statements of facts. It is used in colloquial speech between loved ones.

「今日はずいぶん遅かったけど、どうしたんですか。」「いやあ、電車が止まっちゃって、困りましたよ。」[4] "You are very late today, what happened? - The train stopped running, and I found myself in a difficult situation"

Also, the adverb **ずいぶん** expresses long time.

今日はずいぶん歩いた。[8] "I walked a lot today."

In the second subgroup there are adverbs of degree **とても** totemo、**よほど** yohodo、**たいそう** taisou、**大変** taihen、**非常に** hijouni.

The degree adverb **とても** is often used colloquially and is translated as "very".

今度の新入社員はとてもよく働く。[6] This new employee works very well".

とても is also used with negation **ない** and expresses the speaker's private assessment that no matter how they do it, everything is useless.

こんな難しい問題はとても私には解けません。[7] “I can't solve such a difficult problem.”

But in this case, the adverb of the degree とても～ない should be attributed to the negative degree of adverbs.

The adverb 余程 translates as “very, quite, greatly” and is often used colloquially.

余程疲れていたんだらう。弟は帰ってくるとご飯も食べずに寝てしまった。[5] “I think he was very tired. When my brother came home, he fell asleep without eating any food.”

But, if before 余程 comes ～の方, then 余程 becomes a comparative adverb and can be included in the third subgroup of comparative adverbs.

私達の若いころより、現代の若者方が余程保守的だ。[10] “Today's young people are much more conservative than when we were young.”

The adverb たいそう translates as “very” and is a bit outdated. Young people don't use it.

夏目漱石の授業は、学生の間でたいそう評判が悪かったそうです。[7] “Natsume Soseki's class was very unpopular among students.”

The adverb of the degree 大変 translates as “very” and is more of an official word.

平畑先生は大変お世話になりました。どうもありがとうございます。[3] “Mr. Hirahata, you were very kind to me. Thank you very much.”

The adverb of the degree 非常に is translated as “very, extremely” and is used more often in business speech.

このお寺は奈良時代に建てられた、非常に貴重な建物です。[4] “This temple is a very valuable building built in the Nara period.”

The third subgroup includes the adverbs 大いに ooini, きわめて kiwamete, ごく goku, 実に jitsuni.

The adverb of the degree 大いに translates as “to a large extent”. It is often followed by past-tense verbs and verbs expressing motivation or intention ～しよう、～したい、～した.

今夜のパーティーは、親しい人ばかりですから、大いに楽しくやりましょう。[7] “Tonight's party is full of close friends, so let's have a lot of fun.”

The adverb 極めて is used mainly in official speech and translates as “extremely, very”.

この季節に桜の花が咲くのは極めてまれである。[7] “Cherry blossoms are extremely rare in this season.”

The adverb ごく translates as “extremely, very”. It is not used with adjectives that express something large, such as 大きい “large,” 高い “tall,” 遠い “far,” 長い “long,” 重い “heavy,” 多い “many”.

山田さんはごく親しい友人です。[7] “Mr. Yamada is my very close friend.”

The adverb 実に translates as "really". It is used in business speech. It expresses admiration or surprise.

きのうまで賛成していた野口さんが、突然反対するなんて実に不思議だ。[5] “It is really strange that Mr. Noguchi, who had been in favor until yesterday, suddenly opposed it.”

We have combined the following degree adverbs into the fourth subgroup: さんざん sanzan, はなはだ hanahada, やたら yataru, すごく sugoku.

The degree adverb さんざん translates as “completely, absolutely” and expresses a very terrible state. Not used in a positive sense.

成績が悪かったので、母にさんざんしかられた。[7] “Mom scolded me terribly because of poor grades”

The degree adverb はなはだ translates as "very, extremely" and heightens emotions. It is often used in a negative sense.

夜、この辺は暴走族が集まるので、主民ははなはだ迷惑している。[6] “Since a gang of rowdy motorcyclists gathers in this neighborhood in the evening, this is extremely disturbing for residents”

The adverb of the degree やたら is translated “extremely, terribly”, it expresses a state in which there is no systematic.

暑いからと言って、やたら冷たいものばかり食べていると、おなかをこわしますよ。[5] “Even if it's hot, if you eat only extremely cold foods, you'll get sick.”

The degree adverb すごく translates as “terribly, very” and is used only in colloquial speech.

「この前のテスト、どうだった。」「がんばったおかげで。すごくよかったんだ！これからがんばろう！」[8] “How was your last test?- Thanks for my hard work, it was great! I will do my best again!”

In the fifth subgroup, we included adverbs such as 最も mottomo, 一番 ichiban, 最高に saikouni.

The adverb 最も is translated as "most".

太吉郎は秀男が、奈良、京都で、最もみやびた仏像を、娘にたとえて、千重子の方が美しいなどと言ったことが、頭にひっかかっていた。[5] “Futoyoshiro's head was filled with Hideo's words about the most exquisite Buddha statue in Nara, Kyoto, and that compared it to daughter, Chigeko is prettier”.

In these examples, 最も is translated as "most", but sometimes it can be translated as "of course". In such cases, 最も is separated by a comma and appears at the beginning of the sentence. For instance,

この事故では、橋本さんに責任がある。最も、相手の村田さんにも落度があったことは否定できない。[8] “Mr. Hashimoto is responsible for this

accident. Of course, it cannot be denied that Mr. Murata, the other party, also had a fault.”

The degree adverb 一番 is the most commonly used adverb. It is translated as "the most".

日本が今一番しなければならないのは、市場を開放することだ。 [3]
“What Japan must do most now is to open the market.”

Unlike the adverb 最も, which is literary, 一番 is used more often in colloquial speech.

The adverb 最高に “most of all” is derived from the noun 最高 “maximum”. The most commonly used adjective in Japanese is 最高の "the best, paramount".

ホテルに泊まって、すばらしいごちそうを食べて、最高にいい気分になった。 [7] “Staying at the hotel, eating wonderful treats, the mood became the best”

These were adverbs of the superlative degree with the meaning of "the most, the best."

IV. CONCLUSION

Summing up, we can say that, unlike other languages, in which the degree of adverbs is classified as follows: absolute degree, comparative degree and superlative degree, such a classification did not exist in Japanese linguistics. Therefore, in our research, we tried to carry out such a classification with adverbs of degree in Japanese. And we ungrouped each degree according to the degree of their intensity and showed the differences between each adverb.

Thus, in this article, we not only carried out a classification, but also revealed the difference in the use of the above-considered comparative adverbs and gave an explanation of each adverb using examples from Japanese literature.

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