

■ Adverbs of Manner

● Adverbs of Manner and Related Issues

In conventional studies on adverbs, all adverbs except for declarative adverbs (e.g., *Asu wa tabun ame darō* ‘It will probably rain tomorrow, *Zehi kite kudasai* ‘Please do come’) and adverbs of degree (e.g., *Kyō wa totemo samui* ‘It is very cold today’) were grouped together as adverbs of manner. This made the adverbs of manner a waste basket category, which was very cluttered. At least, it will be appropriate to establish categories that can be tentatively called adverbs of frequency and adverbs of time, and treat them separately from adverbs of manner. Adverbs of frequency express how often events take place, as in *Kanojo wa tabitabi kaigai ni dekakeru* ‘She frequently travels abroad’ and *Kare wa mettani hon o yomanai* ‘He rarely reads books.’ Adverbs of time express how an event or situation occurs and develops within a temporal frame, as in *Kare wa zutto kenkō data* ‘he was healthy all that time’ and *Sugu itte kure* ‘Please go immediately.’ It is not productive to limit the function of adverbs too much in terms of part of speech when one studies them.

● What are Adverbs of Manner?

Some representative examples of adverbs of manner are found in examples such as, *Me ga giragira hikatta* ‘His eyes shone glaringly,’ *kare no kata o hageshiku yusabutta* ‘I shook his shoulders violently,’ *Otoko wa yukkuri tachiagatta* ‘The man stood up slowly.’ Adverbs of manner take up various aspects of the development, realization, and result of an event or situation and describe the “how,” thereby modifying and marking the limit. For instance, laughing generates sounds. The adverb defines the way the action of laughing is conducted by referring to how the sounds come out. The result is, for instance, *Otoko wa geragera waratta* ‘The man guffawed.’ That adverbs of manner and those of frequency and time belong to different categories is evident from the fact that they can co-occur, as in *Kare wa mettani geragera warawanai* ‘He rarely guffaws,’ and *Kare wa zutto geragera waratteita* ‘He was guffawing for a long time.’

● Finer Breaking Down of Adverbs of Manner

Adverbs of manner have a high lexicality and are a motley group, even after separating out adverbs of frequency and time. We need to break them down into further categories. For instance, while it may be focusing on the semantics too much, consider the following: *Otoko wa {jikkurito/satto} atari o mimawashita* ‘The man looked around the surroundings {thoroughly/quickly}’ describes the speed of the movement; *Onna wa {tsuyoku/karuku} te o nigirishimeta* ‘The woman squeezed her hands {firmly/lightly}’ refers to the force of the movement; *Poton to mono ga ochita* ‘Something popped down’ describes the sound that accompanied the movement, and in *Dōro o naname ni yokogitta* ‘crossed the street diagonally,’ the adverb defines how the movement was carried out from the point of view of the trajectory. Of course, each of the above adverbs is an adverb of manner which takes up a phase in the development of a movement.

There are adverbs that are different from the typical adverbs of manner mentioned above. For instance, *konagonani* in *Kabe ga konagonani kuzureta* ‘the wall crumbled into rubble,’ and *mapputatsu ni* in *Ki o mapputatsu ni otta* ‘broke the tree into two halves,’ refer to the condition of the subject or object as a result of the execution of the movement. These adverbs can tentatively be called adverbs of result; they define the how thoroughly the movement is carried out. They can coexist with adverbs that describe the development process of the movement, as in *Ki o pokitto mapputatsu ni otta* ‘snapped the tree into two halves.’

A kun wa {wazato/kikitoshite} B kun o tataita ‘A {intentionally/exuberantly} hit B’ is an example where the adverb defines the way the movement is carried out based on the attitude of the subject at the time the event is realized. This type of adverbs is different from the ones in the previous paragraph, and can tentatively be called adverbs focusing on the subject. If A beats B slowly (A *yukkuri tataku* B), then B was beaten slowly (*B yukkuri tatakareta*.) However, A exuberantly beat B (*A kun wa kikitoshite B kun o tataita*) does not translate into B was exuberantly beaten by A (B

kun ga A kun ni kikitoshite tatakareta).

→ 程度副詞 Adverbs of Degree (2-B), 陳述副詞 Declarative Adverbs (2-B)

● References

National Institute for Japanese Language and Linguistics, ed. (1991) 'Fukushi no imi to yōhō' (Meanings and Usages of Adverbs) in Vol. 19 of *Nihongo kyōiku shidō sankōsho*. Ministry of Treasury Printing Bureau.

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