

■ Adnominals

Adnominals constitute the part of speech which shows no conjugation (no change of form) and which only modify nouns (*taigen*). This part of speech can be said to exist based on its absence of conjugation, and accordingly includes words of various origins.

Major groups include words such as *na*-adjectives which have lost the ability to conjugate (e.g., *ōkina* ‘big’, *ironna* ‘various’), demonstratives such as *kono* ‘this’, *konna* ‘this type of’, *kano* ‘that’, verb derivatives, such as *aru* ‘certain’, *wayuru* ‘so-called’, *arayuru* ‘every sort of’, *akuru* ‘the next’, *kitaru* ‘the coming’, and *kitarubeki* ‘sure to come’.

However, it is at times difficult to decide if a word is an adnominal. Some only take nouns of quantity as succeeding nouns, as in *takadaka 50 nin* ‘not much more than 50 people’, and *wazuka 5 nin* ‘a mere 5 people’. *Onaji* can be considered either an adnominal or an irregular *na*-adjective.

Words such as *chottoshita (kissaten)* ‘not too shabby (a coffee shop)’, and *akireta (keisatsukan)* ‘outrageous (policeman)’ are verbs but can only be used to modify nouns in these usages.

Therefore, they may be considered adnominals here. (Please note that *arifureta* in *arifureta mise* ‘commonplace shop’ can form the conclusive form, *arifureteiru*, and is not considered an adnominal.) There are collocations of verbal origin, such as *~sameyaranu* ‘still not calmed down,’ *noppikinaranu* ‘inescapable,’ and *iishirenu* ‘indescribable’ that function like adnominals.

Expressions such as *rekisen no* ‘seasoned’ and *tōmen no* ‘for the time being’ may be regarded as a noun + *no* construction, but the use of the “noun” part is quite limited (e.g., they cannot be combined with *ga*). Therefore, the entire construction, with *no* attached, may be considered an adnominal.

Adnominals such as *ōkina* and *wayuru* do not have concordant relationship with the predicate, while expressions such as *sashitaru* ‘not serious’ and *takaga* ‘mere’ require a concordant relationship with the predicate. That is, **sashitaru mondai ga aru* or **takaga hon o otoshita* does not work. These adnominals must be presented as sentence patterns because they not only modify nouns but also attach a feature that requires concordant relationship to the predicate.

→ 指示詞 Demonstratives (現場指示 point direction) (2-K), 指示詞 Demonstratives (文脈指示 context direction) (2-K), 否定との呼応 Correspondence with Negation (2-F)

● References

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