■ *Ni*, *De*, and *O* of Location

Ni expresses the location of the subject (that is, case *ga*) when the predicate expresses existence, as in *Tarō wa kissaten ni iru* 'Tarō is <u>at</u> a coffee shop.' When the predicate expresses motion, as in *Tarō wa gakkō ni itta* 'Taro went <u>to</u> school' and *ie ni nimotsu o okuru* 'send a package home,' *ni* expresses the destination of the motion of the subject (case *ga*) or object (case *o*). *De*, on the other hand, expresses the location where an action or event takes place, as in *Tarō wa kissaten de ocha o nonda* 'Taro drank coffee <u>at</u> a coffee shop,' *Gakkō de kaji ga okita* 'A fire broke out <u>at</u> school.'

Thus, *ni* is used when the emphasis is on existence, as in *Shōgakkō ni pūru ga aru* 'There is a swimming pool <u>at</u> the elementary school' and *Kono machi ni wa kōen ga ōi* 'There are a lot of parks <u>in</u> this town,' whereas *de* is used when the emphasis is on the occurrence of events, as in *Shōgakkō de undōkai ga aru* 'an athletic event will be held <u>at</u> the elementary school' and *Kono machi de wa kōtsūjiko ga ōi* 'Many traffic accidents occur <u>in</u> this town.' The difference between *Tōkyō {ni/*de} sumu* 'reside in Tokyo' and *Tōkyō {*ni/de} kurasu* 'carry out day-to-day activities in Tokyo' lies in the nature of the verb; *sumu* puts the emphasis on existence, while *kurasu* puts emphasis on activity.

In *akichi {ni/de} gomi o suteru* 'dump the garbage {onto/at} a vacant lot,' *ni* signals that the vacant lot is the destination of the motion of the garbage, while *de* signals that it is the place where the action takes place. Similarly, in *kaisha {ni/*de} tsutomeru* 'work for a company,' *ni* shows that *tsutomeru* is a verb that takes an argument indicating the destination of a motion, while in *kaisha {*ni/de} hataraku* 'work at a company,' *de* shows that the verb *hataraku* occurs with a phrase indicating the location of activity.

One of the functions of *o* is to signal the pathway or a point in the pathway of an action, as in *hashi o wataru* 'cross the bridge' and *Nagoya o tsūka suru* 'pass Nagoya.' *Rōka o hashiru* 'run along the corridor' means that one runs right along the corridor, while *rōka de hashiru* 'run in the corridor' means that the corridor is the location where the action of running takes place, and does not mean one makes a straight-line trajectory along the corridor.

Both *ni* and *o* may be used in *yama {ni/o} noboru* 'climb the mountain,' but *ni* emphasizes the arrival at the top, while *o* emphasizes the act of moving from the foot of the mountain to the top. Thus, *ni* is the appropriate case when the destination is the focus, as in *nikai {ni/o*} noboru* 'go up to the 2nd floor.' *O* is appropriate, but not *ni*, when the passage is the emphasis, as in *nagai kaidan {*ni/o} noboru* 'climb up a long staircase.'

→動詞と格助詞 Verbs and Case Particles (2-D)

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