

## ■ Hearsay

There are sentence final forms of predication sentences which express that the information that the speaker tries to relay to the listener comes from a third party. These forms are classified into epistemic type forms and quotation type forms.

*Sō da* is the most representative hearsay form in the epistemic type which conveys the speaker's knowledge obtained through hearsay. *Rashii* originally is used to express judgment based on evidence, but it also works as an epistemic type hearsay form when it uses hearsay information from a third party as evidence. *Sō da* and *rashii* of hearsay are often interchangeable, as in *Kiku tokoro ni yoru to, chika wa madamada sagaru {sō da/rashii}* 'From what I hear, it looks like the land price will continue to go down for some time.' However, *sō da* can only be used as a hearsay form, while *rashii* is fundamentally a judgment form that is also used to express hearsay. What separates the two forms is whether one collocates with an adverb such as *dōyara*, as in *Masukomi no hōdō dewa dōyara, hannin taiho ga chikai {\*sō da/rashii}* 'According to the press, it seems the arrest of the culprit is close,' and whether it can be used to deliver a message, as in *Kare kara dengon o tanomaremashita. Kyūyō ga dekita node okurete kuru {sō desu/\*rashii desu}* 'I have a message from him. He says that due to an emergency, he will be late.'

Epistemic type hearsay forms deliver the content of the speaker's recognition based on hearsay, whereas the basic function of quotation type hearsay forms is to relay a third party comment. In daily conversation, *tte* and *n datte* are frequently used in this usage, as in *Kare no okaasan no hanashi dewa, kare wa ryokō ni deta {tte/n datte}* 'According to his mother, he's gone on a trip, I quote.' Of the two, *tte* retains much of the quotation type characteristics. It can be affixed to erective forms, as in *Otōsan ga hayaku kaettekinasai tte* 'Dad tells you to come home soon,' and the subject may be the source of information. *Tte* and *n datte* can also be used in questions. However, the difference between the two is whether the hearsay itself is the object of the question. With *tte*, the speaker questions if the listener has heard from the third party (e.g., *Kare mo kuru tte?* 'Did you hear he was also coming?') while with *n datte*, the speaker confirms with the listener what the speaker has heard from the third party (e.g., *Kare mo kuru n datte?* 'I heard he was also coming. Did you?').

There are a few other hearsay forms of quotation type. *Datte* is used to reconstruct the original utterance (e.g., *Kare, sorosoro kekkon shiyō kanaa, datte* 'He says: I am thinking of getting married soon'). *To no kotoda*, and *to iu koto da* are used to relay messages and communicate information on the circumstances obtained through hearsay (e.g., *Kare wa kyūyō ga dekita node okurete kuru {tono koto da/to iu koto da}* 'I am relaying his message that he'll be late due to an emergency.' *To iu* expresses general remarks and hearsay based on legend (e.g., *Koko wa mukashi numachi datta to iu* 'I've been told that once this place was a bog'). *Toka* is used to convey uncertain information such as rumor and second hand information (e.g., *Kono biiru ga ichiban urete iru n da toka* 'This is the best selling beer, I hear').

→助動詞 Auxiliary Verbs (2-B), モダリティ Modality (2-H)

## ● References

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