

## ■ Use of Giving and Receiving Expressions as Auxiliary Verbs

Of the giving and receiving verbs, three types are used as auxiliary verbs: 1. *yaru*, *ageru*, *sashiageru*, 2. *kureru*, *kudasaru*, 3. *morau*, *itadaku*.

To express beneficence, *Kobayashi ga Tanaka ni hon o kasu* ‘Kobayashi loans a book to Tanaka’ may be rewritten in three ways.

(1) *Tanaka ni hon o kashite yatta.*

(2) *Kobayashi ga hon o kashite kureta.*

(3) *Kobayashi ni hon o kashite moratta.*

(1) is written from the perspective of *Kobayashi*, the agent, and (2) and (3) are written from the perspective of *Tanaka*, the recipient of the action. One may add *Kobayashi ga* to (1) and *Tanaka ga* to (3) to describe the transactions from the objective point of view.

The contrast between (1) and (2) lies in the directionality of the transaction of “the book,” whether it goes away from the speaker (centrifugal) or whether it goes toward the speaker (centripetal). The difference between (2) and (3) is that (2) has the agent as the subject while the recipient of the action is the subject in (3).

The basic meaning and function of giving and receiving auxiliary verbs is the expression of beneficence.

(4) (To the husband) *Gohan tsukutta?* ‘Did you fix dinner?’

(5) (To the husband) *Gohan tsukutte kureta?* ‘Did you fix dinner for me?’

In (5) the act of fixing dinner is seen as beneficial. It indicates a stronger other-directed consideration than (4).

*Te ageru* and *te sashiageru*, which are humble forms of *te yaru* ‘do something for someone as a favor’, are not used when one addresses someone who is socially superior.

(6) \*(To a customer) *Kirei ni tsutsunde agemasu* ‘\*I’ll wrap it neatly for you.’

(7) \**Sensei, o-nimotsu motte sashiagemashō* ‘\*Professor, I’ll carry your bag for you.’

One must use humble expressions instead: *O-tsutsumi shimasu* ‘I will wrap it for you’, *O-mochi shimasu* ‘I will carry it for you’. (6) and (7) are appropriate when one is not talking directly to one’s superior.

(8) (In one’s journal) *Sensei no o-nimotsu o motte sashiageta* ‘I carried the professor’s bag for her/him.’

Giving and receiving auxiliary verbs also assume the function of making explicit the subject and object, which are often omitted in conversation and discourse.

(9) *Kinō, mukashi suki datta hito to battari atta no, totsuzen. {a. Hanashikaketa/b. Hanashikakete kureta} node bikkuri shichatta* ‘Yesterday I ran into someone I used to like, out of the clear blue. I was caught by surprise because {a. I began to talk to him/b. he began to talk to me}.’

In (9a.) it is likely that “I” was the one who initiated the talking, while in (9b.), because the form suggests a movement toward the speaker (centripetal), the agent has to be “the person whom the speaker used to like.”

Giving and receiving auxiliary verbs do not always express beneficence.

(10) *Itsuka eraku natte yaru* ‘I am going to be somebody someday.’

(11) *Tondakoto o shite kureta na* ‘What you’ve done is causing me great trouble.’

(12) *Mise no mae de tattete moratte wa komarimasu* ‘It’s great inconvenience that you are standing in front of my shop.’

*Te yaru* and *te kureru* are obviously non-beneficial from the context, and *te morau* is used in idiomatic expressions, such as *te moratte wa komaru*, that do not express beneficence.

→授受表現の諸特徴 Various Characteristics of Giving and Receiving Expressions (2-E), 視点 Viewpoint (2-K), ヴォイスの研究 Study of Voice (7-D)

#### ● References

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