

■ *Tsutsuaru*, *tekuru*, and *teiku*: Immediate Past, Development of Change, Etc.

The three expressions, *tsutsuaru*, *tekuru*, and *teiku*, all express development of change (e.g., *Haruni natte kion ga shidaini* {*jōshō shitsutsu aru/jōshō shite kuru/jōshō shite iku*} ‘spring has come and the temperature is gradually going up’), however, the forms do not share the same basic meaning.

*Tsutsuaru* expresses the state where the subject or the object is in the process (progression) of continuous and gradual change, as in *Higai ga shidaini kakudai shitsutsu aru* ‘the damage is gradually spreading,’ *Kyōkyūryō o herashitsutsu aru* ‘we are in the process of decreasing the amount of supply.’ It is also used to express that an action is right before reaching the terminal point, as in *shin-kōsha ga kansei shitsutsu aru* ‘the new school building is near completion,’ and is used to express the ongoing process as a state, as in *wareware wa mizou no jōkyō o taiken shitsutsu aru* ‘we are experiencing an unprecedented situation.’ All examples show that the *tsutsuaru* form expresses the action being in progress as a state by focusing on the minute by minute transition. Thus, this expression is usually used for the minute by minute transition of a significant situation. *Kare wa karaoke de “Haru” o utaitsutsu aru* ‘he’s now singing *Haru* in karaoke’ is not a usual sentence, unless there is special significance to his singing in progress.

*Kakete iru* also expresses the aspect of “right before” the accomplishment, but *tsutsuaru* expresses that the situation is concretely moving toward the emergence of an action. *Tsutsuaru* is bookish.

*Tekuru* and *teiku* (temporal usage) express the gradual development of change including the viewpoint. *Teiku* is used when the viewpoint is set at the original state before change. When one sets the viewpoint at the state after the change has occurred and sees the change from there, *tekuru* is used.

*Tekuru* has other usages. It describes the beginning of a non-volitional phenomenon, as in *Ame ga futte kimashita* ‘It has started to rain’ (occurrence of an event). (*Shite iku* is not used in this usage.) It can also describe, along with *tekuru* and *teiku*, continuance from before and continuance into the future, as in *Mukashi kara koko de seikatsu o shite kimashita. Korekaramo koko de seikatsu o shite ikimasu* ‘We’ve lived here since olden days. We’ll go on living here.’

→アスペクトの複合動詞 Compound Aspectual Verbs (2-G)

● References

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