

■ Compound Aspectual Verbs

Productive compound verbs of aspect may be grouped into two major classes. One class expresses only the temporal aspect, such as *shikakeru*, *shihajimeru*, *shidasu*, *shitsuzukeru*, *shiowaru*, and the other class expresses the accomplishment of a certain action, such as *shitsukusu*, *shikiru*, *shitōsu*.

Shikakeru has the least limitation on the lexical meaning of the verb, and can collocate with movement verbs in general. It can be used to describe the pre-startup stage of the action, as in *nanika iikakete yameta* ‘started to say something, but stopped,’ and it can also describe the post-startup stage of the action, as in *sudeni yarikakete iru* ‘has already started to do.’

Shihajimeru and *shidasu* express the startup stage of an action. Therefore, except for repetition, **koshō shihajimeru* ‘*it starts to go out of order’ is ungrammatical. The collocational verb with these expressions has to denote an ongoing process. In other words, if a verb can express the startup stage of an action, it has ongoing process.

Shiowaru expresses the final phase of ongoing process, and is often used to focus on the terminal phase and in a context when one action is done and before the next action begins. Semantically, it requires a terminal point for the movement within the ongoing process. (Fundamentally, psychological verbs do not require a terminal point.) *Aishikakeru* and *aishihajimeru* are appropriate but **aishiowaru* is not.

In contrast, *shitsuzukeru* may be used both when there is ongoing process and when the result from change is maintained (i.e., where the subject maintains the resulted situation for a certain period of time). Example: *mado o aketsuzukeru* ‘keep opening windows/keep the window open.’

In contrast to such compound verbs that express temporal phases, verbs such as *shitsukusu*, *shikiru*, *shitōsu*, *shiōsu* express the completion of the content of an action. Semantically, they are close to *shiowaru*, which expresses the termination, but they may express the ultimate limit of degree, as in *tsukarekiru* ‘get exhausted,’ and do not always express temporal phases. Naturally, there is considerable lexical limitation on their use, as in **tsukaretsukusu* and **tabeōsu*.

→アスペクト Aspect (2-G)

● References

Kageyama, Taro (1996) *Dōshi imiron* (Semantics of Verbs). Kurosio Publishers.

Moriyama, Takuro (1983) ‘Dōshi no asupekuchuaru na sujō ni tsuite’ (On the Aspectual Origin of Verbs) in *Machikaneyama Ronso* #17.

Terashima, Hideo (1984) *Nihongo no shintakusu to imi II* (Japanese Syntax and Meaning II). Kurosio Publishers.

(Moriyama Takuro)