

■ Exclamatory Sentences

Exclamatory sentences express the surprise one feels with things and situations, as in *Nante kawaii hana darō!* ‘What a pretty flower!’ Exclamatory sentences in Japanese generally place the event or thing (‘flower’) that evokes the emotion at the end of the sentence, and the attribute of the event or thing that evokes the emotion (‘pretty’) modifies the noun.

In the same situation, one may place the attribute that evokes the emotion at the end of the sentence, but *Kono hana wa nante kawaii darō* does not sit well. *No* or *koto* is needed at the end to make the sentence sound right, as in *Kono hana wa nante kawaii n darō* ‘How pretty this flower is’ and *Kimi ni aete nanto ureshii koto deshō* ‘How happy I am to see you.’ The characteristic of exclamatory sentences is that they are constructed around a noun.

There are three sentence patterns of exclamatory sentences in Japanese.

In the first pattern, the emotion that is evoked at the location of utterance is not yet well-formed as an exclamatory sentence, as in *Kirei na oto!* ‘Beautiful sounds!’ and *Kanojo no piano no migotosa!* ‘The wonderfulness of her piano!’ In this pattern, the noun at the center of the emotion is sometimes placed at the end of the sentence, or the adjective that expresses the attribute that evokes the emotion is nominalized.

The other two patterns involve the adverb, *nanto*. The second pattern has *da* at the end of the sentence to regulate the predicate. Example: *Kare wa nante omoshiroi n da!* ‘How interesting he is!’ This pattern expresses the speaker’s emotion without intending to convey it to the listener, and *da* cannot be in the polite form.

The third pattern expresses the sense of awe using *darō* (e.g., *Nanto kawaii kodomo darō* ‘What a cute child!’). In this pattern, the polite form of *da* may be used, and the pattern can also convey the speaker’s emotion to the listener.

→モダリティ Modality (2-H)

● Reference

Adachi, Taro (2002) ‘Gendai nihongo no kantanbun o megutte’ (Discussion On Exclamatory Sentences in Contemporary Japanese) in *Hiroshima Joshi Daigaku Kokusai Bunkagakubu Kiyō* 10.

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