

■ *Te* / Continuative-Form Clauses

● Formation of the *Te*/Continuative-Form Clauses

This clause is also called the なかどめ *nakadome* (continuative-form) clause, where the predicate is formed by the *te* form or so called “Renyokee” (adverbial form). Clauses formed by the *te* form and those by the adnominal form are essentially used in the same way. The adverbial form clauses are stylistically archaic, and are used in written language. They are not used much in spoken language.

● Usages of the *Te*/Continuative-Form Clauses

Te/Continuative-form clauses have the following usages.

(1) They express the manner in which the main situation is realized.

Kare wa, ashi o nagedashite, hito no hanashi o kiiteita ‘He was listening to someone’s talk with his legs stretched out.’

(2) They express the means/method with which to realize the situation.

Boku wa jitensha ni notte, gakkō made kita ‘I rode my bike to school.’

(3) They express events that occur in succession.

Kare wa asa 6ji ni okite, 7ji ni ie o deta ‘He got up at 6am and left the house at 7am.’

(4) They express the cause of the occurrence of the main situation.

Tsumetai nomimono o nomisugi, kare wa onaka o kowashita ‘Due to having too much cold drink, he got a diarrhea.’

Ame ga furazu, kanbatsu ga okita ‘Due to lack of rain, a drought occurred.’

(5) They express events in parallel construction relationship.

Ani wa ki ga yasashikute, otōto wa ki ga tsuyoi ‘The older brother is gentle, and the younger brother is strong-willed.’

It is not the *te*/continuative form that generates the specialization of meaning. Rather, the semantics of what comes before and after the form contributes to how the meaning is expressed.

● Characteristics of Each Usage

Manner: When manner is expressed, the subject in both clauses are the same, and the subject in the *te*/continuative-form clause must be omitted (e.g., **Kare wa koshi o ukashite, kare wa soto o miteita* ‘He was in a half rising posture from his chair while he was looking out the window.’)

When this form expresses manner, the passive may be used, as in *Kare wa haha ni te o hikarete, heya o deteita* ‘He went out of the room as his mother led him by his hand,’ but the form does not occur with aspect or negation, nor politeness or tense. The stative predicate is not used in this usage.

Shinagara also expresses manner. A *shinagara*-clause is created with the verb which expresses the subject's movement, as in *Kare wa, rikkyō o watarinagara, shita o mita* 'He looked down as he was going across the overpass.' This type of verbs basically express sequence when they are used in the *te*/continuative-form clause, as in *Kare wa, rikkyō o watatte, shita o mita* 'He went across the overpass and looked down.'

Sequencing: The subject of the main clause and that in the *te* clause are often the same, as in *Kare wa pen o oite, tachiagatta* 'He put down the pen and stood up,' and *Boku wa kare ni atte, jijō o kiita* 'I met him and asked what had happened.' In some instances the two clauses have different subjects, as in *Doa ga aite, otoko ga sugata o arawashita* 'The door opened, and a man appeared.' Verbs used in the *te*/continuative-form clause that express sequence are motion verbs, and many are volitional verbs.

Cause: When the sentence expresses cause, the subject of the main clause and that of the subordinate clause may be the same or different, as in *Boku wa myōni irairashite nemurenakatta* 'I was agitated for unknown reasons, and couldn't sleep,' and *Ooame ga furi, ie ga takusan nagasareta* 'Due to heavy rain, many houses got washed away.' *Note*, which explicitly expresses the reason, can make what happens later as the reason, as in *Asu hito ga kuru node, heya no sōji o shita* 'I cleaned my room since I'll have a guest tomorrow.' It is not possible to express the cause in the *te*/continuative-form clause in this manner (e.g., **Asu hito ga kite, heya no sōji o shita*).

Parallel Construction: The predicate tends to be the *te* form rather than the adverbial form in parallel construction. Motion predicates occur, but stative predicates are more common.

→ナガラ・ツツ *Nagara* and *Tsutsu* (2-J), 従属節の階層性 Hierarchy of Subordinate Clauses (2-J)

- References

Suzuki, Shigeyuki (1972) *Nihongo bunpō • keitairon* (Japanese Grammar: Morphology). Mugi Shobo.

Nitta, Yoshio (1995) 'Shite-kee setsuzoku o megutte' (On Conjunction Using *Shite* Form) in *Fukubun no kenkyū (jo)* (Study of Complex Sentences I). Kurosio Publishers.

(Nitta Yoshio)