

■ Expressions Related to Clauses of Reason

In addition to *kara*, *node* and *te*, the following forms also express cause and reason.

Nodakara is a compound made of *noda* and *kara*, but is widely different from *kara* in its characteristics. It does not occur when the main clause is a declarative sentence.

(1)**Okane ga nai nodakara, ikanakatta.*

Nodakara expresses the cause of the speaker's attitude, such as her/his judgment, evaluation, emotion, command and desire, emphasizing unexpectedness, reproach, deservedness, and so on.

(2) *Isogashiindesukara, denwashite konaide* 'I am busy. Don't call me.'

(3) *Wakaindakara, jibun no yume ni chōsen shitai* 'I am young. I want to give my dream a chance.'

Monodakara and *monode* express that the event which the speaker subjectively considers important causes an unexpected and undesirable result. They are used in speech, and a declarative sentence appears in the main clause.

(4) *Amarini yasui monodakara, tsui kaisugita* 'They were so incredibly cheap that I couldn't help buying too many of them.'

(5) "Dōshite chikoku shita no?" 'Why were you late?'

"Sumimasen. Atama ga itakatta mondesu kara." 'I am sorry. I had a headache.'

There are expressions where *kara* is affixed to various particles.

(6) *Jikan ga nai karaka, sankā shinakatta* 'He didn't participate, perhaps because he didn't have time.'

(7) *Shirōto da karakoso, dokusōteki na hassō ga dekiru* 'He can come up with innovative ideas precisely because he is an amateur.'

(8) *Chichi ga shinda karaniwa, watashi ga tsugu shika nai* 'Now that my father is dead, the only thing left for me is to take over his business.'

(9) *Eigo ga dekinai kara to itte, kaigai shutchō o kotowaru koto wa dekinai* 'Just because I can't speak English, I cannot excuse myself from an overseas business trip.'

Kara ka speculates, but not asserts, the reason. *Kara koso* emphasizes that the reason in question is special (e.g., it is the only reason, contrary to common sense, paradoxical). *Kara niwa* expresses the situation that becomes the ground for the speaker's attitude or judgment. *Kara to itte* is used when the cause and effect relationship itself is negated.

Ijō(wa) and *ue wa* express the ground which prompted the speaker's attitude, such as judgment, evaluation, command and intent.

(10) *Hoka ni yaru hito ga inai ijō, watashi ga yaru shika nai* ‘Since there is no one else to do it, I don’t have a choice but do it.’

(11) *Chōsen suru ijō wa, minna no kitai ni kotaeru yō ganbatte kure* ‘If you are to take the challenge, I encourage you to do your best to meet everyone’s expectation.’

(12) *Kanojo ni kotowarareta ue wa, shōgai dare tomo kekkon shinai tsumori da* ‘Now that I got rejected by her, I have resolved not to marry anyone the rest of my life.’

(13) *Taifū no tameni, hikōki no tōchaku ga okureta* ‘Due to the typhoon, the arrival of the airplane has been delayed.’

(14) *Jiko ga hassei shita tame, dōro wa futsū to natta* ‘Due to the occurrence of an accident, the road was blocked.’

Sentences of conation, intent, or desire do not appear in the main clause, but such sentences may appear in the main clause in formal announcements and notices.

(15) *Esukareetaa setchi kōji no tame, kaidan o goriyō kudasai* ‘Because the escalators are under construction, please use the stairs.’

(16) *Tenkō fujun no tame, ressha unkō o chūshi shimasu* ‘Due to the inclement weather, we are stopping the operation of the trains.’

As with *kara*, *tame* has a predicate form, *tame da*, and a form with a particle affixed, *tame ka*.

Sei de and *okage de*, same as *tame ni*, express objectively the cause and effect relationship between the situations in question. However, *sei de* expresses the cause of an undesirable result, while *okage de* expresses the cause of a desirable result.

(17) *Benkyō shinakatta sei de, shiken ni ochita* ‘I failed the exam because I hadn’t studied.’

(18) *Sensei ni oshiete itadaita okage de, konna ni nihongo ga jōzu ni narimashita* ‘My Japanese has gotten this good, thanks to your tutelage.’

When the speaker sarcastically thanks for the undesirable result, *okage de* may be used.

(19) *Kimi ni tetsudatte moratta okage de, jikan ga nanbai mo kakatte shimatta yo* ‘Thanks to your help, I ended up spending a whole lot more time.’

Bakari ni expresses the cause of an undesirable, negative result. The implication is that the bad result would not have happened had it not been for the cause.

(20) *Eigo ga hanasenai bakari ni, haji o kaita* ‘I was humiliated just because I couldn’t speak English.’

The form *shitai bakari ni* expresses the result which is brought on by the only desire the speaker has.

(21) *Mago ni aitai bakari ni, isoide kitaku shita* ‘I hastened home just to see my grandchild.’

When there is a word that is measurable in the main clause, *dake ni* and *dake atte* are used to express that the underivable result was obtained because the degree of the word was extreme.

(22) *Haiku wa mijikai dake ni muzukashii* ‘Haiku is difficult because of its brevity.’

(23) *Yokozuna dake atte, hijōni tsuyokatta* ‘The yokozuna was very strong, as had been expected.’

(24) *Zenkai shippaishita dake ni, shōnin shikane masu* ‘Because you failed last time, I am not willing to approve.’

Amari ni is used with an expression whose degree is measurable, and it expresses that an undesirable result has occurred because the degree of the situation was extremely high.

(25) *Kanashimi no amari ni, byōki ni natta* ‘Because the grief was so severe she became ill.’

(26) *Kitaku o isogu amari ni, jiko o okoshita* ‘Because he was in such a hurry getting home, he caused an accident.’

It is a somewhat formal expression.

→カラ・ノデ・テ－原因・理由 *Kara, Node, and Te*: Cause and Reason (2-J), とりたて Focus (2-I)

- Reference

Group Jamashii, ed. (1998) *Kyoshi to Gakushusha no tame no nihongo bunkei jiten* (Dictionary of Japanese Sentence Patterns for Teachers and Learners). Kurosio Publishers.

(Maeda Naoko)