

■ *Noni, Kuse ni* and *Mono no*

Noni, kuse ni, and *mono no* express factual adversative condition, similar to *nimo kakawarazu*. However, there is a considerable difference in nuance between *nimo kakawarazu* and *noni, kuse ni* and *mono no*.

(1) *Mainichi rensyū shiteiru {noni/kuse ni/mono no} chittomo jōtatsu shinai* ‘Despite I practice every day, I don’t get better at all.’

In usage groups, *noni* and *kuse ni* belong to the same group, but *mono no* belongs to the group with *ga* and *keredo*.

Noni expresses facts in both the first and second clauses, and expresses the speaker’s sense of unexpectedness, surprise, and regret when s/he encounters the reality that conflicts with her/his prediction.

(2) *Kinō wa ii tenki datta noni, kyō wa ame ga futteiru* ‘The weather was fine yesterday, but it is raining today.’

(3) *Fugōkaku da to omotteita noni, gōkaku shita* ‘I thought I’d failed the exam, but I passed.’

(4) *Isshōkemee benkyō shita noni, zannen desu* ‘I studied very hard. I am disappointed.’

(5) *Doryoku sure ba, gōkaku dekita noni* ‘Had I tried hard, I would have passed.’

Kuse ni overlaps partly with *noni*. It expresses that the speaker downplays the value of a series of situations, and expresses reproach, contempt, and teasing toward the person involved in such situations. The subject must be someone or an organization that has the ability to take responsibility. The subject in both clauses is usually the same.

(6) *Shitte iru {kuse ni/noni} shiranai furi o shiteiru* ‘He knows it, but pretends that he doesn’t.’

(7) *Otoko {no kuse ni/nanoni} mesomeso suru na.* ‘You’re a man. Don’t whine.’

Kuse ni can be replaced with *noni* most of the time, but the reverse is not true.

(8) *Mada chiisai {noni/*kuse ni} taihen reegi tadashiku, kanshin na kodomo da* ‘She’s such a small child but very courteous. She’s an impressive child.’

(9) *Haru {nanoni/*no kuse ni} fuyu no yōna tenki da* ‘It’s spring but the weather is wintery.’

(10) *Sekkaku ojiisan ga kattekureta {noni/*kuse ni} kono ko wa “arigatō” saemo iwanai* (two different subjects) ‘His grandpa took the trouble of buying it for him but he wouldn’t even say, “Thank you.”’

Mono no is used when the speaker accepts what the first clause expresses, and then expresses the development of the situation counter to the first clause. It is used to describe a development that goes from positive to negative (or vice versa), where the evaluation is reversed between the first clause and the second clause.

(11) *Keeki wa kaifuku ni mukatte wa iru mono no, aikawarazu takai shitsugyōritsu da* ‘The economy is recovering but the unemployment rate is still high.’

(12) *Wazuka de wa aru mono no, keeki wa kaifuku ni mukatte iru* ‘Although at a very slow rate the economy is recovering.’

(13) *Kanjita tōri ni kakeba ii mono no, sore ga nakanaka muzukashii* ‘All I have to do is to write what I feel, but it’s not easy to do so.’

(14) *Kuchi ni dashite wa iwanai mono no, kokoro no naka wa sazo tsurai koto darō* ‘He doesn’t talk about it, but he must be in agony inside.’

Mono no is close in its usage to *ga* and *keredo*, and in the above examples they are interchangeable. However, the reverse is not true. In an objective predication of a comparative relationship, and in an introduction as in (16), *ga* and *keredo* may not be replaced by *mono no*.

(15) *Kyonen wa Yōroppa ni itta {ga/keredo/*mono no}, kotoshi wa Tōnan Ajia e itta* ‘I went to Europe last year, but this year I went to South East Asia.’

(16) *Hanashi wa kawaru {ga/keredo/*mono no} Miyazaki san ga kekkon suru sōda* ‘To change the subject, I hear Ms. Miyazaki is getting married.’

Mono no and *noni* differ in that *noni* always expresses the speaker’s sense of unexpectedness and incongruity against her/his expectation, while *mono no* does not.

(17) *Bukka wa takai {mono no/ga/keredo/*noni} Nihon no seikatsu wa tanoshii desu* ‘The cost of living is high, but life in Japan is enjoyable.

In terms of the collocation constraint at the end of the sentence, there is a different tendency between *noni* and *kuseni* vs. *mono no*.

(18) *Rokuni Nihongo mo dekinai {noni/kuseni} ryūgaku {shita/suruna/surundesu ka}*

‘Your English was not good, and yet you went and studied abroad.

Your English is not good, so don’t go study abroad.

Your English is not good, but are you going to study abroad?’

*Ryūgaku {*suru kamoshirenai/*shiyō/*shiro/*shite kudasai/*shimasu ka}*.

(19) *Nihongo wa mada yoku dekinai mono no, Nihon ni ryūgaku {shita/surukamo shirenai}*

‘My Japanese was not yet very good, but I studied in Japan.

My Japanese is not yet very good, but I may study in Japan.’

*Ryūgaku {??shiyō/*shiro/*suruna/*shite kudasai/*shimasuka/*surundesu ka}*.

→ ガ・ケレドー逆接・前置き *Ga* and *Keredo*: Adversative Conjunction and Preface (2-J), ナガラ・ツツ *Nagara* and *Tsutsu* (2-J)

● References

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