

■ *Ga* and *Keredo*: Adversative Conjunction and Preface

Conjunctive particles such as *ga* and *keredo* (*kedo*, *keredomo*) connect the confirmed fact in the first clause with the second clause that has some contrasting meaning. *Kedo(mo)*, *keredo(mo)* are colloquial. Of the two, *kedo* is casual, and *keredo(mo)* is polite.

(1) *Ano mise wa, sukoshi takai ga totemo oishii* ‘That shop is a bit pricy, but their food is delicious.’

(2) *Jikan wa aru ke(re)do, okane ga nai* ‘I have the time, but I have no money.’

(3) *Koronda ga, kega wa shinakatta* ‘I fell, but didn’t get hurt.’

(4) *Sensei ni kiita ke(re)do, wakaranakatta* ‘I asked the teacher, but she didn’t know the answer.’

In (1) and (2), the second clause expresses a contrasting situation from the first clause, and in (3) and (4), the second clause presents a result that is not predicted in the first clause. In all instances, the second clause negates the implication in the first clause. In that regard, all the sentences express adversative conjunction.

This type of adversative conjunction differs from what *noni* expresses. *Noni* points out overtly the discrepancy between the prediction based on a cause and effect relationship and the actual outcome. *Ga* and *keredo* may be used as long as there is a simple contrast between the implication in the first clause and the outcome in the second clause. *Noni* is unnatural not only in (1) and (2), but in (3) and (4) as well.

(5)?*Koronda noni, kega wa shinakatta.*

(6)?*Sensei ni kiita noni, wakaranakatta.*

Ga and *keredo* also have the usage of prefacing.

(7) *Asoko ni takai biru ga arimasu ga, are wa nan desu ka* ‘There is a tall building over there. What is it?’

(8) *Oo san kara omoshiroi shiteki ga arimashita kedo, donata ka goiken wa arimasen ka* ‘Mr. Oh has pointed out an interesting issue. Any response?’

In these examples, the main topic that the speaker wants to address (ask about) is in the second clause, and the first clause simply is an introduction to the second. *Ga* and *kedo* express the sentiment that it is not the first clause that contains the real message; it leads to the real message in the second clause.

That the real message is in the second clause applies to the usage of adversative conjunction as well. Especially in the usage of contrast, the first and second clauses seem to have parallel construction, but actually the weight of the argument is different in the two. Compare (2) and (9).

(9) *Okane wa aru ke(re)do, jikan ga nai* ‘I have money alright, but I don’t have the time.’ [The main point is that there is no time.]

→テモ・タッテ・トコロデー逆条件 *Temo*, *Tatte*, and *Tokorode*: Adversative Condition (2-J)

● References

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