

■ Parallel Construction Forms

The representative parallel construction forms are the *te* form (adverbial form), *tari*, and *shi*.

(1) *Ano mise wa, yasukute, hayakute, oishii* ‘That shop is cheap, quick, and delicious.’

(2) *Nichiyōbi ni wa, ongaku o kiitari, hon o yondari, sampo o shitari suru* ‘On Sundays I listen to music, read books, and take a walk, among other things.’

(3) *Kare wa, wakaishi, hansamu dashi, atama ga ii* ‘He’s young, good looking, and, on top of it, smart.’

These examples all display a series situations with equal weight. However, how the situations are sequenced differs from one example to the next.

To sum them up in comparison with the parallel expressions of nouns,

“*te, te, ...*” corresponds to “*A to B to ...*”

“*tari, tari ...*” corresponds to “*A ya B ya ...*”

“*shi, shi ...*” corresponds to “*A mo B mo.*”

● *Te, Te*

Parallel construction using the *te* form (adverbial form) lists events of concern and is the most neutral method of sequencing.

(4) *Sono kudamono wa marukute, omokute, naka ga akai* ‘The fruit is round, heavy, and red inside.’

(5) *Asu wa, sentaku o shite, sōji o shite, kaimono o suru* ‘Tomorrow I will do the laundry, clean the house, and go shopping.’

This is equivalent to “*A to B to...*” for nouns.

(6) *Reezōko no naka ni wa, tamago to gyūnyū to hamu to retasu ga aru* ‘There are eggs, milk, ham, and lettuce in the refrigerator.’

In (6) everything in the refrigerator is listed. Similarly, in (5), everything the speaker will do tomorrow is listed.

When the list is partial, “*tari, tari*” is used.

When the affixed predicate is in the noun+*da* form or a *na*-adjective, the adverbial form instead of the *te* form is used.

(7) *Kanojo wa bijin de, sunao de, atama ga ii* ‘She’s pretty, good-natured, and smart.’

● *Tari, Tari*

This form presents a list of examples.

(8) *Sentaku o shitari, sōji o shitari, kaimono o shitari suru* ‘I do the laundry, clean the house, and go shopping, among other things.’

Unlike the parallelism with the *te* form, *tari* is attached to the last item on the list (...*tari*, ...*tari*, ...) and the sentence ends with *suru*.

(8)’ **Sentaku o shitari, sōji o shitari, kaimono o suru*.

This is equivalent to the parallelism with nouns of “*A ya B ya...*”

(9) *Sentaku ya, sōji ya, kaimono (nado) o suru*. “I do the laundry, house cleaning, and shopping (among other things).”

It differs from “*te...*, *te...*” in that it forms a partial list, and not an exhaustive list.

- *Shi, Shi*

This form list items in the same category cumulatively.

(10) *Sentaku mo suru shi, sōji mo suru shi, kaimono mo suru* ‘I do the laundry, AND vacuum the house, AND do shopping.’

As seen in this example, *mo* is often used in the predication of events and situations.

This listing is equivalent to the parallel construction used with nouns, “*A mo B mo...*”

(11) *Sentaku mo, sōji mo, kaimono mo suru*. I do the laundry, also house cleaning, also shopping.

What is in common between the two is the sentiment that “it is not only A **but also** B,” and “A **as well as** B.”

→テ節・中止節 *Te/Continuative-Form Clauses (2-J)*

- References

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