

## ■ *Koto*, *No*, and *Tokoro*: Noun Clauses

Clauses that support the predicate are called complement clauses. Among them are noun clauses that occur with such formal nouns as *koto*, *no*, and *tokoro*.

In (1), there is a noun clause with the formal noun (*koto*), *ame ga furidashita koto ni*, which functions as the complement clause to the predicate, *kizuuta*. A noun clause appears as a complement clause for (2) and (3), with *no* and *tokoro*, respectively.

(1) *Tanaka wa ame ga furidashita koto ni kizuuta* ‘Tanaka noticed that it had started to rain.’

(2) *Ten’in wa otoko ga hashitte nigeru no o mita* ‘The shop clerk saw a man run away.’

(3) *Keesatsu wa dorobō ga ie o deta tokoro o tsukamaeta* ‘The police caught the thief as he came out of the house.’

Noun clauses that accompany *koto* and *no* appear as complement clauses for a wide variety of predicates. In many cases *koto* and *no* are interchangeable.

(4) *Satō wa sono hi kaigi ga atta {koto/no} o omoidashita* ‘Sato remembered that there was a meeting that day.’

(5) *Kantoku wa pitchaa o kaeru {koto/no} o tameratta* ‘The manager hesitated to replace the pitcher.’

Depending on the predicate of the main clause, there are instances where only *koto* is appropriate and where only *no* is appropriate. When the predicate of the main clause has the meaning of “aiming at the realization of a certain situation”, only *koto* is appropriate (e.g., *teian suru* ‘propose’, *inoru* ‘pray’, *meirei suru* ‘order’, *yakusoku suru* ‘promise’).

(6) *Iinchō wa tōhyō o enki suru {koto/\*no} o teian shita* ‘The committee chairman proposed to postpone the vote.’

(7) *Ryōshin wa kodomo ga sukoyakani sodatsu {koto/\*no} o inotte iru* ‘The parents are praying that their child will grow up healthily.’

When the predicate of the main clause expresses direct sensation (e.g., *miru* ‘see’, *mokugeki suru* ‘witness’, *kiku* ‘hear’) or actions that are directly related to specific situations (e.g., *matsu* ‘wait’, *tetsudau* ‘assist’, *jama suru* ‘bother’), only *no* is appropriate.

(8) *Suzuki wa jitensha ga kaze de taoreru {no/\*koto} o mita* ‘Suzuki saw a bicycle blown down by wind.’

(9) *Sensei wa seetotachi ga shizumaru {no/\*koto} o matta* ‘The teacher waited for the pupils to calm down.’

*Tokoro* is used when the predicate of the main clause express witnessing (e.g., *mikakeru* ‘catch sight of someone’, *mokugeki suru* ‘witness’, *dekuwasu* ‘run into’) or capture (e.g., *tsukamaeru* ‘arrest’, *osou* ‘assault’, *satsuei suru* ‘take a picture’).

(10) *Chijin wa Yamada ga dekakeru tokoro o mikaketa* ‘An acquaintance caught sight of Yamada’s leaving home.’

(11) *Gōtō wa jūnin ga neitta tokoro o osotta* ‘The burglar assaulted the residents just as they had fallen asleep.’

*Tokoro* and *no* may be interchangeable in some instances.

(12) *Shufu wa hannin ga kenjū o suteru {tokoro/no} o mita* ‘The housewife saw the culprit discard the gun.’

Among the complement clauses with *no*, there are ones that focus on a complement word of the predicate using the “...*no wa...da*” form. Example (13) focuses on the complement word “*kono hon*”, and in (14) the focus is on “*watashi*” in relation to the predicate “*kaita*.”

(13) *Imōto ga kureta no wa kono hon da* ‘This is the book that my younger sister gave me.’

(14) *Kono e o kaita no wa watashi da* ‘It is I who painted this picture.’

→ ト・カ・ヨウニ－引用 *To, Ka, and Yōni*: Quotation (2-J)

#### ● References

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