

■ Quantifiers

● Position of Numeral Quantifiers

Numeral Quantifiers (hereafter NQs) such as *5 satsu* and *50 peeji* appear in the *x* position as in *x no hon o yonda*, and *hon o x yonda* ‘I read *x* number of books’. The former usage is called the adnominal usage of NQs, and the latter is called the adverbial usage of NQs.

Not all NQs have both usages. For example, *3000cc* in *3000cc no kuruma o kau* ‘buy a car of *3000cc*’ has only the adnominal usage. Because *Kuruma o 3000cc kau* is unacceptable. Furthermore *5 do* in *Hashira ga 5 do katamuku*, ‘the pillar tilts by *5 degrees*’ only has the adverbial usage.— Because *5 do no hashira ga katamuku* is unacceptable.

There are examples where the described quantity appears to be the same in both sentences, such as in *5 satsu no hon o yonda* and *hon o gosatsu yonda* ‘I read 5 books.’ However, *50 peeji no hon o yonda* ‘I read a *50-page* book’ and *hon o 50 peeji yonda* ‘I read *50 pages* of the book’ do not mean the same thing. In the former example, the NQ refers to the total number of pages in the book; in the latter example, the NQ refers to the part of the total number of pages in the book.

In sum, there are instances where either the adnominal or adverbial usage is appropriate, but not both. When both usages are acceptable, both NQs may not denote the same quantity. Thus, we have to consider that adnominal NQs do not denote the same kind of quantity described by adverbial NQs.

● Part of Speech of NQs

We can consider adnominal NQs as nouns. In *5 satsu no hon* ‘five (volumes of) books,’ the quantifier is followed by *no*, and the *no*-phrase modifies a noun. This is equivalent to a noun modifying another noun.

Adverbial NQs, such as *5 satsu* in *hon o 5 satsu yomu* ‘read 5 books,’ looks like an adverb at first glance. Let us consider the following usage examples.

(1) *Watashi wa hon o 5 satsu to memo-chō o katta* ‘I bought 5 books and a notepad.’

In (1), *hon o 5 satsu* and *memo-chō* are coordinated. Coordinated phrases are syntactically of the same type. *Memo-chō* is a noun phrase, and thus, *hon o 5 satsu* has to be a noun phrase. We have to conclude that *hon o 5 satsu* in (1) and *5 satsu no hon* are noun phrases.

However, there is an example that suggests that this analysis is not appropriate.

(2) *Dansei ga kinō 5 nin to josei ga kyō 3 nin kita* ‘Five men yesterday and 3 women today came.’

Adverbs of time, such as *kinō* and *kyō*, modify events. They do not normally appear in noun phrases. Therefore, if we consider *dansei ga kinō 5 nin* in (2) as a clause or a verbal phrase, the NQs in (2) may be adverbs.

There are still a lot of problems to consider as far as the part of speech of adverbial NQs are concerned. Adverbial NQs may influence the aspect of the verbal phrase, which can be explained more easily if we consider that the adverbial NQs are adverbs.

→名詞 Noun (2-B), 程度副詞 Adverbs of Degree (2-B), 副詞とアスペクト Adverb and Aspect (2-G)

● References

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