２０２３年度

大学院文学研究科博士課程前期２年の課程入学試験

（　秋期・一般選抜　）問題

専門科目 I 　　＿＿＿＿＿言語学＿＿＿＿＿専攻分野

試験開始の合図があるまで、この問題冊子を開いてはいけない。

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専門科目 I （　　　　言語学　　　専攻分野）

I. 次の文章を読んで、問（１）～（５）に答えなさい。

The differences among historically unrelated languages have a peculiar quality. On the one hand, languages are not *completely* different. Not just any representation system that bears information can serve as a human language. Rather, all known languages obey abstract principles that are not logically necessary. Indeed, it is easy to find substantive similarities across languages, once one knows where to look. These similarities usually go unnoticed in descriptive grammars because they are so natural to us that we easily overlook them, even though artificial languages do not share those properties.

On the other hand, languages are not just *slightly* different. One might imagine that learning a new language would only be a matter of learning new words, but that is not the case. There are also important differences in sound patterns, in word orders, in how sentences can be transformed, and in how meanings are expressed. No aspect of language is immune to variation.

(i)The curious situation, then, is that languages vary only slightly in the general principles that shape them, but they vary greatly in the actual sentence structures formed (see **Boxes 1 and 2**). Most of the structure of language is contingent but universal; hence it is potentially innate to the human mind. This invariant machinery includes part-of-speech distinctions, notions of phrase and clause, the apparatus of subject, object, and indirect object, and much more. But the human language capacity is not entirely invariant. It allows for a few basic choices – known as parameters – within the universal machinery. (ii)These choices are a small subset of the options that could do the job in an information-theoretic sense, but they are more than a single person needs to get through life. Only a relatively small number of these parameters are required; current work suggests that the major syntactic distinctions among the world's 6000 or so languages can be explained with 10 to 20 parameters (Fig. 1).
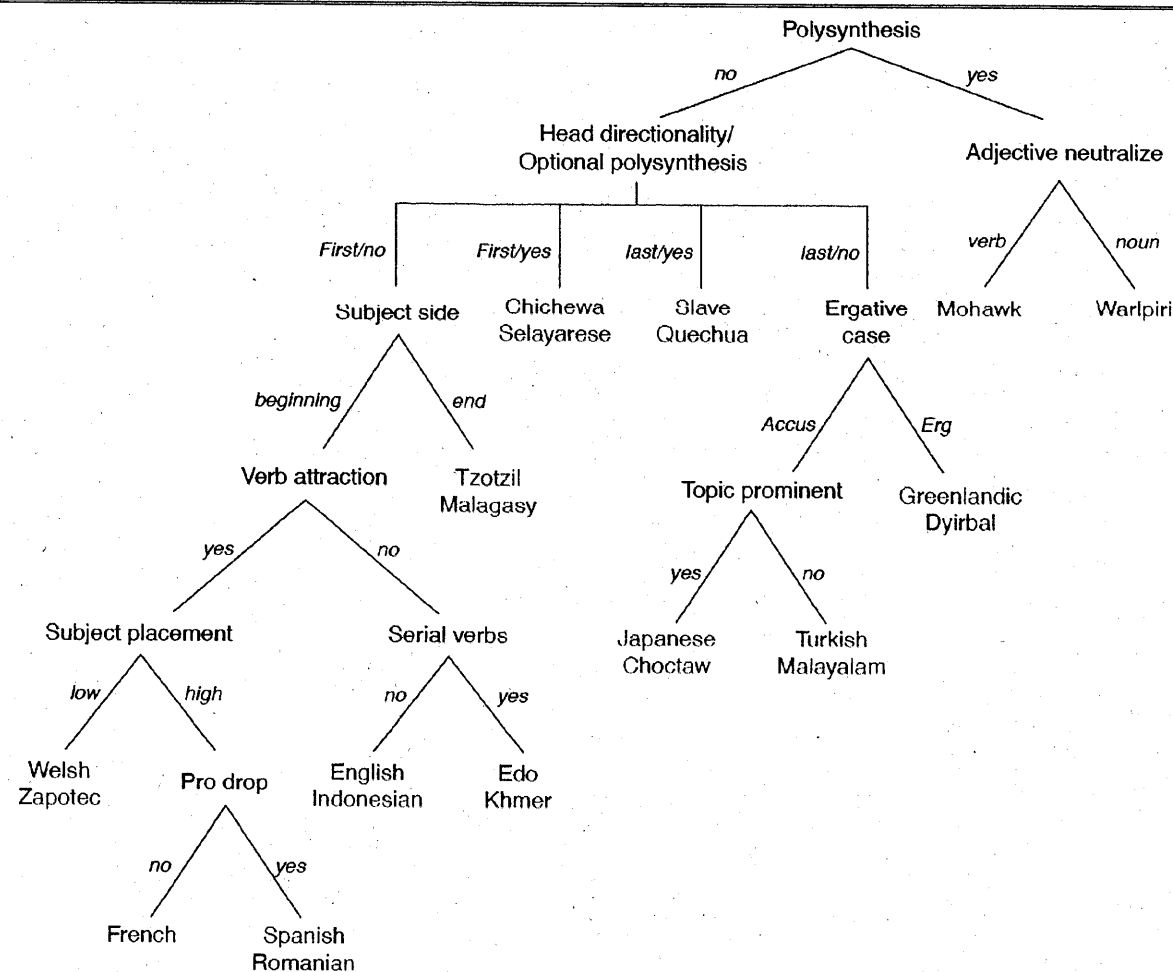
Fig. 1. The parameter hierarchy. This is a systematic representation of some major parameters that distinguish languages. Each branch point is labeled with the name of one or more parameters; below each point are lower-level parameters that depend on them. The Polysynthesis parameter at the top of the hierarchy is the parameter that distinguishes Mohawk from English in Box 2. The Head Directionality parameter one step down is the parameter that distinguishes Japanese from English. At the bottom of the diagram are some historically unrelated languages that are syntactically similar as a result of having the same settings for these parameters.

Most curiously of all, many of these parameters seem perfectly placed within the overall system so as to have the maximum impact on the superficial appearance of the language, without affecting its basic logical relations (see **Boxes 1 and 2**).

This situation is of inherent interest to cognitive science. In domains such as perceptual and motor systems, one assumes that the cognitive processes at work are essentially invariant across the human species. In other domains, such as social and cultural cognition, it has been standard to assume that the cognitive system can vary across populations in arbitrary ways. Language illustrates something in between: striking superficial diversity that can be reduced to a small number of discrete factors placed within a universal system. This cognitive architecture should be kept in mind as a possible model when studying other aspects of human culture.

Box 1. Comparing Japanese and English

The word-by-word translation of the Japanese sentence in (1) comes across as gibberish to an English speaker. The difference in how the words are ordered seems huge.

Taroo-ga Hiro-ga Hanako-ni zibun-no syasin-o miseta to omotte iru. (1)

(Taro Hiro Hanako-to self-of picture showed that thinking is)

'*Taro is thinking that Hiro showed pictures of himself to Hanako.*'

Yet (iii)<u>the grammatical rule that underlies the difference</u> is remarkably simple. English forms phrases by adding new words one at a time at the beginning of previously-constructed phrases (which generally can consist of one or more words). By contrast, Japanese forms phrases by adding new words at the end. For example, both languages make prepositional phrases (PP) from noun phrases (NP): English does it by putting *of* before the NP (*of himself*); Japanese by putting *of* after the NP ('himself of'). English puts a noun before a PP to make a NP (pictures of himself); Japanese puts a noun after a PP to make a NP ('himself-of picture'). English puts a verb before a NP to make a verb phrase (VP) (*showing pictures of himself*); Japanese puts a verb after a NP to make a VP ('himself of picture showing'). This rule applies systematically to the full range of phrases found in both languages (Fig. I).
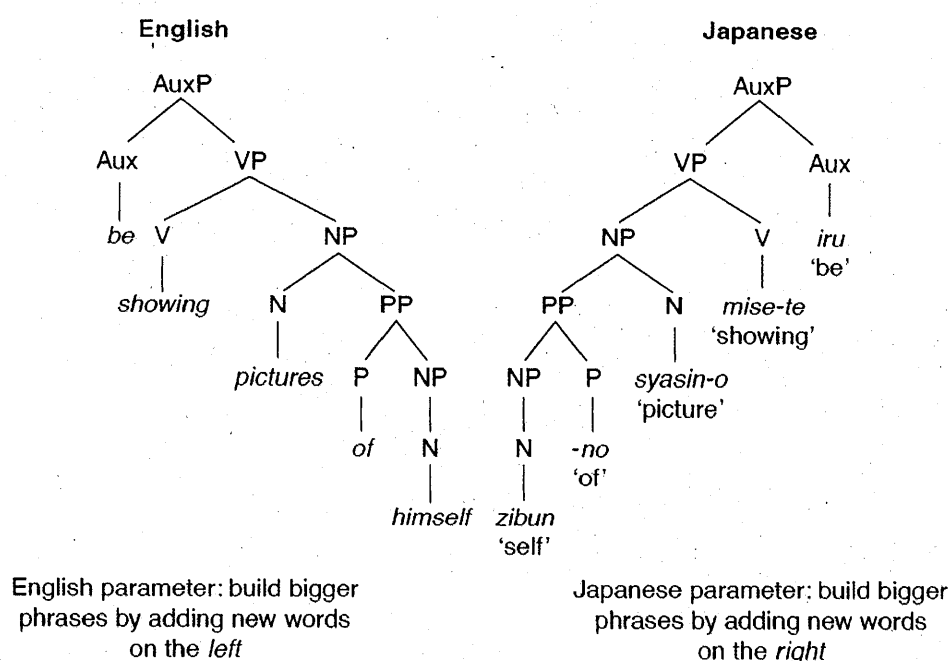

English parameter: build bigger phrases by adding new words on the *left*

Japanese parameter: build bigger phrases by adding new words on the *right*

Fig. I. Phrase structure in English and Japanese. Similar words are grouped into phrases in the same way in both languages, but there is a systematic difference in the order. The 'head' of a phrase (the pivotal word, which gives the phrase its distinctive syntactic character) is the first word of the phrase in English, but it is the last word of the phrase in Japanese.

Apart from this, the two languages have many similarities. They contain the same types of words (nouns, verbs, prepositions), and they group them into the same kinds of phrases. The English structure in Fig. I is the mirror-image of the Japanese structure, not some arbitrarily different arrangement created by sometimes building phrases from the beginning and sometimes from the end. Subjects come at the beginning of the sentence in both languages [e.g. *Taro* in example (1)]. Nevertheless, the one small difference in phrase construction has a huge impact on the phenomenal character of a language, because it applies many times in a sentence of moderate complexity. This kind of choice between two grammatical options is known as a 'parameter'. About 45% of the languages in the world are like Japanese in this respect and 45% are like English. These parametric similarities cannot be attributed to common descent: Hindi, for example, is historically related to English, not Japanese, yet its phrases are built in the Japanese way. There do exist languages that seem to build right-headed VPs and left-headed PPs (or vice versa), but they are rare compared with the canonical Japanese type and the canonical English type, and they can be explained in other ways.

Box 2. Comparing Mohawk and English

Mohawk is a 'polysynthetic' language, meaning that sentence structures tend to be short and fluid, but words are complex and rigidly structured. Sentences (2) and (3) illustrate the fluidity; they have different word orders, but express the same event.

Rukwe'   wa-sh-ako-hsir-u   ne   owira'a.   (2)

(man   past-he-her-blanket-gave   the   baby)

'*The man gave the baby a blanket.*'

Owira'a   wa-sh-ako-hsir-u   ne   rukwe'.   (3)

(baby   past-he-her-blanket-gave   the   man)

'*The man gave the baby a blanket.*'

Mohawk differs from English (and Japanese) in this respect, where changes in word order express major changes in meaning (compare '*Man bites dog*' with '*Dog bites man*').

Small changes in the verb *do*, however, have a large impact on meaning in Mohawk. (iv)<u>Sentence (4) shows that changing the prefixes on the verb is enough to reverse the meaning even with word order held constant.</u>

Rukwe'　wa-h-uwa-hsir-u　　　　ne　owira'a.　　(4)

(man　　past-him-she-blanket-gave　the　baby)

'*The baby gave the man a blanket.*'

Moreover, the thing given in these sentences is not expressed as a separate noun phrase; it is 'incorporated' into the verb, forming a kind of compound word. Sentence (5) shows that the incorporated noun can only be understood as the thing given, never as the giver or the recipient.

'Rukwe'　wa-ha-wir-u　　　　ne　ashire'.　　　(5)

(man　　past-he-it-baby-gave　the　blanket)

'*The man gave the baby to the blanket.*'

The unifying property of Mohawk is the requirement that every participant of an event must be expressed in the verb that names the event, either as a pronoun-like agreement prefix, or as an incorporated noun root. A Mohawk sentence without these features is ungrammatical (6):

'Rukwe'　wa'-u　　　ne　owira'a　ne　ashire'　　(6)

(man　　past-give　the　baby　the　blanket)

'*The man gave the baby the blanket.*'

No such requirement holds in English. 'Mixed' languages that require (say) the object to be expressed on the verb and the subject not to be, are rare compared with the Mohawk and English types.

Apart from this parameter, Mohawk and English have important similarities. In both languages, the verb meaning 'give' names an event involving three participants, a subject (the giver), an object (the given thing), and an indirect object (the receiver). All three participants must be expressed in both languages. In English as in Mohawk, a noun that is incorporated into a compound can only express the thing given: English has the compound form

gift-giving, but *baby-giving* would only have the unlikely meaning that people give away their babies. (v)The one difference between the two is an easily stated parameter that regulates how participants are expressed. But this simple parameter has a large overall effect, because it applies to every phrase in every sentence of the language.

(Baker, M. C. (2003). Linguistic differences and language design. *Trends in Cognitive Sciences*, 7(8), 349-353. より一部改変)

問（1）　下線部(i)を和訳しなさい。

問（2）　下線部(ii)を和訳しなさい。

問（3）　下線部(iii)の *the grammatical rule that underlies the difference* とはどのようなものか、本文に即して具体的に説明しなさい。

問（4）　下線部(iv)はどのような意味か、具体的な例文に言及して説明しなさい。

問（5）　下線部(v)の *The one difference between the two* とはどのようなものか、本文に即して具体的に説明しなさい。

II.　「みかん 30 個」を通常の速度で発話した場合の発音を国際音声記号 IPA で表記しなさい。

III.　次の 10 語の中から 5 語を選び、和訳した上で簡潔に説明しなさい。

1．acoustic phonetics　　2．babbling　　3．classifier　　4．derivational morpheme

5．fricative　　6．indirect speech act　　7．linguistic determinism　　8．phoneme

9．semantic role　　1 0．syntactic ambiguity

【問題 I、問題 II、問題 III に対する解答は次頁以降にまとめて記すこと】