

‘Magnet’-type Japanese and ‘Chain’-type Korean(1):

A New Perspective of a Contrastive Study between Japanese and Korean

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Abstract

This paper discusses the difference between Japanese and Korean linguistic structures. We attempt to provide a new perspective, despite the many contrastive studies between Japanese and Korean. Based on an analysis of Japanese and Korean ellipsis, our claim is that Japanese has a ‘magnet’-type structure and Korean has a ‘chain’-type structure. This perspective can explain other studies and other language phenomena uniformly. We demonstrate the validity of this perspective.

1. Introduction

Japanese and Korean are typologically similar languages: Both have the so-called SOV (subject–object–verb) structure (= (1)), are agglutinative (= (2)), and have honorific systems (= (3))¹⁾.

(1J) *Taroo-ga ringo-o taberu.*

Taro-NOM **apple-ACC** eat ‘Taro eats an apple.’

(1K) *Taro-ka sakwa-lul mek-nun-ta.*

Taro-NOM **apple-ACC** eat-PRS-DECL ‘Taro eats an apple.’

(2J) *Taroo-ga Hanako-ni ringo-o tabe-sase-ta.*

Taro-NOM Hanako-DAT apple-ACC **eat-CAUS-PAST**

‘Taro made Hanako eat an apple.’

(2K) *Taro-ka Hanako-eykey sakwa-lul mek-i-ess-ta.*

Taro-NOM Hanako-DAT apple-ACC **eat-CAUS-PAST-DECL**

‘Taro made Hanako eat an apple.’

(3J) *sensee-ga tosyokan-ni ika-re-masu.*

teacher-NOM library-LOC **go-HON-PLT** ‘The teacher goes to the library.’

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(3K) *sensayngnim-i tosekwan-ey ka-si-pnita.*

teacher-NOM library-LOC **go-HON-DECL.PLT** ‘The teacher goes to the library.’

It does not, however, mean that these languages have the same linguistic structures. For example, regarding the grammar, there are disagreements in word order (= (4)) and grammatical case marker (= (5)).

(4J) *moo sukosi-dake kure.*

more little-just give-IMP ‘Give (me) just a little more’

(4K) *cokum-man te cw-e.*

little-just more give-IMP ‘Give (me) just a little more.’

(5J) *basu-ni noru.*

bus-LOC get.on ‘(I) get on the bus.’

(5K) *pesu-lul tha-n-ta.*

bus-ACC get.on-PRS-DECL ‘(I) get on the bus.’

Many studies have investigated the differences between Japanese and Korean languages from the viewpoints of contrastive studies. Inoue (2002) divided contrastive studies into two types: correspondence description (*‘taioo kizyutugata’*) and type setting (*‘ruikee setteegata’*). Correspondence description discusses the similarities and differences between more than two languages from a common framework. We use the difference in genitive markers between Japanese ‘*no*’ and Korean ‘*uy*’ as an example. By contrast, the latter discusses the general principle or tendency behind the similarities and differences between more than two languages. Other studies have suggested that Japanese is an unclear language, a nominal-oriented structure or animation-type predication, whereas Korean is a clear language, a verbal-oriented structure or slide-type predication²⁾.

This study focuses on the linguistic structures behind Japanese and Korean ellipses as one of the type setting studies. Ellipsis presupposes the existence of certain syntactic and semantic structures that are not pronounced. Notably, from language to language, what type of elements can be left unpronounced differs. In this study, we claim that notions such as independence of linguistic units play a central role in accounting for the differences between Japanese and Korean. The differences in each linguistic structure become especially conspicuous when we assess phenomena involving ellipsis, such as nominal predicate sentences.

This paper suggests that compared with Korean, Japanese allows for ellipsis in more

contexts. In other words, in Japanese, the relevant linguistic unit is relatively independent and acts similar to a magnet piece, which can be detached and rejoined relatively freely, whereas the Korean counterpart is more liable to fuse with other elements and is, similar to a chain, more difficult to separate. On the basis of this aspect observed in the two languages, we dub Japanese and Korean a ‘magnet’-type language and a ‘chain’-type language, respectively, which makes it possible to provide a uniform explanation for other differences between the two languages. The final purpose of this study is to provide a new perspective in a contrastive study between Japanese and Korean.

2. Literature Review

Many contrastive studies have been conducted between Japanese and Korean. This paper introduces some of the research on Japanese and Korean type setting before providing a new perspective of their types.

Lee (1995) researched indirect expressions and greetings in Japanese and Korean and suggested that Japanese was an unclear language and Korean was a clear language. The Japanese and Korean dialogues in this paper are examples, especially the responding sentences in (6). In clear Korean, there must be the anaphora ‘*kulay* [so]’. By contrast, unclear Japanese can express only the copula ‘*desu* [COP.PLT]’ without the anaphora ‘*soo* [that]’.

(6J) A: *kore-wa matigai-desu-yo*.

this-TOP mistake-COP.PLT-EMP ‘This is wrong.’

B: *soo/∅-desu-ka?*

that/∅-COP.PLT-INTER ‘Really?’

(6K) A: *ike thully-ess-e-yo*.

this wrong-PAST-DECL-PLT ‘This is wrong.’

B: *kulay/*∅-yo?*

so.INTER/∅-PLT ‘Really?’

[summarized from Lee (1995: 13)]

Kim (2003) analyzed the translation from Japanese into Korean and demonstrated that Japanese has a nominal-oriented structure and Korean has a verbal-oriented structure. For example, Japanese (7J) was expressed by a nominal-final sentence without copula. In contrast to Japanese, Korean translation (7K) has a nominal predicate sentence with a copula.

(7J) *Aoi-tte dare-∅?*

Aoi-QUOT **who-∅** ‘Who is Aoi?’

(7K) *Aoi, nwukwu-ya?*

Aoi, **who-COP** ‘Who is Aoi?’

[cited from Kim (2003: 60)]

Tsukamoto (2012) analyzed the differences in morphological and syntactic structures. He demonstrated that Japanese has an unclear border between words and sentences/clauses and that of Korean is clear. An example from his study is as follows: Japanese can put the sentence before ‘*tekina* [like]’, which was originally after a word such as ‘*kiseki* [miracle]’ (=8J)). By contrast, Korean can only put the word before ‘*cekin* [like]’ and cannot put the sentence (=8K)). If attempting to express in Korean a similar meaning to Japanese (8J), the sentence must be regarded as one word by using quotation marks and putting ‘*wa kathun* [COM + same (=seem)]’ (=8K’)). ‘*Cekin*’ cannot be used. This finding suggests that words and clauses/sentences have an unclear border in Japanese and a clear border in Korean.

(8J) *utagawasiki-wa bassuru-tekina hoodoo*

doubtful-TOP punish-like report ‘the report such that doubtful one is punished’

(8K) **uysimsulewun kes-un pelha-n-ta-cekin poto*

doubtful thing-TOP punish-PRS-DECL-like report

(8K’) ‘*uysimsulewun kes-un pelha-n-ta’-wa kathun poto*

‘doubtful thing-TOP punish-PRS-DECL’-COM same report

‘the report such that doubtful one is punished’

[summarized from Tsukamoto (2012: 310)]

Last, we review the study of Inoue (2012). He analyzed ‘dynamic predication’, meaning that the situation is predicated in the flow time. He suggested that Japanese is typed as an animation-type predication and Korean as a slide-type predication. In the case of animation-type Japanese, a noun-predicate sentence containing copula can be used because it is too dynamic to predicate the event by using ‘*suru* [do]’ (=9J)). By contrast, slide-type Korean cannot express the dynamics of the event by using a copula (=9K)). ‘*Hata* [do]’ can be used while expressing the dynamics of the event (=9K’)).

(9J) *mamonaku tatikawa-ni tootyaku-desu.*

soon Tachikawa-LOC **arrival-COP.PLT** ‘(We) will arrive at Tachikawa soon.’

(9K) **kot tachikawa-ey tochak-i-pnita.*

soon Tachikawa-LOC **arrival-COP-DECL.PLT**

(9K') *kot tachikawa-ey tochak-ha-keyss-spnita.*

soon Tachikawa-LOC **arrival-do-FTR-DECL.PLT** ‘(We) will arrive at Tachikawa soon.’

[summarized from Inoue (2012: 671)]

As we have demonstrated, Japanese and Korean linguistic structures differ, but they are the most similar typologically. Table 1 presents a summary of the differences between Japanese and Korean type settings. However, little attention has been paid to the relation among these studies despite Inoue (2012) referring to Kim (2003) and Tsukamoto (2012) referring to Inoue’s study. If we prepare a more common perspective, Japanese and Korean will be more comprehensively understood.

Therefore, this study discusses ellipsis in Japanese and Korean and clarifies the difference in two linguistic structures from our new viewpoint. Focusing on connectivity/independence, and fusion (dependence) in linguistic units, we clarify that Japanese has a ‘magnet’-type structure and Korean has a ‘chain’-type structure. Additionally, we suggest that this difference can be applied to the differences in other language phenomena in Japanese and Korean. We attempt to provide a uniform explanation of the differences between Japanese and Korean, from a new perspective.

Table1. Differences between Japanese and Korean

Japanese		Korean
Unclear Language	Lee(1995)	Clear Language
Nominal-oriented Structure	Kim(2003)	Verbal-oriented Structure
Unclear Border between Word and Clause/Sentence	Tsukamoto (2012)	Clear Border between Word and Clause/Sentence
Animation-type Predication	Inoue(2012)	Slide-type Predication

3. Contrastive Study on Ellipsis

This paper examines ellipsis in Japanese and Korean to clarify its linguistic structure in each language. We assess nominal among linguistic units and focus on nominal predicate structures because of the many ellipsis phenomena involving nominals. This study discusses the nominal-final sentence, the two-value nominal sentence, and ellipses in predicates³⁾.

First, we propose an argument regarding the nominal-final sentence, which means a sentence by nouns without a copula. This sentence is formulated as ‘NP-TOP + NP.’ We can determine that there are more nominal-final sentences in Japanese than Korean. Although Japanese nominal-final sentences are more freely used than those in Korean, those in Korean are simpler and more limited than those in Japanese (=10)). Additionally, the Korean ‘adjective + noun’ is less freely used and more fixed compared to that in Japanese (=11)). In summary, compared to

Korean linguistic units, those in Japanese such as nouns are connected more freely by putting a topic marker between nouns. In addition, Japanese can use a noun phrase more independently than Korean can because Korean has constraints.

(10J) *koko-wa kamisama-no iru kamaboko koozyoo!*

here-TOP god-GEN exit Kamaboko factory

‘This place is the Kamaboko factory where God exists’

(10K) *kuke-n way?*

that-TOP why ‘Why is it so?’

[cited from Ogoshi *et al.* (2018: 237)]

(11J) *kireena hana!*

beautiful flower ‘Beautiful flower!’

(11K) *#cham yeypun kkoch!*

really beautiful flower ‘Really beautiful flower!’

[cited from Ogoshi *et al.* (2018: 238)]

Second, we propose an argument regarding the two-value nominal sentence, which is formulated as ‘NP-TOP + NP-COP.’ In this paper, we focus on the ‘eel sentence’, namely, a sentence in which two nouns have no logical relationship in a two-value nominal sentence. We observe that ‘eel sentences’ are used more freely in Japanese than in Korean. Although Japanese can express ‘you have cute eyes’ by using an ‘eel sentence’, Korean cannot (= (12)). It seems more usual to use the adjective predicate sentence such as ‘*ne-nun nwun-i yeypu-ta* (you-TOP eye-NOM beautiful-DECL).’ In addition to the previous part of a nominal-final sentence, we can also interpret in this part that although Japanese can connect nouns more freely, Korean has constraints in connecting nouns.

(12J) *kimi-wa kawaii me-da-naa.*

you-TOP cute eye-COP-MRT

‘You have cute eyes.’ (lit. ‘You are cute eyes.’)

(12K) **ne-nun yeypun nwun-i-kwuna.*

you-TOP cute eye-COP-MRT

‘You have cute eyes.’ (lit. ‘You are cute eyes.’)

[cited from Ogoshi *et al.* (2018: 241)]

Last, we discuss ellipsis in the predicate. There are more ellipses in Japanese predicates than in Korean predicates. The sentences in (13) are cited from a Japanese and a Korean newspaper. Although both quotes are on the same news story, the titles are different. Japanese uses only nouns and a case marker (= (13J))—not a predicate. Thus, we interpret that there is an ellipsis in the predicate. By contrast, there must be a predicate in Korean (= (13K)). In other words, Japanese linguistic units are more independent than those in Korean. Therefore, ellipsis in the predicate tends to occur more frequently. Compared to Japanese, the linguistic units in Korean are more fusional, and it is more difficult to use a sentence without a predicate.

(13J) *CLA-ni taihokusenmonsosiki*- \emptyset

CLA-LOC special.organization.for.North.Korea- \emptyset

lit. ‘Special organization for North Korea at CLA’

(13K) *CLA pwukhan-man kwanlihal thukpyelcocik mantul-ess-ta*

CLA North.Korea-only manage special.organization establish-PAST-DECL

lit. ‘CLA established special organization managing only North Korean’

[summarized from Ogoshi *et al.* (2018: 239)]

We have reviewed nominal predicate structures in Japanese and Korean ellipses such as the nominal-final sentence, the two-value nominal sentence, and ellipses in predicates. The behaviors of nouns in these ellipses can be summarized in two aspects: connectivity and independence. By focusing on the connectivity and independence of the linguistic units such as nouns, we can represent the differences in Japanese and Korean linguistic units (Table2).

Table2. Differences between Japanese and Korean language units

Japanese		Korean
Free	Connectivity	Constrained
Independent	Independence	Fusional

The differences between Japanese and Korean might be observed by focusing on the behavior of linguistic units as shown above. These differences raise the question of their linguistic structures.

4. Linguistic Structure

Regarding linguistic structure, Japanese linguistic units are independent and connected freely, that is, they are easy to detach and attach. We can compare these behaviors of linguistic units to those of magnets. It is easy to detach and attach each part in magnets because it is lightly

connected with others by magnetic forces. This phenomenon is similar to Japanese ellipsis, as shown in Section 3. There are more nominal-final sentences and two-value sentences in Japanese than Korean. We interpret that linguistic units are easy to attach by using a topic marker and that sentences such as ‘NP-TOP + NP(-COP)’ are easily constructed because Japanese has a ‘magnet’-type linguistic structure.

Additionally, Japanese has more ellipses in the predicate than Korean. We can explain why this result occurs by using a similar argument. Nouns are used more independently without predicates because linguistic units such as nouns are easily detached in ‘magnet’-type Japanese. The same explanation can be provided for an ‘adjective + noun’ sentence in nominal-final sentence because it can be regarded as one of these ellipses in the predicate. The notion of ‘magnet’-type Japanese can account for the ellipses in Section 3.

By contrast, Korean linguistic units are fusional and connected constrainedly, that is, they are difficult to detach and attach. We propose the notion ‘chain’-type Korean, in contrast to ‘magnet’-type Japanese. It is difficult to attach to each other part in chains because it is firmly connected with others. This phenomenon is similar to the Korean ellipsis. There are fewer nominal-final sentences and two-value sentences such as ‘NP-TOP + NP(-COP)’ in Korean than Japanese because Korean linguistic units are difficult to attach and the topic marker for attaching two nouns cannot be used as widely as in Japanese. Korean has a ‘chain’-type linguistic structure. A similar explanation can be provided for the ellipsis in a Korean predicate. Nouns are used more dependently with predicates because linguistic units such as nouns are difficult to detach in ‘chain’-type Korean. Therefore, compared with Japanese, there are fewer predicates in ellipsis including the ‘adjective + noun’ sentences in Korean.

We have clarified the differences in Japanese and Korean from the viewpoint of ‘magnet’-type and ‘chain’-type linguistic structures (Fig1).

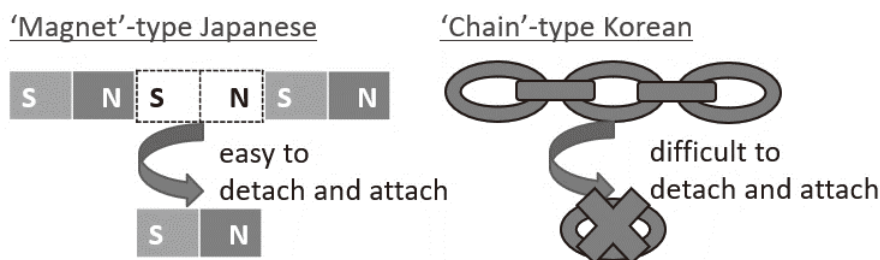


Fig1. Basic model of ‘magnet’-type Japanese and ‘chain’-type Korean

This notion of ‘magnet’ and ‘chain’ linguistic structures may account uniformly for the differences between Japanese and Korean, not only in this study but also in the literature as follows.

Lee (1995) typed Japanese as an unclear language and Korean as a clear language by discussing indirect expressions and greetings. This type setting can be reanalyzed as follows: ‘Magnet’-type Japanese seems unclear because some linguistic unit such as copulas appear independently, and others do not. By contrast, ‘chain’-type Korean seems clear because each linguistic unit appears as dependent on each other.

The nominal/verbal-oriented structure that Kim (2003) demonstrated can be rephrased from the viewpoint of the ‘magnet/chain’-type linguistic structure. ‘Magnet’-type Japanese express sentences by extracting only nouns because linguistic units such as nouns are independent. By contrast, Korean has constraints in extracting only nouns and expresses sentences by fusing nouns with verbs because linguistic units are fusional.

Next, we discuss Tsukamoto (2012). He analyzed the differences in morphological and syntactic structures in Japanese and Korean. He demonstrated that Japanese has an unclear border between a word and a clause/sentence, and Korean has a clear border. This difference can be compared to the ‘magnet/chain’ as follows: In ‘magnet’-type Japanese, more than two linguistic units connect with each other, and the linguistic unit becomes similar to original linguistic units. This can be formulated as $N_i \propto \text{NP/S containing } N_i$. By contrast, ‘chain’-type Korean does not. This phenomenon is presented as if attaching magnets generates a larger, similar magnet and attaching chains does not generate a similar chain. The new chain is longer than the original chains but is different. Fig2 represents this attachment model diagrammatically. We can understand the morphological and syntactic structures uniformly from the viewpoint of ‘magnet/chain’-type linguistic structures.

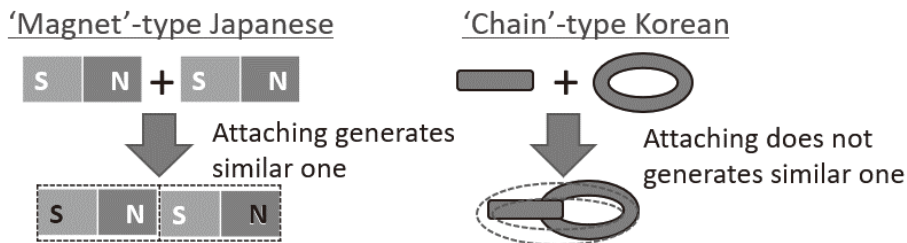


Fig2. Attachment model of ‘magnet’-type Japanese and ‘chain’-type Korean

Last, we review Inoue (2012). His study focused on semantic concepts, and three other studies have focused on language forms. Nevertheless, Inoue (2012) referred to Kim (2003), and

Tsukamoto (2012) referred to Inoue's study. There seems to be a relation among these studies. We want to discuss if an analysis of Inoue (2012) is possible from the viewpoint of 'magnet/chain'-type linguistic structures. Because this study has mainly focused on forms and constructions, we are uncertain of the semantic difference between Japanese and Korean. However, we hope to build a hypothesis that the functional difference in Japanese and Korean units may be related to the structural difference.

This section has introduced the notion of 'magnet/chain'-type linguistic structures, to explain the differences between Japanese and Korean ellipses. In addition, we have applied this notion to other studies. Although problems remain for further discussion, we have provided a uniform explanation of the difference between Japanese and Korean.

5. Other Phenomena

We have overviewed the notion of 'magnet/chain'-type linguistic structures by examining Japanese and Korean ellipses and the literature. We now attempt to answer the following question: Is the notion applicable to other language phenomena? If yes, the validity of the notion can be demonstrated.

First, several other ellipses are discussed. We cover adjective stem expressions. Japanese spoken language can express the mirativity by using only adjective stems, but Korean, in principle, cannot (= (14)). Furthermore, there are ellipses in some Japanese conjunctions, but that does not occur in Korean (= (15)).

(14J) *atu-i/∅*

hot-PRS/∅ 'It is hot!'

(14K) *ttukep-ta/*∅*

hot-DECL/∅ 'It is hot!'

(15J) *sore/∅-ni-mo-kakawarazu*

that/∅-LOC-also-regardless 'in spite (of that)'

(15K) *kule/*∅-m-ey-to-pwulkwyuhako*

so/∅-NMLZ-LOC-also-regardless 'in spite of that'

This difference can be compared to the difference between 'magnet' and 'chain' as follows: 'Magnet'-type Japanese can divide one linguistic unit into more than two smaller units, but 'chain'-type Korean cannot. This phenomenon is as if magnets can be divided, and dividing magnets generates smaller magnets, whereas the parts of chains cannot be divided. If they can be

divided, new parts of chains are not generated. We present the division model in Fig3.

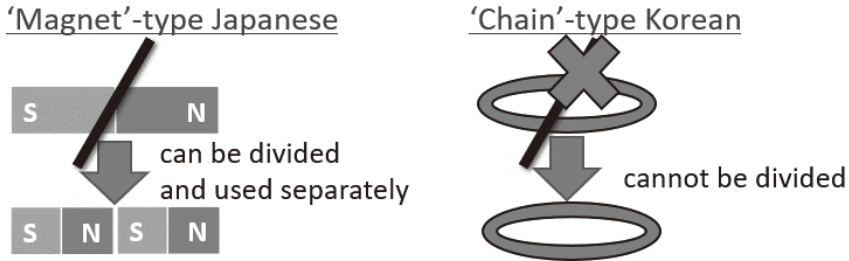


Fig3. Division model of ‘magnet’-type Japanese and ‘chain’-type Korean

Next, we discuss the non-predicate sentence, also regarded as one of the ellipses. There are more non-predicate sentences in Japanese than Korean. Takagi (2012) suggested that the usage range of a Japanese non-predicate sentence is wider than the usage range found in Korean syntax, discourse, construction, and function level. Although Tsukamoto (2011) focused on morphological and syntactic structure, Takagi (2012) assessed the non-predicate sentence and offered a similar conclusion. Notably, they reached similar conclusions despite using contrasting perspectives: ‘bottom-up’ and ‘top-down’. We can determine that this difference will largely feature Japanese and Korean. The notion of ‘magnet/chain’-type linguistic structure may be able to provide a uniform explanation of the feature as follows: ‘Magnet’-type Japanese uses each linguistic unit independently, which has a similar function to the connected linguistic units. By contrast, ‘chain’-type Korean makes linguistic units fuse, and one linguistic unit cannot be used independently and widely.

Many studies have investigated the difference in Japanese and Korean language change, and there are more language changes such as grammaticalization and (inter)subjectification in Japanese than in Korean. We attempt to explain the difference from the viewpoint of ‘magnet/chain’-type linguistic structures. Horie & Kim (2011) assessed the change from ‘sentence-medial’ to ‘sentence-final’ such as the Japanese connective form ‘-*si* [and]’ and that in Korean, ‘-*myense* [-ing]’, and said that sentence-final is as important as the start point of pragmatic semantic change in an SOV language. Furthermore, Kim (2011) clarified that grammaticalization and (inter)subjectification had progressed more in the Japanese quotative expression ‘-*mitaina* [like]’ than in that in Korean, ‘-*tanun* [that]’ (=16)). We reanalyze this from the notion of ‘magnet/chain’ linguistic structures as follows: Sentence-medial forms can be used more independently and change into sentence-final forms more easily in ‘magnet’-type Japanese than in ‘chain’-type Korean. In Japanese, linguistic units are; thus, we claim that they are relatively independent such as a magnet

piece, such that expressions such as ‘-*mitaina*’ are more liable to expand their use. In Korean, in which linguistic units are, as we presume, relatively fixed such as chains, this type of expansion or change has not occurred to the same extent as it has in Japanese.

(16J) *sotugyoosiki-ka-yo-mitaina*.

graduation. ceremony-INTER-EMP-QUOT

‘Is it something like a graduation ceremony?!’

(16K) *saylo nao-n maykcwu nem masiss-tanun* ...ㅋㅋ (only in blogs)

newly appear-PAST beer so delicious-QUOT... [Korean emoticon]

‘The beer which newly appeared is so delicious.’

[summarized from Kim (2011: 54-56)]

We now discuss ellipsis and other language phenomena. Both Japanese and Korean are known for being topic-prominent languages. However, there is a difference in constraints when placing topic words. In Japanese, the topic word can be placed more freely than in Korean (= (17)). It can be reanalyzed from the perspective of ‘magnet/chain’-type linguistic structures as follows: The position of a topic word is free because linguistic units are independent in ‘magnet’-type Japanese. The topic word is easier to attach in Japanese than Korean. By contrast, the position of a topic word must have a syntactically close relationship because linguistic units are fused in ‘chain’-type Korean. Notably, the topic word is more difficult to detach and attach in Korean than Japanese.

(17J) *kono nioi-wa gasu-ga more-teiru*.

this smell-TOP gas-NOM leak.out-PROG

‘The gas leaked out and arise this smell.’

(17K) **i naymsay-nun kasu-ka say-ko iss-ta*.

this smell-TOP gas-NOM leak.out-PROG-DECL

[cited from Ogoshi *et al.* (2018: 241)]

Additionally, both Japanese and Korean are relatively ‘free word order’ languages. However, they differ in the degree of the free position of adverbs. Japanese adverbs are placed more freely either in sentence-initial or in sentence-medial, and Korean adverbs tend to be placed before the verb in sentence-medial (= (18)). We can also apply the notion of ‘magnet/chain’ to this difference. Although linguistic units such as adverbs can be detached and attached freely in ‘magnet’-type Japanese, linguistic units such as adverbs can be fused strongly in ‘chain’-type Korean.

(18J) *kooen-ni-wa takusan hito-ga i-masu.*

park-LOC-TOP **many people-NOM be-PLT**

‘There are many people in the park.’

(18K) * *kongwen-ey-nun manhi salam-i iss-e-yo.*

park-LOC-TOP **many people-NOM be-DECL-PLT**

(18K') *kongwen-ey-nun salam-i manhi iss-e-yo.*

park-LOC-TOP **people-NOM many be-DECL-PLT**

‘There are many people in the park.’

[summarized from Kim (2015: 65)]

Last, we discuss classical Japanese. In the history of Japanese grammar, the construction ‘the attributive form of predicate + *ga* + predicate’ was derived from the nominative case marker ‘*ga*’ and changed into connective particle ‘*ga* [but]’ (Takayama & Aoki (eds.) 2010). ‘*Ga*’ in (19) can be analyzed both as a nominative marker and a connective particle. This notion is parallel to this study’s notion, or ‘ $N_i \infty$ NP/S containing N_i ’ in Japanese, that is, ‘N(P) + *ga*’ changed into ‘S + *ga*’. Similar phenomena are observed in Japanese, for example, ‘*o*’, ‘*sani*’, and ‘*hodoni*’. The notion of ‘magnet’-type Japanese may account not only for modern Japanese but also for classical Japanese. We can thus determine that ‘magnet’-type linguistic structures have been the feature of the Japanese language.

(19J) *onna ito uresi-to ihite yuki-keru-ga ayasiku kono onna-no ke osorosiki-yauni oboe-kere-domo*

woman very glad-QUOT say go-PAST-GA suspicious this woman-GEN atmosphere
horrible-like seem-PAST-but

‘The woman said, ‘It is very glad.’ and started walking, but she seemed suspicious and horrible’

[*Konjaku Tales*, cited from Takayama and Aoki (eds.) (2010: 112)]

In this section, we have attempted to apply the notion of ‘magnet/chain’-type linguistic structures to the difference between Japanese and Korean. Not only ellipsis but also other language phenomena can be explained to some content from this viewpoint. The validity of this notion has been demonstrated in this study.

6. Conclusion

This paper has examined the differences between Japanese and Korean ellipses and presented arguments regarding their linguistic structures. We have claimed that Japanese is

a ‘magnet’-type language and Korean is a ‘chain’-type language, by focusing on the behaviors of linguistic units. Japanese linguistic units are independent and connected freely as if they are magnets. By contrast, Korean linguistic units are fusional and connected constrainedly as if they are chains. In addition, we have demonstrated that this model can explain other language phenomena. Although many other studies on contrastive linguistics between Japanese and Korean have conducted type setting, this study suggests the possibility that the notion of ‘magnet/chain’-type linguistic structures could provide a uniform explanation for the differences between Japanese and Korean. Thus, a new perspective of contrastive studies between Japanese and Korean has been provided.

However, further discussion is necessary, and detailed studies on each language phenomenon are required to identify the notion of ‘magnet/chain’-type linguistic structures. There are possibilities that we can apply this perspective not only to Japanese and Korean but also to other languages. Additionally, these linguistic structures can be variable depending on styles, media, contexts and so on. If we can apply this perspective to other fields of linguistics such as typology and sociolinguistics, this notion contributes to the development of linguistics from the viewpoint of contrastive studies of Japanese and Korean.

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Notes

- 1) For transliteration of Japanese, Kunrei romanization is used. Yale romanization is used for transliteration of Korean. Additionally, the initial J means Japanese sentences, and the initial K means Korean sentences.
- 2) We review the literature in detail in Section 2.
- 3) This section largely follows Ogoshi *et al.* (2018).

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Abbreviations

ACC accusative, CAUS causative, COM comitative, COP copula, DAT dative, DECL declarative, EMP emphatic, FTR future, GEN genitive, HON honorific, IMP imperative, INTER interrogative, LOC loca-tive, MRT mirative, NMLZ nominalizer, NOM nominative, PAST past, PLT polite, PROG progress, PRS present, QUOT quotative, TOP topic

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