

## On the Experiential Bases of the Two Meanings of Temporal “*Saki*” in Japanese

Yuichiro Ogami  
Osaka University  
ogami@lang.osaka-u.ac.jp

Keywords: Japanese, “*saki*”, motion expression, temporal meaning, experiential basis

Japanese “*saki*”, which originally represents spatial meaning, has two distinct temporal meanings in its metaphorical usages. This study re-examines the experiential bases of the two temporal meanings of *saki* focusing on grammatical forms of motion and time expressions.

The two meanings of *saki* are shown in (1) and (2). In (1), *saki* is interpreted as representing “later”, while the word is considered to represent “earlier” in (2).

(1) *Kurisumasu no saki wa gakkou ga yasumi da.* ‘(Our) school is closed after Christmas.’

(2) *Osyougatu yori saki ni kurisumasu ga aru.* ‘There is Christmas ahead of the New Year.’

According to the view of Shinohara (2008), (1) and (2) are respectively regarded as examples of Moving Ego and Ego-centered Moving Time metaphor within Moore’s view on spatiotemporal metaphors (cf. Moore 2017 etc.). However, there is room for examination in the adequacy of considering (2) as metaphorically extended from spatial expressions relating to the motion of objects. Rather, the EARLIER IS FRONT sense of *saki* is considered to be based on the order of encounter with two different landmarks which are captured in the moving subjects’ view field.

From the observations here, I subdivide the two temporal meanings of *saki* into [1] progressive *saki* (corresponding to LATER IS FRONT) and [2] ordinal *saki* (corresponding to EARLIER IS FRONT). The two types are both considered to be based on the motion of subjects on a path (cf. Honda 2011). This view can be consistent with the result of an experiment on our spatial and temporal cognition shown in Shinohara (2007).

### Selected References

- Honda, Akira (2011) Jikūkan-metafā no Keikenteki-kiban wo Megutte. *Kobe-gaidai Ronsou*. 62(2), pp. 33-56. Kobe-shi Gaikokugo Daigaku Kenkyūkai.
- Moore, Kevin. E. (2017) Elaborating time in space: the structure and function of space-motion metaphors of time. *Language and Cognition* 9, pp. 191-253.
- Shinohara, Kazuko (2007) Jikan no Metafā ni okeru Zu to Ji no Mondai. *Metafā-kenkyū no Saizensen*. pp. 201-216. Tokyo: Hitsuji-shobou.
- Shinohara, Kazuko (2008) Jikan-metafā ni okeru “Saki” no Youhou to Chokujiteki-jikan-kaishaku. *Kotoba Kūkan Shintai*. pp. 179-211. Tokyo: Hitsuji-shobou.